

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Mayor—Todd Meche

Aldermen—Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Suzanne Stelly, John Taylor

Absent—Jamie Huval

Town Clerk—Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney—Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer—Kenny Boagni

Police Chief—Josh Ross

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson

Called to Order—Mayor Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Kevin Robin motioned to amend the agenda to add \$1000.00 for decorations and plants to the budget seconded by John Taylor, motion carried.

Old Business

Approve Regular Town Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2023—Mayor Meche

Motion was made by John Taylor seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

Approve Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for August 2023—Mayor Meche

Motion was made by Kevin Robin to approve the budget to actual/budget comparison for August 2023 seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Kenny stated that the street project should start in approximately three weeks.

Kenny also said the next project would be the meter project. Kenny stated that he would discuss with the mayor the different meter types.

Police Report—Chief Joss Ross

As of September 25, 2023, the Arnaudville Police Department has responded to over 450 calls to service, since the beginning of the year, including several calls to assist other agencies like St. Landry and St. Martin.

This month, you will notice an attached document with his report, which is an analytic report, showcasing what the Arnaudville Police Department has done since the beginning of the month. This shows we have had over 500 encounters with members of the public since the beginning of the month. The average response time has been less than 3 minutes, and the average time spent on a call is around 14 minutes.

This month, the Arnaudville Police Department has arrested Eleven (11) individuals, with most of those arrested being charged with Narcotics related crimes, including Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of THC wax, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The Arnaudville Police Department successfully obtained and executed a search warrant in the 200 block of Swamp Street, which yielded the recovery of Methamphetamine, THC, and other items of contraband, which resulted in the arrest of 3 individuals. The Officers of the Arnaudville Police Department have also written over forty (40) traffic citations, with a majority being written in residential neighborhoods, with an emphasis on speeding in residential neighborhoods.

The current state of the department is as follows:

Investigations: N/A

Staffing: Currently the Arnaudville Police Department is seeking and reviewing applicants to fill a position since Officer Washington left on September 5th to become a soldier with the Louisiana National Guard.

Training Update: Beginning in October, all officers with the Arnaudville Police Department will be staggering through training to become Emergency Medical Responders. This will make all Officers within the department state certified, and with an average response time of 27 minutes for an ambulance, this is just another added benefit being offered to the citizens of Arnaudville.

Vehicle Update: Currently, I am working on preparing three (3) vehicles for public auction, as approved at the last meeting. This will include two (2) Ford Crown Victorias, and only one (1) Chevy Tahoe

General Information: The Arnaudville Police Department attended and assisted the Arnaudville Volunteer Fire Department with their 3rd annual black pot cook-off. We are pleased to announce that this event went well, and no problems were reported.

Community Concerns: As a reminder to everyone, Hurricane Season is still upon us, lasting through November. While we have been lucky thus far, we encourage everyone to keep their guard up, and ensure they are adequately prepared for any anomalies.

Request:

a. At this time, I would ask this council to reject any appointment or recommendation of appointment for Barry Ard as a reserve officer for the Town of Arnaudville made by the former chief of police during the 2019-2021, timeframe, as I do not wish to employ any reserve officers at this time.

b. I would ask the council to approve turning Swamp, Quebedeaux, and Washington streets into a one-way, closing Fourth, N. Mills, and Olive Street on October 28, 2023, beginning at 5:45 P.M. and ending at 8:15 P.M., as previously done in the past for Trick-or- Treating.

c. I would also ask this council to consider looking into Fuelman fleet cards, as currently we are paying over \$4.00 a gallon, having gas delivered, when the current average prices in this area are around \$ \$3.10-\$3.30 a gallon, which would equate to a savings of between \$393.40-\$505.80 for this month alone. This is a potential of #3600-\$6,000 a year, we are saving taxpayers.

D. I would finally ask this council to approve the 24-hour suspension of Michael Richard, a Police Dispatcher, while this office is addressing a complaint. While I cannot go into specifics at this time, due to being in a public meeting, I will brief each of you further if requested.

Kevin Robin moved to reject any appointment or recommendation or appointment for Barry Ard as a reserve officer for the Town of Arnaudville made by the former Chief of Police between 2019–2021-time frame seconded by Debbie Kidder,

Roll Call: Kevin Robin, reject, Debbie Kidder, reject, Suzanne Stelly, reject, John Taylor. Reject, motion passed.

Motion was made by John Taylor to approve the turning of Swamp, Quebedeaux, and Washington Streets into a one-way, closing Fourth, N. Mills, and Olive Street on October 28, 2023, for Trick-or treating seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Mayor explained that the Fuelman fleet cards would have to be investigated so this item will be revisited later.

Kevin Robin moved to accept the 24-hour suspension of Michael Richard seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelam Jackson

New Business

Adopt Ordinance 09-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30. 2024, to include the Water System Automated Reading System Project (up-dated Ordinance)—Mayor Meche

John Taylor motioned to adopt Ordinance 09-2023 (up-dated Ordinance) seconded by Suzanne Stelly,

Roll Call: Kevin Robin, yes, Debbie Kidder, yes, Suzanne Stelly, yes, John Taylor, yes
Absent—Jamie Huval

Motion passed.

Up-dates—Mayor Meche

Mayor explained that he spoke with the fire chief they are on a stand still with fire department building the electrical panels have been on back order for quiet some time, the fire department applied for temporary permit for power, and it was approved, they should be in the building about in mid-November.

Ms. Kay Theunissen is doing research on the library building.

Decorations and Plants—Kevin Robin

Kevin commended Kelly Meche and Debbie Kidder for all the work they did last year for the fall decorations. Kevin explained that the overflow of lights can be returned to Lowe's and perhaps the garland to Evangeline Specialties.

Kevin Robin motioned to add \$1000.00 for the decorations and the plants to the budget and return the lights and the garland seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Citizens Concerns'

Jeremy DiCarlo inquired about the road project, Mayor said what roads would be taken care of. He also inquired about the first responders, Mayor said he may have to talk to the fire chief. Debbie Kidder said that she did a survey and individuals are not in favor of speed bumps. Jermy also expressed his concern about stray dogs.

Adjourn

Debbie Kidder moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting seconded by John Taylor, motion passed.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AT A PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, AT 5:45 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512.

RE: Ordinance 08-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024, to include the Water System Automated Reading System Project

Mayor: Mayor, Todd Meche

Aldermen: Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Suzanne Stelly, John Taylor

Absent: Jamie Huval

Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux (Absent)

Town Attorney: Kay Theunissen

Called to Order—Mayor Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge--All

Mayor explained this Public Hearing is to amend the Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024, to include the Water System Automated Reading System Program.

Mayor stated that Ordinance 08-2023 that was introduced at the August meeting the Ordinance is included in the packet along with the updated Ordinance 09-2023 the difference in the amount is approximately 17, 00 of administrative fees due to the state. The total project is in the amount of \$571, 475.00.

The paperwork was sent to the state, once the paperwork is approved and signed by the state it will be sent to the engineer to start the bidding process.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Suzanne Stelly seconded by Kevin Robin, motion carried.

Attest:

Dolores R, Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor