

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, April 10, 2019**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 10th day of April, 2019 at 6 p.m. in regular session convened. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Toni Guitrau with the following members present:

Alderman Teresa Miller, Alderman Danette Carrier, Alderman Rhonda Lobell

Absent: None

Also present: Chief of Police William "Bill" Bliss, Assistant Chief of Police Lawrence Callender

A prayer was offered by Alderman Teresa Miller

Public Comments on Agenda Items: The mayor opened the floor to public comments on agenda items. There were no comments.

Guest Speaker(s): None

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of March 2019, as presented, was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications:

- The mayor stated that April 2019 has been declared as "Stress Awareness Month."
- Porche's Sausage is re-opening, post-August 2016 flood, on Saturday, April 13, 2019.
- All elected officials are invited to attend the District I meeting held on June 19, 2019 in Mandeville. Those wishing to attend should send in the form provided.

Emergency Manager Report: The unit previously ordered will be in service in a couple of weeks. This is the last of two units lost in the August 2016 flood to be replaced with funding through FEMA, and insurance.

Police Department Report: Chief Bliss reported the following for the month of March: The month of March has been fairly calm.

- The police department is actively working to curtail the illicit sale and consumption of illegal drugs. Several arrests have been made in this regard.
- On April 9, 2019, as a mobile home was being moved in, a man was shocked after touching a live wire.

Old Business

- **Grounds Report:** All is in good condition on the municipal grounds. Entergy is monitoring a meter to the pavilion to see why a recent bill received was so high.
- **Road Report:**
 - The parish will blacktop the alternate road exiting Mecca Road soon. This is being done because the existing exit road does not allow a clear view of oncoming traffic on Hwy. 16.
 - During the last heavy rain, the mayor took pictures of Highwater Road at Aydell Lane intersection to send to the Livingston Parish DPW. The culvert there is damaged and water is being held on the blacktopped roads.
 - The LPSO Litter Crew picked up litter from bridge to bridge (La. Hwy. 16) since last month's meeting.
 - A constituent reported that all of the dirt had washed away under a section of the public sidewalk near the church. The FS Water Company agreed to replace the dirt that was washed away due to a broken water line.
- **LGAP GRANT** –It has been confirmed that the \$6500 can be used as a match to a FEMA grant to purchase two natural gas generators.
- **Outside Maintenance Contract Renewal** – Mayor Guitrau reported that an "additional insured" clause has been added to the contract and to the Certificate of Insurance as suggested by Alderman Lobell at the March 13, 2019 meeting. Mayor Guitrau said she contacted the contractor's insurance company and was told by the company that the errors noted on the initial Certificate of Insurance were human errors and have been corrected. The corrected COI was provided to the aldermen. The mayor also provided a copy of the village's insurance, through Louisiana Risk Management, which has always provided commercial liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000. This insurance would cover anyone working, volunteering, etc. for the village. The village has never been at risk. She also said that she had no idea why someone would say that she had not reviewed the Outside Maintenance Contract or the insurance prior to

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presenting them to the Board of Aldermen at the March 13, 2019 meeting. As she stated at the last meeting, she is the one that prepared, and typed the contract before she forwarded it to the town attorney for his review. She said to state otherwise is misleading the public. Alderman Miller said that all she had been concerned about at the last meeting was that Alderman Lobell had said that the company was not real. Mayor Guitrau said that the corrected certificate now has the full name of the company. A motion to accept the Outside Maintenance Contract as presented was made by Alderman Miller, and seconded by Alderman Lobell. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

New Business

- **Resolution #1 of 2019** Whereas, the Village of French Settlement has been presented with Attorney General Opinion No. 91-169 in support of the position that State supplemental pay must be added to police officer's regular compensation in order to arrive at their overtime pay rate (See Exhibit A); Whereas, Timothy E. Pujol, attorney for the Village of French Settlement has opined that Attorney General Opinion No. 91-169 does not apply to the Village of French Settlement because the Village has a population of less than 12,000 (See Exhibit B); Whereas, the Village has determined that because it has fewer than five employees in the Police Department, that Section 7(k) of the US Fair Labor Standards Act does not apply to it; Whereas, the Village has determined that it is not required to add the state supplemental pay into the officer's regular compensation in order to arrive at their overtime pay rate nor to comply with Section 7(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act; Whereas, the Board of Aldermen for the Village of French Settlement requests that the Attorney General determine whether its position is correct; The motion to approve Resolution #1 of 2019, as presented, was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

- Discussion of Travel Per Diem: The mayor said that she was asked by an employee of the police department to bring before the Board of Aldermen for their consideration a discussion on how per diem is paid when an employee is away from the village to attend classes, conferences, meetings, etc. She was asked to consider using the GSA method instead of Village of French Settlement - Ordinance #3 of 2014. Excerpt from said ordinance reads as follows: "Meals will be reimbursed if travel is twelve (12) hours or more in duration. Employees, while on travel on municipal business, shall be allowed an advance of \$30 toward the cost of meals. No receipts are required unless they request reimbursement (up to \$75 for meals per day) for meals totaling over the allotted \$30/day. Receipts must then be submitted for reimbursement and the total amount shall include the advancement of the \$30." The Board discussed this request and agreed to continue the discussion at the next regular meeting of the Board on May 8, 2019.

Local Events: None. Easter is Sunday, April 21, 2019.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Carrier. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk