

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, March 8, 2017**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 8th day of March, 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

Absent: Clerk Megan Bostwick

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

A prayer was offered and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Two residents voiced concern over debris remaining on parish-owned property, formerly AydeLL's Auto. This was further discussed under Agenda Item – August 2016 Flood Update below.

Guest Speaker: Candidate for French Settlement Chief of Police Jeff Arnold. The election is March 25, 2017.

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of February 2017, as presented, was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and a nays vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier

Nays: None

Absent: Lobell

Reading of Communications: None

Police Department Report and Emergency Management Report

Report was presented by Chief of Police William "Bill" Bliss: February 2017 was a relatively busy month for the FSPD to reduce speeding in town particularly in the school zone. A number of crashes were worked toward the end of February and into the beginning of March on Hwy. 16 at Mecca Road. In February, Captain Durkin was the first on the scene of a fatal stabbing in Killian. In February, Captain Rhoads responded to the accidental shooting of a trailer on Dykes Road. Captain Rhoads was also the first on scene of a shooting on Hwy. 444 just outside the village limits. Also reported, the third police unit was repaired and outfitted with a cage. This allowed our part-time officer, Roger Gothard to return to work.

August 2016 Flood Update:

- Waiting on FEMA to make a final determination on the Municipal Building
- Cameras are being installed on the temporary town hall property, inside and outside.
- Discussed the mitigation property owned by Livingston Parish, formerly AydeLL's Automotive. People are using it as a dumping ground even after the mayor requested two "No Dumping" signs be erected. Discussed options of cleaning up the property as well as preventing further dumping. Tickets are being written to violators.

Old Business

Grounds Report: Last month, Ms. Kim AydeLL, President of the French Settlement Historical Society, brought to the attention of the Mayor and Board the drainage issue with the grounds in front of the museum. A load of dirt was delivered and spread in the area discussed. More dirt may be needed if the area continues to hold water.

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

Grant(s) and/or State Appropriation(s) Update: The mayor contacted Mr. Parenti on the status of the fully executed signed agreement. We are now ready to move forward with the purchase of an illuminating street light at the intersection of Hwy. 42 and Hwy. 16.

New Business:

Alderman Miller proposed Ordinance #1 of 2017 – Pay of the Clerk. The scheduled Public Hearing was withdrawn due to non-published public notice.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Megan Bostwick, Municipal Clerk - absent