

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN TAKEN AT A
REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 27, 2024, 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, John Taylor

Absent: Suzanne Stelly

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: John Taylor

Pledge: All

Old Business:

Adopt Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2024—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the July 23, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion carried.

Approve July 23, 2024, Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval moved to accept the July 23, 2024, Regular Town Meeting minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Approve Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for July 2024—Mayor Meche

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

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor Meche stated that the new water meters are being installed and all is going well.

The mini excavator is not in operating condition and is being checked out by a mechanic.

Jamie Huval moved to purchase the excavator that is in the budget in the amount of \$67,940.70 seconded by Kris Brasseaux, motion carried. (State Contract)

The mayor explained that the culvert on Hwy. 93 which gives access to the water well is being washed away and needs to be repaired. The mayor met with the parish and there are concerns about the trucks collapsing the culvert. The owner got a proposal for the repair but is asking if the town would pay for one half of the repair. This is the only access to the water wells. The estimate was \$25,983.10. Mayor proposed that the owner pays ½ and the

town pays the other half. Mayor asked for a motion that the town pays ½ of the expense, John Taylor moved to allow the town to pay ½ of the expense seconded by Debbie Kidder, Roll Call: Jamie Huval, no, Debbie Kidder, yes, Kris Brasseaux, yes, John Taylor, yes motion carried.

Police Report—Chief Josh Ross

As of August 26, 2024, the Arnaudville Police Department responded or self-initiated over 950 calls to service, since the beginning of the year, including a few assistances calls for other agencies including both Sheriff's Offices and the Louisiana State Police.

The Arnaudville Police Department has had over 204 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 18 minutes.

The Arnaudville Police Department has processed over 25 arrests this month, which resulted in 18 felony charges and 29 misdemeanor charges being filed. The Arnaudville Police Department also successfully executed 4 OPC's issued by the St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes Coroners, located, and returned two missing juveniles, and successfully recovered a stolen vehicle.

The current state of the department is as follows:

Staffing: We currently staff 5 certified Police Officers, including myself. We are working to fill a vacancy, after the last person did not pan out with the insurance.

Training Update: Officers are currently in the process of attending Officer Survival, Glock Armorer, Intoxilyzer 9000, and legal update training classes.

Vehicle Update: The Arnaudville Police Department is made up of four SUVs, and three Police Sedans, all of which are in working order.

Community Concerns: Hurricane Season is upon us. The Arnaudville Police Department does have a plan in place to ensure the town is protected and streets are clear, should we experience a Hurricane. We would like to take this time to remind people to test their generators, ensure they have a carbon monoxide detector installed, and be mindful that now is time to prepare, not the week or day of hurricane. Should any citizen require assistance, they can always reach out to the Arnaudville Police Department or Arnaudville Fire Department.

Request:

I would like this council to entertain the following motion to close the roads on September 7, 2024.

On September 7, 2024, the Arnaudville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting their annual Black Pot Cook-Off at the Little Flower Auditorium. As such, DOTD has approved the closure of the Main Street from Pine Street to Camp Street. The AFD is asking the town to approve the closing of Pine Street from Front to Main, and Camp Street from Front Street to Main Street. Please see the attached Handout for reference. Debbie Kidder moved to

allow the closure of the above-mentioned streets seconded by Jamie Huval and John Taylor, motion carried.

Jamie Huval motioned to observe Halloween on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. seconded by Kris Brasseaux, motion carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson

Zelma said that she was asked if the park could be used for a benefit for a cancer patient, on September 28, 2024. Mayor asked that if a motion is made, please make it pending, he would like the attorney to look into this, this is a private function and it is public property.

Jamie Huval motioned to allow them to use the park, pending approval from attorney seconded by John Taylor, motion carried.

New Business

Open Bids for Police Cars—Mayor Meche

No bids were received. The town will advertise one more time and bring this up at the next meeting in September.

Main Street to West Street to Bayou (Proposed Road)—Rowana Black

Ms. Rowana asked the council to abandon the road. Jamie Huval motioned to call a public hearing on September 24, 2024, at 5:45 P.M. seconded by Debbie Kidder and John Taylor, motion carried.

Police Grant—Kris Brasseaux

Kris explained that he was able to get with Brandon Arnaud with Electronic Protection Systems to discuss what could be purchased with the \$20,000 grant for the cameras. A packet was handed to the Mayor and Council with a breakdown. Brandon Arnaud explained his plan and a discussion was held.

Jamie asked the Chief's opinion on the cameras, there was a discussion with Mr. Arnaud. Kris Brasseaux motioned to accept the bid of \$19, 927 seconded by John Taylor, motion carried.

Introduce Sanitation Ordinance 04-2024—Jamie Huval

Jamie Huval introduced Ordinance 04-2024. An Ordinance Adopting Sanitation Standards (All households within the Corporate Limits must have Utilities running water and sewer if someone is living there) setting up a Public Hearing on September 24, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Introduce Ordinance 05-2024-Police Chief Raise—Jamie Huval

Jamie Huval introduced Ordinance 05-2024 An Ordinance of the Town of Arnaudville setting the Chief of Police Salary, Police Chief salary \$5000.00 raise and asked for a Public Hearing to be held on September 24, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. seconded by Kris Brasseaux, motion carried.

Police Business—Ms. Mary Miller

Ms. Miller represents Arnaudville Midde School as the principal of the school. Ms. Miller asked that the town council consider giving a raise for the Police Chief. She explained that the Police Chief has been an asset to the school. Ms. Miller stated that the chief attends the ball games and frequents the school regularly. Mayor Meche stated that the Arnaudville Police Department is doing a fantastic job. He also stated that the town does support the school as well.

Up-Dates—Mayor Meche

Mayor stated that the automated water meters are being set in and that the utility workers are very busy.

The report on the blighted property should be prepared soon but is not ready yet and the mayor will get with the council once that report is completed.

Citizens' Concerns

Ginger LeCompte explained what she meant by a fathom budget.

Rowana Black inquired about having a trash bin in the town to dispose of batteries, lights bulbs etc. Mayor Meche said that he would call St. Landry Parish Solid Waste to see if that is possible. A conversation was discussed about sandbags. Sandbags are available behind the City Hall.

Adjourn

John Taylor moved to adjourn the August 27, 2024, Regular Town Meeting seconded by Kris Brasseaux, motion carried.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor