

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, June 12, 2019

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 June, 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

2018 Review by Nikki Dupuy, CPA, Diez, Dupuy & Ruiz, LLC. – Ms. Dupuy said that the Legislative Auditor requires that they test compliance along with the review. They found no violations with any of the following tests: Public Bid Law, Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees, Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting, Open Meetings, Debt, Advances and Bonuses, and State Audit Law. She reviewed the financial highlights of the village. The Village's net position totaling \$826,566 increased by 1.2% over the course of the year's operations compared to prior year. During the year, the Village's governmental activities expenses were \$9,915 less than the \$385,376 generated in charges for services, and other revenue. She said the Village's general fund reported fund balance of \$367,167 is adequate. Total assets were \$381,844. Expenses and salaries etc., for December 2018, which were paid in January 2019, were included. Some of the major changes from 2017 to 2018 were from a decline of about \$19,000 in fine revenue. In comparison to 2016, it is down about 33%. Mayor Guitrau explained that both police officers were working the night shift during the 2018 period. Ms. Dupuy said in 2018, the village had FEMA revenue totaling \$111,723.00. In 2017, FEMA funds were approximately \$15,000 more than \$111,723.00. She said with the FEMA funds the town did a lot of improvements including the town hall, contents, new equipment and purchasing a new police unit to replace one of two lost during the 2016 flood. Those Capital Outlay expenditures totaled \$128,678.00. In closing, Ms. Dupuy thanked the Mayor and Board for their continued patronage. She said she has done the Review for at least the past 15 years and it is a pleasure to work with the mayor, the clerk, and staff. She said if there were any questions, she would be happy to answer them. Alderman Miller congratulated the mayor on another clean audit. As there were no questions from the public or the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Guitrau called for a vote to accept the Review of 2018, as presented. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the Review of 2018, seconded by Alderman Carrier. A ye and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

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

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications:

- The mayor reported that Laine Hardy won American Idol 2019 since that last meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. There was a "Welcome Home" celebration at the French Settlement High School where she presented Laine with a "Key to the City" of the Village of French Settlement for his outstanding performances on American Idol 2019. On the same day and time, Alderman Miller read and presented to him the Proclamation that Declared May 14,

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2019 as “Laine Hardy Day.” There was a parade followed by him performing a short concert at the Livingston Parish Fairgrounds where an estimated 10,000 attended.

- EATEL Franchise Fees: The village will see an increase of revenue of 2% from EATEL franchise fees. It will increase from 3% to 5% as they transition to the state rate.

Emergency Manager Report:

- Callender reported that hurricane season has started. We were recipients of approximately 8” of rain recently, and are working closely with GOHSEP and LP OEP. If anyone in French Settlement had damages, they can report them to the town hall so we can pass it on to Livingston Parish Homeland Security. Mayor Guitrau has already put this request on Facebook as a Public Notice.
- Callender said the mayor recently reported to him that she received a malfunctioning river gage reading for French Settlement at over 9 feet. French Settlement’s flood stage is 4 feet. He then reported it to the USGS who said it was a software problem and they fixed it. This needed to be reported so that no future data is affected by wrong information. He thanked the mayor for reporting it.
- He stressed the importance of “Get a Game Plan” for future reference. Mayor Guitrau has posted this information on Facebook for the public, also. Chris Roy, of Entergy, reminded them that if anyone including police officers are cutting limbs or trees off of power lines to please be careful of live wires.

Police Department Report: Chief Bliss reported the following for the month of April:

- The police department has completed the first 2 of 3 phases of the Highway Safety Grant, Click It or Ticket, and Buckle Up in Your Truck. Later in the summer, they will work the DUI phase. 10 seatbelt tickets were written, with a minimum of 6 contacts per hour. Additionally, they recovered one stolen vehicle and made 2 warrant arrests related to the stops. The publicity of the statewide campaign coupled with additional police officer presence on the French Settlement roadways resulted in a positive intervention for the motoring public.
- Chief Bliss reminded everyone to buckle up.

Old Business

- **Grounds Report:** All is in good condition on the municipal grounds except for an electrical problem. We were told that the museum AC/Heat is connected to the pavilion meter. This is being confirmed.
- **Road Report:** The damaged culvert near Aydell Lane/Highwater Road is being checked by Livingston Parish DPW. The pothole at the beginning of Aydell Lane has been patched, again.
- **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. We received the fully executed contract from the Governor’s office.

New Business

- Alderman Miller read Proposed Ordinance #1 of 2019, Budget 2019 Amendment #1. The mayor set a Public Hearing to be held during the next Regular Meeting of the Board on July 10, 2019 at 6 pm, located at the French Settlement Municipal Building, 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement. This is to amend the budget to reflect FEMA and insurance funds expended.
- LMA Convention – Monroe, Louisiana, August 1-3, 2019: Mayor Guitrau said that registration forms for those attending the convention need to be turned into the clerk as soon as possible. Those attending need to reserve their hotel rooms and after the convention is over submit the receipt to the clerk for reimbursement. All mileage needs to be submitted to the clerk from their home to the convention. The village does not reimburse for any side trips if taken.

Local Events: None

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeay 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