

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON MARCH 26, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512.**

**Present**—Mayor, Todd Meche

**Aldermen**—Kris Brasseaux, Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Suzanne Stelly, John Taylor

**Town Clerk**—Dolores R. Quebedeaux (Absent)

**Town Attorney**—Kay Theunissen

**Town Engineer**—Kenny Boagni

**Police Chief**—Josh Ross

**Utility Superintendent**—Todd Abshire (Absent)

**Parks and Recreation**—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

**Called to Order**—Mayor Meche

**Prayer**—Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge**—All

**Old Business**

**Approve February 27, 2024, Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor**

Jamie Huval moved to accept the February 27, 2024, regular town meeting minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

**Approve Budget to Actual/Comparison for February 2024—Mayor Meche**

Debbie Kidder motioned to accept the Budget to Actual/ Comparison for February 2024 seconded by John Taylor, motion carried.

**Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)**

Mayor Meche stated that all is well in the utility department.

**Police Report—Chief Josh Ross**

As of March 26, 2024, the Arnaudville Police Department responded to self-initiated over 575 calls to service, since the beginning of the year, including assistance calls for other agencies including both Sherriff's Offices and the Louisiana State Police. The Arnaudville Police Department have had over 125 encounters with members of the public since the beginning of the month. The average response time has been less than 2 minutes. And the average time spent on a call is around 16 minutes.

The Arnaudville Police Department has processed (2) arrests in the last month, issued two (2) criminal misdemeanor citations and ten (10) traffic citations,

The current state of the department is as follows:

Investigations: N/A

Staffing: We are in the process of conducting interviews to fill a vacated position, which was vacated due to Police Officer Pay.

Training Update: Three (3) Officers will attend Homicide Investigator training next week, making it the first time the Arnaudville Police Department has had a certified Homicide Investigator employed.

Vehicle Update: N/A

Community Concerns: The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Etouffee Festival is rapidly approaching. The Arnaudville Police Department does have a plan in place to ensure 24/7 protection of the town, as well as protection at the event. Golf Cart Passes for the festival are available from the Police Department.

Request:

1. For Approximately the past 6 months, the property on Wilkins Street has been tied up in Mayor's Court for violations of Town Ordinances, namely Blight. The repetitive cycle of this has caused concerns for many citizens in the neighborhood, and businesses alike. The cycle has been the same, a continuation, and promise to make progress, however now we have crossed that line of public safety. This Property is a danger to anyone in the area, including the frequent squatters. Since the Mayor's court is not working, I would recommend this council act in accordance with article 8-177 of the Town of Arnaudville Ordinances, (which has been provided) and schedule a condemnation hearing on the entire lot. It is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously injured or killed on that property. I have attached the photos, which were taken yesterday, and the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

A discussion was held discussing the blighted property in the Town of Arnaudville.

**Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)**

The park is being groomed by the utility workers. Baseball is fixing to start up.

**New Business—Mayor Meche**

**Adopt Resolution 3-2024 Municipal Water Pollution Environmental Audit Resolution--Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval motioned to adopt Resolution 3-2024 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

**Adopt Resolution 4-2024 Water Meter Grant Project—Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval motioned to adopt Resolution 4-2024 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

**Up-Dates—Mayor Meche**

Etouffee festival is scheduled for April 26, 27, 28, 2024.

**Bridge Name—Cecil Lavergne**

Cecil Lavergne explained that he and his brother Aby are at the meeting to speak on behalf of their late brother Mr. Raymond Lavergne. Mr. Raymond Lavergne taught at Arnaudville High School for 28 years, as a coach and later as a principal. Mr. Raymond Lavergne gave his heart and soul to the Town of Arnaudville. Mr. Cecil Lavergne stated they would like to name the Teche Bridge here in Arnaudville as the Raymond Lavergne Bridge in honor of their brother.

Jamie Huval moved to draft a letter of support to name the bridge Raymond Lavergne Bridge seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

**Citizens' Concerns**

**Adjourn**

Jamie Kidder motioned to adjourn the March 26, 2024, meeting seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

**Attest:**

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Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

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Todd Meche, Mayor