

**TOWN OF ARNAUVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

May 19, 2015

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

I ask the Council to approve the resignation of Dispatcher, Ms. Norma Jean Breaux effective, May 21, 2015. Ms. Breaux was a good employee and she will be missed. I am currently in the process of interviewing a few applicants as a replacement for Ms. Breaux. I wish to seek permission of the Council to provisionally hire this replacement Dispatcher at a rate of \$8.56 per hour. I don't know the exact hire date for this Dispatcher and, again with the approval of the Council, will defer the announcement of the hire date until our next Council meeting on June 16, 2015.

I am pleased to announce that the LACRASH program for traffic accident reporting has been installed and that the Officers can now write their crash reports entirely on the computer. Unfortunately, this is not the new version of the program. The new version will replace this one when the installers arrive at our region of the state. Please note that with this program in place all accident reports will be uploaded into the State's program for tracking purposes.

The full installation of the LEMIS program for report writing is still in the holding stage until deficiencies are reviewed. It is hoped that this program will be up and running in the near future.

Sheriff Guidroz has graciously offered us the use of an Inmate/Trustee to perform needed chores at our Department. Duties to be performed would include the cleaning and waxing of the floor in the offices, minor repairs that are needed (including the jail cells), washing of the police cars and painting the facility. This Trustee would be picked up by us on a Tuesday morning around seven (7) o'clock and returned to the Parish Jail on Wednesday afternoon about four (4) o'clock. The Trustee would spend Tuesday night at this facility and would have to be fed during his entire stay. We are in the process of reviewing the logistics of such an arrangement. For those who do not know, a Trustee is an inmate of the Parish Jail whose crime is not serious enough to warrant incarceration in a State Prison. These Trustees are weeded out by the Jail administration and allowed to work outside the Jail; for instance, picking up trash or cutting grass along Parish roads. I was informed that the Port Barre Police Department has a trustee currently working for them that is housed at their Jail from Monday morning until Friday afternoon. I ask that the Council approve this arrangement once

we have thoroughly researched the pros and cons. We may even decline the offer should we find a problem that is insurmountable.

I have been questioned; as I am sure the Mayor and some of you Council Members have, about citations that are being written by our Officers. First, I want to make it perfectly clear that Officers have the prerogative of either issuing a citation or giving a warning. My not being on the scene at the time does not afford me the opportunity of second guessing the Officers reason for their decision. Second, the sign on the door to our office states "Arnaudville Police Department", it doesn't state "Arnaudville Police, Judge and Jury Department". The Officers have been instructed to note on the back of the citation any circumstances (good or bad) that might give information to the Mayor during her performance as Magistrate of City Court. Should I get a call from someone regarding a citation, I explain that I will not change the ticket but that I will discuss the issue with the Officer that issued the citation. It is then up to the Officer to add a recommendation as to the disposition on the back of the citation for it to be reviewed by the Magistrate. Third, we are not trying to be "like" any other municipality in either St. Landry or St. Martin Parish. You, the citizens of this great community, expect us to do our jobs. We have seven (7) roads that lead into Arnaudville and, at times, this leads to traffic problems. The Officers have been instructed that our Department will not tolerate the breaking of traffic laws. We already have speed limits that, I believe, are too high for certain roads in the town. We will also be more active in combating the excess speeding that is happening on some of our neighborhood streets. With the letting out of school soon we will have more children on those streets. Because of this, we are going to be more vigilant in enforcing the speed limit on our neighborhood streets. It is a fact that someone driving the 25 mile per hour speed limit posted on those streets can bring their vehicle to a complete stop in a shorter distance than someone driving 35 or 45 miles per hour.

Our Officers have all been issued body cameras. They have all been instructed to record any interaction they have with anyone during their tour of duty. The use of these will protect the Officers and the public.

As you are all aware, times have changed and police departments and personnel are now targets. The Town of Arnaudville today is not the same Town of Arnaudville of twenty (20) years ago. It is currently mandatory that all POST Certified Officers must complete twenty (20) hours of remedial training in order for them to retain their certification. Our Department has taken it further by allowing them to have other training, should they request and it fits in our budget, that will help them do their jobs better and safer. For example, Officers are required, as part of their gear, to carry a firearm. It does no good to carry a pistol if you are not proficient in its use. Although each of us must complete a POST firearm course once a year we felt that it was not enough practice to ensure our proficiency. A policy has been implemented whereby each Officer is required to practice with his duty weapon on a quarterly basis. This has

been made possible with the cooperation of The Fusilier Complex using their shooting range.

Statistics from our Department for the month of April were: 130 citations issued, 12 FIC's written, 89 MIC's written, 5 arrests, and 226 calls for service, while 48% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of 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 Patrolman James Bell. This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police