

TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2016

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

On Monday, August 15, 2016, we assisted with traffic control for the Eucharistic Procession which stopped along its way at St. Francis Catholic Church. Due to flooding issues, the procession traveled via a motorcade. Two (2) our Patrol Officers were present during the service.

Also on Monday, August 15, 2016, a second community conversation meeting with citizens and business owners at the Arnaudville Civic Center was attempted. Again due to rising water the Civic Center entrance was blocked by sand bags so we were unable to enter the building. Although a few people did show up including Mayor Richard, Council members Meche and Huval, as well as Sheriff Guidroz it was decided to postpone the meeting until a later date in September. Fliers and face book postings will be made available to the citizens when a date has been firmly set. The tentative date for this meeting will probably be Monday, September 19, 2016.

I wish to point out that two (2) things were addressed stemming from the first community meeting in July. First, it was recommended that the Police Officers might consider putting hangers on the doors of businesses which will alert the owner or manager that the business was checked on a particular night. I purchased the hangers and the Officers will commence using them in the near future. Second, it was noted that people were hanging around the graveyard during the night. I spoke with a representative from Entergy who visited with me and an employee of St. Francis Regis Church to discuss costs and options on how to adequately light the area for security reasons. According to the representative from Entergy to install five (5) utility poles and mount five (5) 129 Watt LED Flood Lights would cost an estimated \$158.25 per month or roughly \$1,900 per year. I was assured that the lights would illuminate the graveyard enough to dissuade trespassers from entering the area. It would also afford the Patrol Officers some degree of safety when they patrol the grounds. Finally, the cost would include all maintenance on all the fixtures provided.

I wish to once again be on record to the Council and the citizens of Arnaudville that I have an open door policy. If I am not in the office but available in Town, the Dispatcher on duty can contact me via my cell phone and I will return as quickly as possible to meet with anyone who wishes. This can be done at any time, day or night. Please be aware that I do not respond to gossip or hearsay; however, I will be more than happy to explain what our Police Department does and what procedures we adhere to.

I wish to inform the Mayor and Council of an adjustment in hours worked by Dispatcher Ida Lalonde. Ms. Lalonde informed me that she has applied for and been approved for Social Security benefits. According to Ms. Lalonde, she was informed by the Social Security Administration that she could only earn approximately 120 hours of pay per month. Any amount earned above that threshold would reduce her benefits. Ms. Lalonde informed me that she wished to continue working for the Police Department; however, it would have to be on a part time basis. I am bringing this up to the Council in the event you need to approve this arrangement. During Ms. Lalondes' absence, Dispatcher Dianne Richard will cover any time missed.

Another Neighborhood Watch meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the Arnaudville Community Center. I am currently in the process of getting a couple of guest speakers to address those citizens in attendance.

Statistics from our Department for the month of July were: 63 citations issued, 49 FIC's written, 79 MIC's written, 10 arrests, and 226 calls for service. Time spent on patrolling our town accounted for 59% of the total time our Officers were on duty.

When naming an "Employee of the Month", I attempt to consider all that employee has accomplished consistently during the month and if a particular incident propels him or her to the top of the list. These particular incidents may be viewed as very minor; however, it shows me initiative on the employees' part and thus they are considered in my evaluation when I give out these awards. Also, these awards are not part of the budget of the Arnaudville Police Department but rather are paid for out of my own pocket. I feel it is an important recognition program. It is my honor to present this month's "Employee of the Month" award to Dispatcher Dianna Richard.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police