

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, August 14, 2019**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 14th day of August, 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

Absent: Alderman Rhonda Lobell

Also, present: Chief of Police William "Bill" Bliss, Assistant Chief of Police Lawrence Callender, Chief of Police-elect Cary Mosby

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. Mayor Guitrau recognized the presence of Tommy Martinez, with Senator John Kennedy's office.

Guest Speaker(s): District 6 – Livingston Parish Council Candidates

- Gerald McMorris
- Derek Babcock
- Steve McDaniel

Livingston Parish Tax Assessor Candidate – Brandon Browning

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

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

Yeas: Miller, Carrier

Nays: None

Absent: Lobell

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

Yeas: Miller, Carrier

Nays: None

Absent: Lobell

Mayor Guitrau reviewed the Quick Reports (break-down of expense items) on the following line items for the month of July 2019: Miscellaneous Administration Expense \$62.94 to purchase American and State flags, Publishing Fees \$180.00 to publish minutes/ordinance etc., Public Safety - Overtime was for Hurricane Barry \$2960. Public Safety Equipment \$4500 for three rifles for FSPD officers. Police Department Supplies \$306.16 for Streamlights and other equipment, Conference/Travel – Capt. Rhoads attended a conference/classes for \$450.

Reading of Communications: Mayor Guitrau attended the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce meeting, which included the State of the Parish by Layton Ricks. Livingston Parish President Layton Ricks announced there will be \$5 million available to raise 88 homes in Livingston Parish. She will follow up on this and find out how the people of French Settlement may apply.

Emergency Manager Report:

- Callender said in regards to Hurricane Barry, Governor Edwards and Layton Ricks signed/declared a proclamation declaring a disaster upon President Trump authorizing us as a federal disaster area. He told the Board that this put FSPD into a full-time, 24-hour coverage/emergency mode. The sheriff supported French Settlement by bringing down officers, and we are very appreciative. Predictions had French Settlement to be at 7.5 feet flood stage which would have been the second worst flood on record. There were boats and high-water vehicles ready to go if needed. He said that he and the mayor are already working for reimbursement of the expenses through FEMA/LOHEP. We expect to get approximately \$4500, which includes the use of vehicles. Alderman Miller said in regard to the officer's overtime pay, she is thankful we didn't get the flooding that was predicted, but our officers deserve to get paid for their time and she wanted to thank them.
- August 2016 Flood: He and the mayor are working on HUDD forms, and still have audits in the future.
- Laurel Ridge Levee in Ascension Parish: According to models, it may put 4-6 inches of water on French Settlement. Mayor Guitrau said that the parish president said in the State of the Parish address that even

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½ of an inch is unacceptable. Callender said the lower Amite River has been ignored for 50 years and it is silted in. There are debates on how to maximize the main channel. Callender and the mayor participate monthly in the US Corps of Engineers conference call meeting for all drainage projects out there. There are many projects being considered, but none should be allowed to hurt neighboring parishes. He discussed the proposed Darlington Reservoir. His opinion is that this project could help everyone.

Police Department Report: Chief William “Bill” Bliss said that he wanted to thank the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support in him doing this job for the last 10 months. He said it’s been a pleasure to serve. He said he also wanted to thank Assistant Chief Lawrence Callender, who without him, he could not have accomplished any of this job and that he has helped him greatly. He considers him a very good friend. He congratulated the new Chief, Cary Mosby, and wished him the best. He wished the village the best, and said that if he can ever be of help, he would be glad to help. Mayor Guitrau presented Chief Bliss with a Certificate of Appreciation for stepping up and serving as Interim Chief of Police for 5 months in 2017, and again from November 14, 2018 – August 15, 2019.

- Assistant Chief Callender said that it has been his pleasure to serve with Chief Bliss. They have developed a friendship that he knows will continue. He complimented Chief Bliss on being one of the smoothest-speaking of folks when talking to upset people in the village. This relieved a lot of stress.
- For the month of July 2019, there was a stop at gun-point near the Best Stop (stolen vehicle), there were two disturbances that resulted in arrests, there were two crashes. One trespassing with a warrant issue. They will be starting the DWI grant on Friday, the 16th.
- Mayor Guitrau and the Board congratulated Cary Mosby on being unopposed as Chief of Police. Cary Mosby, Chief of Police-elect thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to working for the community.

Old Business

- **Grounds Report:** Mayor Guitrau said the limestone driveway off of La. Hwy. 16 onto the municipal grounds was a public safety hazard as it was caving in. On July 31, 2019, for \$1650, a new culvert was put in place along with 2 loads of dirt, and 2 loads of crushed concrete. This also included installation.
- **Road Report:** City Limit signs will be checked to see how many are missing on village roads. The mayor is also checking on estimates to mark the 1000-foot boundary on some of these village roads. Alderman Miller said she occasionally receives calls from people that aren’t certain if they are inside city limits. The stop-sign on Lena Lane needs to be replaced. Mayor Guitrau said she is waiting on an update from the parish on the Mecca Road Extension being blacktopped. The condition of Goodtime Rd. also needs to be checked by the LP DPW. The new Amite River Bridge in French Settlement construction was supposed to begin in 2019. Mayor Guitrau will call DOTD and ask for an update. Alderman Miller said she spoke to Representative Schexnayder a while back and he told her that DOTD would contact us, and that he had no new information.
- **LGAP GRANT:** No update to report.

New Business: None

Local Events: The Bridge to Bridge Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

The annual Creole Festival will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 10 am-5 pm. Kim Aydeell said that it is a fundraiser to raise money for the Creole House Museum. Stone Envy will play music, many people are interested in setting up craft booths, and it should be a great community event. In the summer, the museum is open every Sunday from 2-4 pm. Starting in September, the museum will be open every second Sunday from 2-4 pm.

Mayor Guitrau thanked everyone for coming to the meeting saying that it is always good to have a crowd.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn 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
Nays: None
Absent: Lobell

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk