

TOWN OF ARNAUVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2015

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

I wish to apologize for missing the last meeting; however, most of the Council didn't mind missing my sometimes lengthy reports.

During the month of March I attended the Louisiana Chiefs of Police Spring Conference in Marksville on the 11th and 12th. The following week I attended a one (1) week training course for newly elected Chiefs of Police at the Louisiana State Police training complex. Although I received a great deal of information during both gatherings, the one message that stood out was of cooperation and working together with the Mayor and Council members. These reports are one way that I try to keep all of you informed of what we are doing; however, I sometime overlook things. I want to assure the members of this Council that each of you are welcome to call on me should you have any questions regarding how our Department is being managed.

I ask the Council to approve the firing of a Dispatcher Ms. Yvonne Howe effective March 23, 2015. Her dismissal is thoroughly documented and I do not wish to discuss the particulars in this venue. I wish to also seek approval from the Council for the hiring of a new Dispatcher, Ms. Anna White, on a six (6) month probationary period, at a rate of \$8.56 per hour effective April 5, 2015. Ms. White had previously worked for our Department in the capacity of a Patrol Officer; however, at the time she did not meet all the qualifications that were necessary to retain that position. When the vacancy for the Dispatcher position was announced Ms. White applied. Since I knew her qualifications, based on prior history, I decided to ask her to join our team.

As you are aware Ms. Dianna Richard was hired for the position of part time Dispatcher. Due to this wise move by the Council, our Department operated smoothly without any disruption in service during our time of need. The service of Ms. Richard is not only appreciated but has been extremely valuable to the operation of our Department.

The preliminary installation of the LEMIS program for report writing and the LACRASH program for traffic accident reporting are in their initial starting phases. Both providers of these programs must do some additional work before complete implementation can occur. Some reporting of incidents had not been properly forwarded to some State and Federal agencies and these deficiencies must be reviewed before we can implement either program.

I am hearing complaints about the stop sign located on the St. Martin Parish side of the Bayou Fuselier Bridge. The main complaints are that the sign had once been a yield sign and that vehicles must inch up in order to see oncoming traffic. As for the stop sign formally being a yield sign, as far as I can determine, it was the State of Louisiana that had the signs changed for safety reasons. I can say that, according to what I was told, the stop sign has been in place for approximately three (3) years. Everyone in our community knows by now that the sign is no longer a yield sign. As for motorist having to inch forward to see oncoming traffic, I have stopped at that sign a number of times during the past year and if you stop where the sign itself is you are still able to observe traffic coming from both directions. If you wish to see further down Highway 93 you do, in fact, have to inch up; however, you are inching up after you make your stop. The Officers of the Arnaudville Police Department are doing their jobs when they enforce the law pertaining to that stop sign. I was told by the Officers that the citations written for vehicles not stopping at that stop sign have been exclusively for those motorist heading toward Grand Coteau. The reason is that it is much easier for those motorist to see that no traffic is heading towards them from the direction of Myran's and, as a result, some don't make any attempt to stop.

As reported at the last Council meeting that I attended, the Department of Health and Hospitals inspected our jail cells for compliance on Monday, January 12, 2015. According to our "Notice of Violation" a couple of minor infractions were noted. As of this date, these violations have not been corrected but I have been assured that these will be corrected before our next inspection.

Our Police Units have all been properly painted and decaled. Since the article in the Daily World on Tuesday, March 24th, our Department has received positive feedback. I recently received a letter from the Police Chief of the Halifax, Nova Scotia Police Department commending us on having our slogan, in French, on our units. Not only this, but our Department was applauded by the French City Mayors who visited recently as well as the visitors that were here for the Semaine Franois, or French Week.

We are near the start of the Etouffee Festival this Friday. As well as myself being present, security will consist of two (2) Arnaudville Police Officers, four (4) St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Deputies and four (4) St. Martin Parish Deputies. As I did during Halloween, special permission will be granted to those who wish to use their golf carts to travel from their residence to the festival grounds. Anyone interested in using 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 our office will result in a citation issued.

Statistics from our Department for the month of February were: 58 Citations issued, 23 FIC's written, 100 MIC's written, 3 arrests, and 187 calls for service, while 45% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of our town. For the month of March:

98 Citations issued, 14 FIC's written, 127 MIC's written, 5 arrests, and 256 calls for service, while 49% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of town.

It is now my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. Since I was not present at the last Council meeting I will be presenting awards for the months of February and March. It is an honor and privilege to give the February award to Dispatcher Ida Lalonde and the March award to Patrolman James Bell.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police