

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present: Mayor, Kathy M. Richard

Aldermen: Annette Bramlett, Jamie Huval, Todd Meche, Louis Stelly, Jr., Suzanne Stelly

Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney: Katie Ryan

Town Engineer: Kenny Boagni (Absent)

Police Chief: Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent: Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Richard

Prayer: Suzanne Stelly

Pledge: All

Mayor Richard asked the board to amend the agenda to add, 1. Allow the rental of the park for the Alumni Tournament for July 28-29, 2017 (\$500.00). 2. Change the meeting date from July 18, 2017 to July 11, 2017. Todd Meche moved to amend the agenda to add the two subjects seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Accept May 16, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the May 16, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Accept May 9, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Annette Bramlett moved to accept the May 9, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Accept March 2017 Expenses—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the March 2017 expenses seconded by Annette Bramlett and Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Accept April 2017 Expenses—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the April 2017 expenses seconded by Annette Bramlett and Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Accept May 2017 Expenses—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the May 2017 expenses seconded by Annette Bramlett and Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

(Last 3 topics on the agenda were done in one vote)

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

The mayor and board members were handed out a report from Todd Abshire.

Annette Guidry moved to accept the utility report seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor Richard explained that all is going well at the park.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Dispatcher Grant Durio is in his final month of training before completing the POST academy at the St. Martin Parish Police Academy. His projected date of graduation is July 18, 2016; the Mayor and Council Members are invited to attend the ceremony.

A couple of Patrol Officers have approached the chief about getting complaints from residents concerning overgrown grass and/or junk in yards adjacent to their property. These residents have reported seeing rodents and snakes on their property as a result of neighbors not properly maintaining or controlling grass, weeds, unhealthy debris or accumulated junk. Chief explained to the Officers that they should inform the complainants to call City Hall to express their concerns. Chief further explained that the complaint meet the requirements set forth in Town Ordinance Chapter 11, a registered or certified letter would be sent to the property owner informing them to remedy the situation. Chief asked the Mayor and the Council if this is the response the Patrol Officer should use to handle these concerns and; if not, to provide guidance in order that the Officers can better perform their duties whenever this comes up in the future.

Chief gathers that some residents are fearful of lodging a complaint because they are scared of reprisal. Others think that their complaint is not being viewed as a priority. The accumulation of debris and junk on any property provides a health and safety hazard for citizens in general, and children in particular. The Police Department stands ready and eager to work with the Mayor and Council to enforce any Ordinance related to the debris, overgrown grass, etc. through the established process in the swiftest and most efficient way possible, in order to mitigate and eliminate any potential unfortunate or tragic event resulting in these cases.

Chief petitioned the Town Council to approve the acceptance of the resignation from Mr. Joseph Carriere. Chief wishes the best to Mr. Carriere on his new endeavors.

He also petitioned the Council to approve the promotion to Sergeant and a pay raise to Grade 2 Step 24 (\$12.82 per hour) to Patrol Officer Jason Howell. Since there is no position of Sergeant currently in the Town Ordinances, it is requested that one be approved in order for this request to be fulfilled. In this position, Sergeant Howell will assume responsibly of some of the day to day operations of the Arnaudville Police Department.

He further petitioned the Town Council to approve the promotion of Dispatcher Grant Durio to the position of Patrol Officer upon completion of his POST Academy at the pay rate of Grade 2 Step 13 (\$11.37 per hour). Chief feels with Grant's experience in public and private security his field training will not take too long and that he should be able to assume the responsibilities of a patrol officer in short order. Upon the completion of POST Training of Dispatcher Grant Durio this month, Chief request that Part Time Dispatcher Ms. Dianna Richard be placed in the position of Full Time Dispatcher on Day Watch at a pay rate of Grade 2 Step 1 (\$9.79 per hour). Since this will put the Department short of a full time Dispatcher on the night shift, Chief will be interviewing possible candidate to fill this position and will seek approval of any hire for this position at a later date. The position will be at a Grade 1 Step 2 (\$8.56 per hour) entry level. His intent is to have this position filled by the time Mr. Durio has completed the POST Academy. Should the Council have no reservations about whom he will place in that vacant position they can approve the hiring of the individual at that time.

Chief requested a pay increase for Part Time Dispatcher Ms. Ida Lalonde and Full Time Dispatcher Ms. Sable Jolivette to Grade 2 Step 6 (\$10.45 per hour). This modest increase for both is due to their performance. Although Ms. Jolivette will continue in her current position, Ms. Lalonde will work her hours four (4) days per week (Monday thru Thursday) for seven (7) hours per day. Ms. Lalonde will oversee the cost allocation of purchases and payments as well as overseeing the move of their files to another location as approved by the Mayor. Also, Ms. Lalonde will be available to work in place of any Dispatcher who is out on vacation.

Note that these changes and upgrades will not take effect until sometime after July 1, 2017; however, the increases asked for should take effect on July 1, 2017.

Mr. Willie Wyble has approached the Department with a request to block off Front Street from Union Street to Camp Street on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 for the Eucharistic Procession along the Bayou Teche on the Feast of the Assumption in honor of the arrivals of the Acadians. An outdoor service will be held

behind St. Francis Regis Church on the banks of the Bayou Teche. He further requested that Officers be present to insure the safety of the patrons attending the function from approximately nine in the morning until approximately one in the afternoon.

Statistics for the Arnaudville Police Department for the Month of May were: 35 citations, 24 FIC's written, 47 MIC's written, 2 arrests, and 126 calls for service.

Employee of the Month is Jason Howell.

Adopt Ordinance 1-2017 Amending the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept Ordinance 1-2017 Amending the Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried

Roll Call: Annette Bramlett, yea, Todd Meche, yea, Jamie Huval, yea, Louis Stelly, Jr., yea, Suzanne Stelly, yea.

Adopt Ordinance 2-2017 Adopting the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

Jamie Huval stated that before adopting the budget he made a motion about the 1% increase on the utilities and several pay raises will be taking place, so Jamie voted to take out the 1% increase on utilities he does not feel that it is right to give employees raises and up the citizens utilities. Mayor stated that the auditor suggested the 1% due to this is not a drastic increase before the state gets involved. Mayor stated that there are some individuals who have been working for the town for 3 years and had not received a pay increase. Todd Meche offered an amendment; he feels this should be temporarily removed from the budget. Todd said that 2 separate Ordinances would have to take place the 1% and the elected official increase. Put the Ordinances in proper order if passed it amends the budget.

Todd moved to temporarily remove the 1% and the elected official pay increase, and put the Ordinances in place if this passes it automatically goes back into the budget, Jamie seconded Todd's amendment, Roll Call: Suzanne Stelly, yea, Louis Stelly, Jr., Jamie Huval, yea, Todd Meche, yea, Annette Bramlett.

(Jamie's motioned was not seconded)

Todd Meche made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2-2017 with the amendments that were adopted seconded by Annette Bramlett, unanimously carried.

Todd Meche motioned to accept Joseph Carriere's resignation from the police department seconded by Annette Bramlett, unanimously carried.

Todd Meche motioned to table the other request from the chief so the council has time to review this to bring this up at the next meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Blighted Property—Katie Ryan

Katie stated that she had received a phone call from a citizen concerning the blighted property. She stated that there are ways to address these concerns. Letters can be sent out and if this does not work the town workers could go in and improve the property or hire a contractor, this is a costly process. Katie stated that she would write a legal memo for the Mayor and Council advising what the legal options are. Katie would also like to drive by these properties so she can better advise what needs to take place.

Letters have been sent out; lots of these letters are being ignored. Mayor explained that the town does not have the man-power to take care of the blighted property; she also said that contractors are very expensive. Mayor suggested having the attorneys send out a letter and perhaps this would be more successful.

Mis-Understanding of Minutes—Jamie Huval

Jamie Huval addressed certain posts and comments about himself and a fellow council member of the Greater Arnaudville Citizens for Tradition and progress Facebook page. He wanted to reiterate what he posted on the Facebook page in reference to these posts and comments that he refrained from commenting on. He encouraged anyone who had concerns over the way he voted in regards to the floating dock to attend the meeting. Jamie also encouraged everyone to contact him personally rather

than taking to Facebook to voice their concerns of how and why he cast his vote on an issue. Jamie commented that his decision had nothing to do with a dollar lease as some people would have believed, but rather, everything to do with lies presented to the council, liability, maintenance, current town maintenance that desperately needs tending to, and representing the town residents. He said he does not make hasty decisions when it comes to town business. He does not sit down in his chair, and vote yay or nay. He does his homework by speaking to the people he represents in the town so he can vote what is in the best interest of the town and its citizens.

He stated that he does not vote according to how other council members are voting, nor does he vote a certain way because elections are drawing near. He represents the citizens within the city limits, and works for them. In reference to the floating dock, he went as far as to take a day off from work to visit with several of the people he represents to find out their thoughts about the floating dock. Most did not want the council to even entertain that notion. Rather, what most wanted to see addressed are blighted property; uncut grass; roads, sidewalks, and water improvements, and possible grants to improve the roads, sidewalks, and water. He said he was elected to serve the community and that is what he has done and will continue to do so. (Handouts were given to the attendees).

Mayor Richard said that every town goes through the same kinds of things, she is proud of the town. Mayor said when voting on things you should think of the pros and cons of situations. Mayor Richard said that they represent everyone, not just a certain group. Mayor stated that she signed papers for the floating dock and it was said that fraudulent papers were signed and she was told that the attorney said this in a meeting. Mayor said if she signed fraudulent papers it was on behalf of the town, but a lesson well learned. Jamie said that he is not accusing the mayor of signing anything fraudulent and he feels it was a simple mistake. Jamie stated that he was upset with Ms. Holland she knew it was illegal but she just wanted to push this through. Mayor stated that she brings everything that is brought to her to the council, she cannot make these decisions. She said people take this kind of stuff and run with it. Mayor stated that people should be very careful about what is posted on Facebook. Attorney Katie Haik stated that she would never use the word fraudulent. Todd Meche said he used the word fraudulent in a meeting. He said it would have been fraudulent to proceed with the grant knowing the papers were wrong.

Mayor said several years ago they were granted a 1 million dollar grant for a new boat launch and it was voted down.

Mayor Richard said that she treats everyone equal and it is a matter of all working together.

Mayor said she tries to get things done for the town, but all of this takes time and money.

She said that she tries hard to get along with people, but there are people out there that can be very ugly. She encourages everyone who has anything to discuss to please contact her in person.

Official Municipal Journal—Mayor

Annette Guidry moved to accept the Daily World as the Official Journal for the town seconded by Suzanne Stelly, Todd Meche, nay, unanimously carried.

Mayor Richard asked the board to change the meeting date from July 18, 2017 to July 11, 2017, it was moved by Jamie Huval to change the meeting date seconded by Todd Meche, unanimously carried.

Mayor also asked the board to allow the Beau Chene Alumni rental of the park from July 28, 2017 to July 29, 2017 in the amount of \$500.00 and provide a certificate of liability, Todd Meche moved to allow the Alumni the rental of the park under the conditions that the recreational director can cancel if the weather is not permissible seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Citizens' Concerns

Glenn Colon asked about who was the town engineer, he also inquired about the grant writer. Glenn said he was an engineer rep for different municipalities. He said that this could help with Economic Development. A grant coordinator has to be on top of things in order to receive grant monies. Mayor said that they are always trying to get grants to improve the sewer plant, water plant, etc. Todd

explained that all the water lines have been changed. Another water system was bought which means two systems have to be serviced. Glenn stated that the town has nothing for the children to do. Jamie stated that the chief added basketball goals for the children to have something to do allowing it to be a basketball court. Jamie said that people from everywhere were coming and causing all kinds of problems. This court was for children and turned out to be grown people making idiots of themselves. Mayor Richard stated that Zelma Jackson the parks and recreation director is doing an awesome job at the park with the children.

Tony Adams said he was not at a special meeting that was held but he was asking if the St. Martin Parish is going to have the floating dock and assume the liability of the dock. Todd stated that they were not given any documentation stated that St. Martin would be doing this. Todd said if St. Martin is doing this they do not need the town's permission. Mayor said liability was not an issue for the town. Mayor said people are still asking about a boat launch. Annette Bramlett stated that she is a trustee for the church and there was no way of getting a confirmation from the Priest or the Bishop. Willie Wyble said the problem was the Teche group would not come to work with the citizens nor the parishioners to build the floating dock. The project was never presented to the Priest by the Teche group to work together to build this for all of the parishioners. Joey Wyble said there was no land leased by the town and why did it take 3 years, why not just say NO from the beginning.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Todd Meche seconded by Jamie Huval and Suzanne Stelly to adjourn the June 2017 meeting, unanimously carried.

Attest

Town Clerk, Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Mayor, Kathy M. Richard

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