

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, January 12, 2017**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 15710 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 12th day of January, 2017 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

Also Present: Municipal Clerk Megan Bostwick, Assistant Chief of Police Lawrence Callender

A prayer was offered by Alderman Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Public Hearing: Ordinance #3 of 2016 – Salary of Chief of Police. Said Ordinance having been introduced, notice of Public Hearing published, the title was read by Alderman Carrier. The mayor opened the floor to public comments. Being there were no public comments, the mayor closed the floor. A motion was made by Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Carrier to approve Ordinance #3 of 2016, as presented –to set the Salary of Chief of Police, as presented. 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 December 2016, 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: None

Appointments:

- **Clerk/Treasurer:** The mayor recommended that Megan Bostwick be reappointed as Clerk/Treasurer. A motion was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller to accept the recommendation. A ye and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

- **Attorney:** The mayor recommended that Tim Pujol be reappointed as the town attorney and to work as Ad Hoc Magistrate upon request of the mayor. A motion was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Lobell to accept the recommendation. A ye and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

- **Mayor Pro Tem:** The mayor recommended Alderman Teresa Miller as Mayor Pro Tem. A motion was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Lobell to accept the recommendation. A ye and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

- **Appointment of Chief of Police to Fill the Vacancy:** The mayor recommended William Bliss as Interim Chief to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Chief of Police. The mayor stated that this would be for approximately two months, until the final results of the election in the Spring. A motion was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Carrier to accept the recommendation. A ye and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Police Department Report and Emergency Management Report

Report was presented by Assistant Chief of Police Callender:

- Discussed the progress being made on the temporary town hall. It may be completed ahead of schedule, within 2 weeks.
- Discussed the Police Departments units. The town may be reimbursed up to \$29,000 for 2 police units damaged in the flood. One of the two units was at a repair shop when it flooded and the other was in use during the flood. Callender reported the police department is currently down to two police units and recommended leasing a Tahoe under state contract, as before in the name of the Village of French Settlement. It would then cost \$1 at the end of the state contract to purchase it. This would not burden the town with a full upfront expense of a Tahoe and it would be allowed to go back to the dealer if the town becomes financially strapped especially after the August 2016 flood. A motion was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller to accept the recommendation. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:
Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell
Nays: None
Absent: None
- Callender reported that the 2009 Tahoe needs a new engine that may cost approximately \$7500. The 2009 Tahoe has approximately 121,000 miles on it. A motion was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Lobell to approve the recommendation. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:
Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell
Nays: None
Absent: None
- Mayor Guitrau updated the Board of Aldermen on the status of property to be returned by former Chief Brignac.
- **August 2016 Flood Updates:**
- Received \$108,000 on December 7, 2016 of which approximately \$63,000 is dedicated to storage building renovations for a temporary governmental office building. Approximately \$45,000 was reimbursement for money spent due to flood related expenses including gutting and drying out the municipal building, museum and other structures, etc. The town spent \$5,000 out of pocket approximately 10% of total cost.
- Waiting on FEMA to make a final determination on repairs/replacement of the municipal building.

Old Business

Grounds Report: No changes to report.

Road Report: Alderman Miller reported a pothole at the intersection of Mecca Road and Hwy. 16.

Grant(s) and/or State Appropriation(s) Update: The mayor will contact Mr. Parenti on the status of the signed agreement.

New Business:

As there was no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Lobell 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

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Megan Bostwick, Municipal Clerk