

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON APRIL 16, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 291 GUIDROZ STREET, 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 A. Theunissen

Town Engineer—Kenny Boagni

Police Chief—Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire

Parks and Recreation Director—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order—Mayor Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Accept March 19, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the March 19, 2019 Minutes seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

Accept March 2019 Expenses—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the March 2019 expenses seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor Meche explained that the gas project has been completed. The Water Lines have been flushed. Low lying branches have been cut, Mayor asked the public to let the office know if anyone notices low lying branches. Material has been ordered to fill pot holes. The preliminary survey has been done at the water well the process is moving forward.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Chief apologized for not attending the last meeting due to meetings with representatives of RMI to review the Departments policies and procedures and also with the Attorney General's Office concerning Human Trafficking in the State. The Policy and Procedures manual is well on its way to being finalized. Once completed, a digital copy will be distributed to all personnel.

Nearing the start of the Etouffee Festival on Friday, April 26, 2018, Chief said that he will be present as well as two Arnaudville Police Officers, four St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Deputies and four St. Martin Parish Deputies. Special permission will be granted to those who wish to use their golf cart should come to the Police Station and fill out a form which they will be required to have on the cart while it is in use. Failure to have a form submitted into his office will result in a citation.

Signs have been made to designate Front Street from Tiger Touchdown#6 at Main Street and Guidroz all the way to the corner of Front Street and Union Street and Union Street as well as Olive Street from Pine Street to Guidroz Street as "One Way". These portable signs will be put during the hours of operation of the Festival, probably one half hour prior to the opening and after the close. The signs will then be moved to the side of the road and out of the way at all other times.

On March 21, 2019 a Neighborhood Watch meeting was held. Approximately 15 to 20 people were in attendance. Guest speakers included a representative from the Louisiana State Attorney General's Office as well as Neighborhood Watch representative of both St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes about the importance of having a good program in place. An issue was brought up by a concerned citizen alluded to criminal activity occurring in and around St. Francis Regis Cemetery. Chief spoke with Huey

Wyble, Jr., about the problems that were brought up that arose if they were contacted in a timely manner. Waiting days or weeks before reporting an incident and the incident being reported by others, other than the victim limits what actions, they can take. Mr. Wyble assured Chief that incidents would be reported directly to the Police Department by the victim or victims involved in the matter. Chief is in the process of preparing the employee evaluations. All will be completed and discussed with the employees before the next Council Meeting.

He petitioned the Council to approve the hiring of Mr. Jacob Russo to the position of Patrol Officer at a Pay Scale Grade 2, Step 2 or \$9.93 per hour. Mr. Russo has already passed his psychological Exam and has been approved for coverage by RMI. The only procedures he needs to pass are the physical and drug screening process as well as qualifying with a firearm per Louisiana POST requirements.

He asked the Council to approve the appointment of Mr. Jair Stelly to the position of a Reserve Police Officer. Mr. Stelly has also passed his Psychological Exam and has been approved for coverage by RMI. Like Mr. Russo, the only procedures he needs to pass are the physical and drug screening process as well as qualifying with a firearm per Louisiana POST requirements

He stated his decision to place Patrol Officer Kirsten McBay in the position of Acting Sergeant in the Police Department. In this position Patrol Officer McBay shall assume command of the Department in his absence. Since this is an "acting" position no increase in compensation will be given; however, after a sufficient probationary period of 60 days or greater the Council will be asked to make the "acting" status a permanent one with the accompanying hourly pay increase. Patrol Officer Josh Ross is scheduled to graduate from the St. Martin POST Academy on Wednesday May 8, 2019 at 9'oclock in the morning. All who know Officer Ross are invited to attend the ceremony. Jamie moved to hire Mr. Stelly as a Reserve Police Officer seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried. Jamie stated in regards to the full time officer Chief wants to hire, this discussion has been held before and the Town cannot afford a 6th officer. There is an issue with one of the employees once this is settled and advice is given by the attorney, than a move can be made. Jamie also asked the Chief, "What would change having a 6th officer?" Jamie also stated he is frustrated with people asking him why people are sleeping in the cemetery, in the mausoleum and etc. Chief stated that he is short an employee and is costing the town lots of overtime. Chief stated that the cemetery is an open property which is not fenced in or locked. Chief stated that he needs to be informed of these situations, he also stated that it is hard for one officer to do it all. Jamie told Chief that he needs to pull a shift although he has said he will not pull shift. Jamie said that he is asking the Council not to hire a 6th officer. Chief said he is on call 24, 7 week days and week-ends. He said so pulling a shift is completely out of the question. Cynthia Stelly asked the Mayor to refresh what had happened when there were 6 police officers. Mayor Meche stated when the budget was done he was on the Council. He said that there is an officer that is out and there were 5 officers so they budgeted for 6 officers with the understanding that they could not afford six officers. They did not want to let someone go if the other officer came back to work. Chief also stated that he was helped by St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes which saved him lots of money on overtime. He said getting good officers is really a challenge. Suzanne Stelly said that all of this should be looked at closely due to the crimes that are happening close to Arnaudville. Ms. Kay suggested deterring this matter until May.

Jamie Huval moved to table the hiring of Jacob Russo until next month seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Parks and Recreation-Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor stated that the Baseball season has started and all is going well. The lighting at the Park has been repaired. Lights have been installed near the drive way and the back concession stand. There are plans in the making to install a security system that will alarm the Police Department. Branches have been cut and grass has been shredded.

Adopt the millage rates for tax year 2019 General Alimony 5.72 Water Works 7.00-Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval moved to accept he millage for the tax year 2019 General Alimony 5.72 Water Works 7.00 seconded by Suzanne Stelly . Roll Call: Kevin Robin, Yea, Cynthia Stelly, Yea, Jamie Huval, Yea, Debbie Kidder, Yea, Suzanne Stelly, Yea, unanimously carried.

Adopt Resolution 4-2019 A Resolution of the Town of Arnaudville in Opposition of all Proposed Legislation that permits the Legislature to Remove the Authority of Local Governments to administer and Collect Local Sales and Use taxes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to adopt Resolution 4-2019 seconded by Kevin Robin and Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Annexation—Josh Ross

Josh Ross stated that he lives on Robin Street, the street is located in the center of town; Josh would like to see Robin Street get annexed in the corporate limits of the town. Josh stated that there are 16 houses on Robin and all of the residents signed a petition form to have Robin Street annexed. Kenny Boagni explained the process that would have to be taken in order to complete the annexation process. Kenny stated that 50% of registered voters would sign the petition and ownership of the properties, this goes to the Department of Justice, a map is created the town has to agree with this matter. Water is provided by the town on Robin Street but no sewer is provided so the town would have to make a decision whether to provide sewer.

Adult Day Care for Elderly—Eugenia Washington (Absent)

Acadiana Broadband, Inc.—Dane Guidroz –Mike Guidroz

Dane Guidroz explained that their company is in existing for 7 years. Dane explained what there company plans to do in the future. Thanked the town for allowing them to have their equipment on the water tower and will begin profit sharing.

Cajun Broadband Inc.—Jan Deville

Mr. Jan stated that he is a wireless provider and is attending the meeting to ask permission for usage of the water tower. Mayor stated that he feels that the council members should table this topic in order to give themselves time to look over the information provided by Cajun Broadband Inc. Jamie Huval moved to table the request seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Executive Session (Possible) Litigations Up-Date—Mayor

There was no need for Executive Session.

Announcements-Mayor

There will be a June 13, 2019 District F meeting at the Carencro Community Center.

Accounting System upgrade process has started, new computers are installed.

The lights on the bridges have been repaired.

Preliminary Survey at the water well has been done and the paper work is going to be sent to the attorney.

The Contracts are signed to the drainage project on East Street and the Sewer project for NuNu's. Speed bumps have been installed in front of the school.

The mayor met with Parish President Chester Cedars for the project next to Myrans' Maison De Manger a pavilion and bathroom will be built and perhaps a walking path. Once the drawings are completed Mr. Cedars will present this to the Mayor and Board Members.

Also a discussion was held for the blighted property and an Intergovernmental Agreement with St. Martin Parish.

The hearing on Camp Street was held, if nothing is done by May 1, 2019, the town will move forward.

Thanked the police department for having the abandoned cars removed on town easement.

Thanks for all who participated in the clean-up at City Hall.

Debbie Kidder thanked all who helped her for the Etouffee Festival Queen competition.

Citizens Concerns'

Willie Wyble stated to the Chief an incident was reported about the cemetery a few days late, but the second report was sent right away and nothing was done.

Lisa Huval thanked everyone for putting down the speed bumps.

Lisa asked Mr. LeCompte about the street signs; Mr. LeCompte said he has called about the signs.

Mr. Ken Simeral spoke on behalf of the broadband companies. He also spoke on behalf of St. Luke Hospital.

Mr. George Arnaud spoke on behalf of the police department he explained that back in the day there were only one or two cops on the police force, but now there are drugs and other crimes, more than they use to have. The police should be properly staffed.

Adjourn

Jamie Huval moved to adjourn the April 2019 meeting seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Attest:

Town Clerk, Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Mayor, Todd Meche