

TOWN OF ARNAUVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2016

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Last week I spoke with Mr. Jerry Cronin concerning insurance regarding Ms. Anna White and Ms. Amber Arnaud. As the Council is aware, both of these ladies graduated from the St. Martin Parish Police Academy during the past year. According to Mr. Cronin if either of these people were on patrol, either with an officer or alone, they needed to be insured for carrying a firearm and having arrest authority. I explained that I was unaware that it was my responsibility to inform our insurance company, Risk Management, that I had two (2) individuals that were POST Certified to work as Patrol Officers. I further explained that I had never, in the past two and one half years of my tenure, called him or Risk Management to have an employee placed on their rolls. I continued by stating that I assumed that once these individuals had completed the Academy their insurance requirements had been upgraded. If it is my responsibility to inform Risk Management of future changes, then I would appreciate that the Council inform me of that and I will make sure that I fulfill that requirement.

It was brought to my attention that Ms. Anna White was observed during the past month patrolling the town alone. It is important that each of our new Police Officers get training in proper patrol activities. Ms. White, as well as Ms. Arnaud, are POST Certified Police Officers and as such they have the authority to make arrests and write citations. These and other functions are part of their training. Another part of their training is to patrol the town on their own. After speaking with the officers that trained Ms. White, I was informed that she could indeed patrol without assistance. I asked Ms. White, prior to asking her if she would be comfortable patrolling alone, if she felt she was capable of doing so. Ms. White was told that she would be responsible for school traffic in the morning and that she was to ride around the town and visit businesses to familiarize herself with the community and to introduce herself. I further instructed her that should she be called to respond to an incident, I was to be called to assist her. The faith of the Field Training Officers (FTO's) and myself is the correct assessment of Ms. White's ability.

Due to changes in our Police Department, I request the Town Council to approve the following recommendations. First, approval is needed to promote Ms. Anna White to the position of entry level Patrol Officer at a pay rate of \$11.37 per hour. Since her promotion will leave a vacancy in the Dispatcher position, I also request that the vacancy be filled by Ms. Jaleesa Barnaba (a copy of her application has been given to each of you for your review). I contacted some of her prior employers, as well as her references and received positive reviews. The starting rate of pay for Ms. Barnaba will be \$8.56 per hour. Finally, Patrol Officer Barry Ard has told me that he anticipates leaving his full time position at our Department at the end of

this year. Officer Ard informed me that he would like to stay with our Department in the position of a Reserve Officer working 24 to 36 hours per month. In this position Officer Ard would be able to assist in upgrading our SOP manual, help in Internal Affairs investigation (should any come to light), and fill in on patrol as needed. In order to replace Officer Ard I request the Council approve the hiring of Mr. George Higgins as a Patrol Officer at a pay rate of \$11.37 per hour. Mr. Higgins is a fully POST certified officer that has worked with the St. Landry Sheriff's Office and the Port Barre Police Department. Mr. Higgins application has also been given to each of you for your review. I did contact his references and received positive reviews. Please note that both new hires will be based on the outcome of their respective physicals and drug tests. Further, Mr. Higgins will have to undergo a Psychological Evaluation if the one he is currently under is not acceptable to Risk Management. Also note that should both parties successfully pass all tests they will be hired on a provisional basis for a period of six (6) months.

I also wish to have the Council approve placing Patrol Officer Joseph Carriere on disciplinary leave for a period of 84 work hours beginning Saturday, November 5, 2016 until Friday, November 18, 2016.

I had a meeting with Alderman Jamie Huval concerning a possible change in an ordinance about the accrual of Compensatory Time versus Vacation Time. Attached is the reasoning for the proposed change, which has the potential of saving money for the department and town. This change can be tailored for the Arnaudville Police Department, only should the Council wish.

I had a "Conversation with the Chief" meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016 at the Arnaudville Civic Center. Although not as many people showed up for the meeting, it was productive and some concerns were addressed.

Statistics from our Department for the month of September were: 30 Citations issued, 37 FIC's written, 81 MIC's written, 8 Arrests made, and 156 calls for service. Routine town patrols accounted for 44% of the time our Officers spent on duty.

Finally, it is my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. For the month of September the award and gift certificate is being presented to Officer Jason Howell. Officer Howell goes out of his way to make sure that our small fleet of vehicles are running properly. His previous experience with auto mechanic work has been very beneficial to our Department.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police