

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, May 10, 2017**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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

Absent: Alderman Rhonda Lobell

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

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:** None

**Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances**

The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of April 2017, 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

Nays: None

Absent: Lobell

**Reading of Communications:** None

**Police Department Report**

- Assistant Chief Callender provided the monthly police report. For the month of April, FSPD officers assisted local police department(s) and the LPSO. During the week of April 21-27 our officers participated in the nationwide campaign of Buckle Up in Your Truck, making approximately 3,190 contacts. 19 citations were issued to unrestrained occupants of trucks. An additional 8 moving violation citations were issued and 19 non-moving violation citations were issued. 1 warrant arrest was made and 1 open container arrest was made. Several accidents were worked in April including the one involving an 18-wheeler that had delivered donated mattresses to the church in response to the August 2016 flood. The trailer struck a low hanging utility line and ultimately pulled down power poles and lines. There were no injuries. Another accident was the 4-wheeler crash on Lena Lane in which there were injuries. This incident serves as a good reminder of why our officers remain vigilant when they observe all terrain type vehicles being operated on our roadways. Near the end of the month Captain Rhoads made a daytime arrest of an individual for 4<sup>th</sup> offense DWI. **Public Comment:** by Father Jason Palermo of 15710 Hwy. 16, French Settlement. Father Palermo stated that the cable line was too low and it has been raised since this incident with the 18-wheeler.

**August 2016 Flood Update – Emergency Manager Lawrence Callender:**

- Callender read a letter from Joe Costello, with GOHSEP which states that the Village of French Settlement, GOHSEP, and FEMA are still working related to the public assistance recovery for damages/costs the Village incurred during this event. This disaster is a 90/10 cost share which means the Village will receive 90% of the funding that is made eligible. To date, FEMA has written 2 projects for the temporary facility and the restoration of the Museum. Temp facility – additional costs tied to requirements from the fire marshal have been submitted to FEMA. Donated Resources - the Village has documented the labor and equipment that was donated to assist the Village during the response phase of the disaster. There is about \$25,000 of donated resources that have been recently documented and provided to FEMA. These last 3 projects are anticipated to be written by FEMA and reviewed for signature by the end of this month. **Public Comment:** by Ms. K. Moran of 19120 AydeLL Lane, French Settlement. Ms. Moran asked questions regarding reimbursement for expenses incurred from remediation to the town hall and museum following the August 2016 flood event. Mr. Callender stated that 90% of all expenses were reimbursed.

**Old Business:**

**Grounds Report** - None

**Road Report:** a. The pothole as previously reported by Alderman Miller Hwy. 16 north of Jr.'s Meat Market has been filled. B. Since the hot water heater in the kitchen pavilion had flooded, the mayor requested the town plumber to replace it.

**Grant(s) and/or State Appropriation(s) Update:** The mayor said we are now ready to move forward with the purchase of an illuminating street light at the intersection of Hwy. 42 and Hwy. 16. She is waiting on Entergy to see if the cost has changed since the last quote. This grant is for \$9800 and must go toward said illuminating lights for stated intersection.

- Chief Harry Brignac stepped forward to state that he was recently elected as Chief of Police and that there would be changes made to the FSPD. Chief Brignac stated that he will provide the monthly police report from now on. He started to discuss the position of the Assistant Chief but Mayor Guitrau stated that this was not on the agenda to be discussed. The mayor stated that it is the law that certain rules must be followed for the consideration of placement of such items on the agenda.

**New Business:** None

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

Yeas: Miller, Carrier

Nays: None

Absent: Lobell

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/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

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/S/Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk