

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen
of the Village of French Settlement, February 12, 2020**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 12th day of February 2020 at 6 p.m. in regular session convened. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rhonda B. Lobell with the following members present:

Alderman Teresa Miller, Alderman Kim Demarest

Municipal Clerk, Pam Melancon

Absent: None

Present: Chief Mosby, Captain Durkin, Officer Ordeneaux

A prayer was offered by Alderman Miller, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Guest Speaker: Jeremy Aydell, Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Livingston
Playground equipment has been ordered. March 8, 2020 there will be a fund raiser and public viewing/presentation of the playground at the French Settlement Pavilion. Food and live entertainment. Equipment should be in at the beginning of April for a possible start date in April, weather permitting. If all goes as planned, playground may be ready this summer. This is Phase I. Phase II, a walking path (after Phase I) and would require additional funding. Jeremy will make every effort continue to come to meetings with playground updates.

Reading of Minutes:

- **The motion to adopt the minutes for the month of January 8, 2020, as presented, was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Demarest. A yea and a nay vote were called for and resulted as follows:**

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Statement of Finances:

The motion to adopt the Statement of Finances for the month of January 2020, as presented was made by Alderman Eleazar and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yea and a nay vote were called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications

Attorney General Opinion 19-0054 dated 02.06.2020 read and further research required.

Police Department Report:

- Chief Mosby presented the monthly policy report to the Mayor and Aldermen for the Month of January. Chief Mosby presented an addendum to the police report stating that in the November Town Hall Meeting that the pay increases for Durkin and Rhoads was discussed by the Board and included in the 2020 budget. Mayor Lobell assured that this was not included in the 2020 budget. That the documents submitted by Chief Mosby to the board the night of this meeting states that the Chief included a .40 per hour raise for Durkin and Rhoads as approved in the December Town Hall meeting. This raise was not included in budget numbers at all and there was no discussion. Alderman Miller stated that she didn't and clarified that she's listened to the minutes and that she stated that she'd rather see money go into the officers who serve us pockets rather than the wasteful spending and never said anything about an amount. That she's advocated for the officers but that this is untrue. Mayor Lobell welcomed anyone that would like to take a look at prior minutes to go to the town hall website and they are available and that there are voice recordings that are public records.

Old Business

Grounds Report

- The Mayor stated that water heater in the pavilion that is now working. The Mayor stated that the water heater in the Police Dept has been non-operational for about 2 years since the freeze and Steve Cedatol said he'd be happy to look at it and repair it. The Mayor and the Board thanked Steve for his work.

Road Report

- Mayor Lobell stated that she'd received a call from the surveyor Tim Mitchell with TL Hawk and that the construction surveying will begin for the DOTD FS Bridge Project and that they do not anticipate lane closures.

Grants

- **LGAP Grant 2018-19 and 2019-20:** Mayor Lobell shared with the audience that LCAP stands for Louisiana Government Assistance Program and it's grants that they distribute to municipalities and right now we are approved and ready to go \$6,530 for a generator. We do not have to spend this money right away. We have until April 25, 2022 to spend the money.

New Business

Propose Ordinance No. 1 of 2020

Alderman Eleazar read aloud Proposed Ordinance No. 1 of 2020.

Village of French Settlement Proposed Ordinance No. 1 of 2020

To amend Section 4:14 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of French Settlement, Louisiana to set the pay of the Clerk.

Renewal of Outside Lawn Maintenance Agreement

They cut from March to October and the contract needs to be renewed. The contract is renewed at the same rate and has updated their insurance certificate.

A motion to accept contract as written was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Eleazar. A yea and nay vote were called for and was as follows:

YEAS: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

New Administration Update

Prepared the Sexual Harassment policy and roster reflecting the 2019 completion of the course. We are subject to audit of this information.

Local Events

- March 8, 2020 the FS Playground Kickoff Ceremony at the Pavilion. Jambalaya plates will be served at \$7.00 per plate and music.

Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Eleazar. A year and a nay vote were called for and resulted as follows:
 - Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar
 - Nays: None
 - Absent: None

Rhonda B Lobell, Mayor

Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk