

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen
of the Village of French Settlement, March 11, 2020**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 11th day of March 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, Alderman Gene Eleazar

Municipal Clerk: Pam Melancon

Absent: None

Present: Chief Mosby, Gerald McMorris, Councilman District 6

Guest Speakers: Jeremy Aydell, Wesley Murphy, Garnett Brignac, Father Jason Palermo

A prayer was offered by Father Jason Palermo, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Guest Speakers:

Jeremy Aydell, Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Livingston

Appreciated the turn out for the Playground fundraiser held on March 8, 2020, viewing/presentation/groundbreaking. Four out of nine of our Parish Council members attended the event. Raised \$3,700.00 (\$3,000 was goal). Year to date, they have approx. \$13,000 raised.

Wesley Murphy, announced that he intends to qualify to run for Chief of Police for the Village.

Father Jason Palermo, Priest/St. Joseph Catholic Church announced that the church purchased additional land for the use of cemetery in December 2019 and that the rectory is under construction. The Church cemetery is open to parishioners, as well as members of the community. Plots are now for sale. The pricing for Parishioners of the church is \$525.00 and pricing for non-parishioners is \$1,500.00. Allows stacked graves, allows more than one cremains to be buried in one plot. All profit from the cemetery goes into an endowment with proceeds going towards perpetual care of the cemetery. Hopes to one day in the future take over the maintenance of the Community Cemetery.

Garnett Brignac discussed her concern of the conditions and hazards of the Car Wash located at Hwy 16 across from the Town Hall. Since the Flood of 2016 the car wash has been inoperable and that it is known as a 'dumping ground' or 'illegal activities'. Trash at the premises includes needles (drug paraphernalia), deplorable conditions and neighboring residents are tired of picking up trash and it is creating a drainage issue. Very concerned about her grandchildren. It's a personal danger. Alderman Miller asked if Ms Brignac has ever contacted the PD, Officer Rhoads stated that they keep an eye on it. A member of the audience stated that he'd contacted the owner and the owner stated that he doesn't come to dump garbage cans and removed garbage cans because he doesn't have time. Therefore, all garbage goes into ditches. Mayor Lobell stated that she'd spoken to the owner, Mr. John McCrory of the car wash and that he'd been by there

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications: None

Police Department Report:

- Officer Rhoads stated that he would give the police report to the Mayor and Aldermen for the Month of February since Chief Mosby (although present in the meeting) was 'under the weather'. Rhoads reported numbers from the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office report as regards to calls. Rhoads gave a general update of the police department, including personal commentary that was not related to Village business.

Old Business

Grounds Report

- Mayor Lobell is working with Entergy to secure pricing for lighting in the limestone parking lot and the Pavilion areas so that we can compare Entergy versus purchasing & maintaining lighting.

Road Report

- DOTD has a 6-8-month backlog on clearing ditches.
- Mr. Tim Mitchell of TL Hawk – contractor for French Settlement Bridge construction talked to Mayor Lobell on March 6, 2020 and mentioned that most of the initial surveying is complete and in a couple of weeks that some residents within the state required distance would be receiving a letter from FLB seeking permission to perform a 'pre-construction' survey on residences so that in the event that there is a claim during the pile driving phase that a baseline of proof of the condition of the property prior to pile driving would be established. The homeowner can refuse the inspection but does establish condition of the home prior to start of pile driving. Alderman Miller suggested that if you are in the area you may want to video, document and maintain records yourself.

Grants

- **LGAP Grant 2019-20:** As of meeting date award for the 2019-20 Louisiana Government Assistance Program term has not been received.

New Business

- **Resolution No. 2 of 2020 – Use of Community Center** read by Alderman Eleazar.

Alderman Miller stated that use of the "Community Center" would be used in the spirit of the community with event such as activities with the elderly.

A motion to accept Resolution No. 2 of 2020 as written was made by Alderman Eleazar and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and nays vote were called for and was as follows:

YEAS: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

New Administration Update

- **Quick-Court Software:** Mayor Lobell stated that the administration is exploring software to efficiently process traffic tickets, warrants, payment processing and court dockets. Quick Court is the software that we are exploring. The administration would like to engage Officer Allen Ordeneaux as the project manager for research, implementation and quality control of the software. Phase 1. Research, Phase 2. Implementation, Phase 3. Quality Control. Various discussion regarding that paper ticket booklets are no longer be provided by the State Police that the Village will be responsible for printing and the administration & police department must prepare for this. Mayor Lobell stated that Officer Ordeneaux would act as the liaison between admin and PD so that we implement software efficient for both. Alderman Miller stated that she's reviewed the software and it is much more efficient with cross referencing and cleaner dockets in court. Audios from the court proceedings can be attached to the summons in the system. We propose to engage Officer Ordeneaux for the project \$15.00 at a rate per hour out of the budget of the administration.

A motion to proceed with **exploration of various ticket/court software and to engage Officer Ordeneaux as project manager at \$15. per hour for the project** was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Demarest. A yea and nay vote were called for and was as follows:

YEAS: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Local Events

- Fish Fry Dinners – St. Joseph Catholic Church, each Friday 4-7pm during Lent.
- FS Baptist Church Spring Jubilee – March 28, 2020 Elem – Middle School aged children.
- April 4 Colyell Ball Park Jambalaya Lunch.
- FS Girls Softball team made it to State.
- Councilman McMorris would like to see turnout in the Parish Council Meetings to represent our area so that we are aware of current zoning issues, roads and drainage. Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at the LP Council Building.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Demarest. 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