

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, September 13, 2017**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 13th day of September, 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: Chief Brignac, Assistant Chief Callender, LEM

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Guest Speaker: None

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

The Mayor and Board reviewed the Statement of Finances. The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of August 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, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications: None

August 2016 Flood Event Update: Mayor Guitrau stated how thankful we are not to have been hit by Hurricane Irma. **Municipal Building Stabilization:** She said that we are accepting RFQs for phase 2 of repairs to the municipal building. French Settlement's Emergency Manager, Lawrence Callender, said that the first phase was through an LGAP grant. Mayor Guitrau said she completed the grant reimbursement request this afternoon and should receive \$9800 within a few weeks. \$1700 was spent out of pocket toward the first phase of repairs. Callender said this phase of repairs will help to lower the utility bill since insulation was installed prior to installing new ceiling tiles. All the Cat 5 wiring, cables and phone lines have been replaced. He said 3 estimates will be acquired for Phase 2 which includes replacing, floating and painting of the sheetrock throughout the municipal building. Phase 3 will be all the trim, doors, and getting the floors steamed and sealed. At that point, the restrooms will be operational but the building will be habitable. The only remaining items to complete will be the meeting room dais and the kitchen.

Police Department Report

- Chief Brignac reported that Captain Durkin and Captain Rhoads are in meth lab class. He said he has written a few tickets in the school zone and has been working quite a few accidents. Alderman Miller said she had received a phone call about homeless people being in the Mecca Road area. Chief Brignac said they are not there anymore, and had given them a ride. They wanted to go to Baton Rouge or someplace so he got them out of the area. There were no further questions.
- Mayor Guitrau said that the village received \$56,428.40. She said, "The Village of French Settlement applied and received a federal grant for replacement of the two lost police units. In accordance with Code of Federal Regulation and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness the Village of French Settlement is charged with this replacement. By law the Mayor and Grant Management will be responsible for all aspects of managing, administering funds, purchasing, internal controls, record maintenance, reporting and will be audited by GOHSEP. The Village will need to let RFQ's for vehicles and all associated equipment. The good news is we have two rebuilt 2009 Tahoe's maintained to all factory standards with new engines and taking into account the villages continued revenue decline it's the Aldermen's fiduciary responsible to make these purchases wisely and in accordance with state and federal law."

Old Business

Grounds Report: Reported a drainage problem on Hwy. 42 across from Moonlight Inn to the DOTD.

Road Report: The village paid the \$2049 so Entergy could go forward with installing the large "illuminating" street light at the Intersections at Hwy. 16 and Hwy. 42. This is a very dangerous intersection and it is even worse at night.

Grant(s) and/or State Appropriation(s) Update: LGAP Grant 2015-2016: Today, Mayor Guitrau finalized the grant paperwork and mailed it in to the State along with a request for reimbursement of \$9800.00

- **Surplus Property:** No update.
- **Annual Bridge to Bridge Yard Sale:** The annual yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017.

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- **Annual Creole Festival:** The annual Creole Festival will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at the village pavilion located behind the town hall. Hours are from 10 am – 5 pm. This is a fundraiser to provide funding to maintain the museum.

New Business: None

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Lobell. A ye 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