

**TOWN OF ARNAUVILLE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 2018**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On Wednesday, October 31, 2018, the streets of Quebedeaux, Swamp and Washington were designated as "One Way" for approximately two and one half hours (2 ½ hours) during the "Trick or Treat" time period of Halloween. The feedback received was favorable and we did not experience any traffic congestion. Since this approach to reducing congestion and increasing child safety was such a success we plan on doing the same next year.

On Friday, November 16, 2018, Patrol Officer Kirsten McBay graduated from the POST Academy at the St. Martin Police Academy. I petition the Town Council to approve the promotion of Patrol Officer Kirsten McBay from Provisional to the position of POST certified Patrol Officer at the pay rate of Grade 2 Step 13 (\$11.37 per hour).

I petition the Town Council to approve the hiring of Mr. Cody LeBlanc and Mr. Kevin Guillotte from the positions of Interim to Provisional Patrol Officers at a pay rate of \$9.93 per hour. During the past two (2) or three (3) weeks that these individuals have been training, Mr. Guillotte concluded that he could not perform the job of a Patrol Officer efficiently and decided to resign; therefore, I petition the Town Council to accept the resignation of Interim Patrol Officer Kevin Guillotte.

We continue the conducting of interviews to fill positions vacated for Patrol Officers. As I mentioned at a prior Council meeting, finding qualified candidates has been difficult due to low pay and a lack of benefits. One thing going for our Department is our proficiency in training any new recruits we get which; unfortunately, has also served to attract other law enforcement agencies who pay more or have better benefits to pursue our trained officers, and woo them away from us.

As the Council is already aware, our Department suffered the loss of three (3) officers within the span of approximately thirty (30) days. This placed the Police Department in a precarious situation. Since we only had three (3) officers available to work and one (1) was in the POST Academy we were left with two (2) officers to handle the jobs that had to be done. Because of this I wish to address two (2) issues that are facing our Department at this time. **First, I would like some much needed feedback and resolution with respect to Patrol Officer Amber Arnaud, who has been on Unpaid Administrative leave for the past ten (10) months.** Second, I was fortunate to get some help from the St. Martin and St. Landry Sheriff's Offices to fill in for coverage during the past month. Thankfully neither Office submitted charges for compensation for the service they provided to our Department. Since I do not wish for problems such as these to befall

our Department I request the Council's approval in the setting up and having a Reserve Officer Unit. The hours that each reserve officer would have to complete per month would be roughly twenty-four (24). These hours would be voluntary and could be worked in any increments of time as long as the total reached the minimum required. If the reserve officer wishes they could work for more hours than required. The insurance costs for Reserve Officers are approximately \$1,000 per officer per year. The Reserve Officers would have to take a physiological exam to determine not only if they are fit but also for insurance purposes. These officers would be used to fill in when needed for vacations, emergencies and backup.

During the last budget meeting I presented the Council with the possibility of obtaining a new Ford SUV Police Cruiser, through a government grant, to be added to our fleet of vehicles. The intent is to weed out all the vehicles that are not Patrol Vehicle equipped with those that are. Although I requested two (2) vehicles, budget constraints were such that I could only apply for one (1). Basically, the Department would receive a fully equipped Cruiser, valued at roughly \$45,000, for a cost to the Department of approximately \$8,000. We prepared and presented the grant proposal and it appeared to be on the road to approval. However, an inspection of the facility by representatives from the federal agency making the grant showed that Arnaudville's government building is not in compliance with ADA regulations (Americans With Disabilities Act). This will prevent us from being eligible to receive many government grants. I request that the in-coming administration review and address ADA standards, such as wheelchair accessibility throughout the building(s), so as to make Arnaudville eligible for future funding opportunities. As a side note, there may be grants available to address the necessary construction work for the purpose of ADA compliance.

Statistics from our Department for the month of October were: 52 Citations issued, 15 FICs written, 57 MICs written, 9 Arrests made, and 151 Calls for service. Routine town patrols accounted for 46% of the time our Officers spent on duty.

It is now my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. For the month of October the award is being presented to Patrol Officer Kirsten McBay. Officer McBay responds favorably when called upon and constantly strives to improve the day to day operation of the Department.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police