

Jamie stated that he sent an email in regards to what the school board member stated. Jamie said that Josh Boudreaux told him that if the tax was not supported that basically the school would close. Soon after that Ms. Mary Miller called Jamie and asked what went on at the meeting. He said he explained to her about the meeting also shared he and Josh's conversation. She was coming to the town meeting, but went to the superintendent; the superintendent has always told her that Arnaudville would never close.

This is the only school in the parish that has the highest performing grades and has always been the highest.

A brief discussion was held, different views were had.

**Up-Dates—Mayor Meche**

Kenny updated on the road project which is in progress, the water well is being tested, no results just yet. Kenny also complimented the utility workers for the work that took place during the freeze, Arnaudville never lost water. Street signs were ordered. The museum has been torn down.

Jamie said that he had lunch with Mike Huval and he asked Mr. Mike for assistance with filling pot holes and he said that they filled some pot holes on Hwy 31 going to Leonville.

**Citizens' Concerns**

**Adjourn**

Debbie Kidder moved to adjourn the regular town meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, motion carried.

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Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

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Todd Meche, Mayor

members. There was better than 10 people that showed up to receive items that they were in need of. They were blessed to be able to assist those that showed up, especially since the last cold spell. Deputy Angelique Stelly is in her sixth week of training at the St. Martin POST Academy. During the next two weeks she will be going through firearm training.

Chief thanked the Council on the approval to hire Ms. Christian Deville to the position of Dispatcher at a starting salary of \$9.02 per hour (Grade 1 Step 33). At the time of her hiring chief thought the starting pay was at the old rate of \$8.56 per hour but after review he realized he made a mistake and contacted Dolores in the front office to make the necessary correction.

At the last Council meeting on January 19, 2021, Chief asked for approval the drug screens and physical of prospective employees be conducted prior to asking for approval to hire. When Ms. Deville was approved for hire, he followed the advice of the Council and instructed her to get the necessary procedures done prior to her actually beginning her training. Due to the weather and holidays Ms. Deville could not actually start training for ten days (the time between her being approved for hire on February 10, 2021 until all the paperwork was received by the office on February 19, 2021 and she was allowed to begin training on February 20, 2021). If the Council wishes to continue the practice of waiting until a person is hired prior to having these procedures done, then he recommends that the newly approve for hire employee be paid 4 hours for having to do so. As he mentioned before, should these procedures be done during the pre-employment phase the candidate could begin training immediately after their approval, unless they had to give their current employer (if they are employed) a notice.

Also, at the last Council meeting during his Police Department Report a request was made to approve his recommendation to reinstate Mr. Barry Ard to the position of Reserve Officer. No vote was taken and he is trying to determine if the Council intends on voting on his recommendation.

He has a few people, mostly veterans; bring to his attention the proper protocol for displaying the American Flag at the new sign that is at the traffic signal between the Teche and Fusilier Bridges. While the flags are placed in the proper order, with the Stars and Stripes situated at the far left as you view the sign head-on, the American Flag should fly higher than other flags that are included in the display.

According to protocol and tradition, the other flags are to be flown lower than the American Flag. Since the flag poles are already installed at the same height I wish to recommend to the Council that the other three flags be flown approximately six inches lower than the American Flag out of respect for those who have served or who are now serving. It is also appropriate for a single spotlight to shine independently on the American Flag whenever it is flown after dark. Statistics from the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of January were: 28 Citations, 16 FIC's, 20 MIC's, 3 arrests and 98 calls for service, while 45% of time worked by the Officers was spent on patrol of the town and business checks.

March 5, 2021 will be the Harvest Food Bank at the Community Center from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Jamie Huval moved to change Christian Deville's pay to \$9.02 per hour seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

#### **Parks and Recreations – Zelma Jackson (Absent)**

Baseball registration will take place on until February 28, 2021 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

#### **Jessie Bellard—Parish President (Candidate for Parish President)**

Mr. Bellard explained what his duties are as Parish President and what his plans are if re-elected. Mayor Meche thanked Mr. Bellard and the volunteer workers for the help on cleaning out an area of blighted property.

#### **Approve to write off bad debt (Accounts Receivable)—Mayor**

Mayor explained that these bad debts are old accounts, and deceased individuals. Kevin Robin moved to write off the bad debt seconded by Cynthia Stelly, motion carried.

#### **School—Jamie Huval- Ms. Miller (Absent)**

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512**

**Present:** Mayor, Todd Meche

**Aldermen:** Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Cynthia Stelly, Suzanne Stelly

**Town Clerk:** Dolores R. Quebedeaux

**Town Attorney:** Kay Theunissen

**Town Engineer:** Kenny Boagni

**Police Chief:** Eddy LeCompte

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

**Parks and Recreation Director:** Zelma Jackson (Absent)

**Called to Order:** Mayor Meche

**Prayer:** Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge:** All

Mayor Meche asked the board to amend the agenda to add Parish President Jessie Bellard candidate for Parish President to introduce himself, motion was by Jamie Huval, seconded by Debbie Kidder and Kevin Robin, motion passed.

**Approve January 19, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval motioned to accept the January 19, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder and Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

**Approve January 2021 expenses—Mayor Meche**

Kevin Robin motioned to approve the January 2021 expenses seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Approve February 10, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche**

Debbie Kidder motioned to accept the February 10, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

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

Mayor Meche complimented the workers for doing such a wonderful job during the freeze; prior to the freeze all precautions were taken.

A test was done at the new water well location, waiting on the results.

The work has begun on the budgeted streets for this fiscal year, hoping overlay can start soon.

Ground up asphalt was put on West Railroad.

**Police Report—Eddy LeCompte**

Chief was informed that the Etouffee Festival has been cancelled for the last weekend of April 2021.

There is a discussion underway about possible rescheduling the event for this coming fall. Chief will inform the council.

The Arnaudville Police Department will be distributing food boxes on Friday, March 5, 2021 at the Community Center. He will be partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank and the St. Landry/Evangeline United Way. Volunteers from the VFW, K of C Council, the Community Church on Bagstill St. and St. Francis Church are expected to assist with the distribution. Any others who wish to help are more than welcome. Distribution time will be from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

On Saturday, January 30, 2021 the Department handed out jackets, coats, blankets and socks to people in need of these items. All the items were donated by people in the surrounding area, including Council