

**TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

June 20, 2017

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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. I would like to invite the Mayor and Council Members to attend the ceremony if they are able.

A couple of Patrol Officers have approached me 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. I explained to the Officers that they should inform the complainants to call City Hall to express their concerns. I further explained that should 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. I ask the Mayor and Council if this response is how Patrol Officers should 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. I gather 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. Our 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.

I petition the Town Council to approve the acceptance of the resignation from Mr. Joseph Carriere. I was sorry to see Mr. Carriere leave and I wish him the best in his new endeavors.

I also petition the Town 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.

I further petition 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). I feel that with his 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, I 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, I will be interviewing possible candidates 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. My 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 I will place in that vacant position they can approve the hiring of this individual at this time.

Finally, I request 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 our 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 (9) in the morning until approximately one (1) in the afternoon.

Statistics from our Department for the month of May were: 35 citations issued, 24 FIC's written, 47 MIC's written, 2 arrests, and 126 calls for service, while 66% of aggregate time worked by the Officers was spent on patrolling our town.

It is now my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. As it always is, it is my honor to present this month's recipient of the award to Patrol Officer/Acting Sergeant Jason Howell. Officer Howell is liked and respected by all the personnel in our Department.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police