

WINNSBORO

Continued from Page 1A

would do away with a \$100 bond if a person takes the speeding violation to town court.

The ordinance allows individuals to use a device that records speed, video and still images of vehicles traveling more than 12 miles per hour above the speed limit. The speeding violation downloads to a computer system and the registered owner of the vehicle is sent a citation in the mail. The owner can pay the citation online or send a check in the mail.

There is no upfront cost to the Town of Winnsboro for the software or hardware. The company that provides equipment and software takes 40 percent of the revenues from each ticket while the town keeps 60 percent.

Additionally, The Wet-work Group LLC will be in charge of Winnsboro's water plant and represent its certified plant operator. The move came after Town Council members unanimously approved the company.

Wetwork, based in Monroe, will work at the plant for 25 hours a month at a charge of \$2,400, according to the resolution.

List of duties include: provide a certified operator; direct staff or contractors; perform follow up actions per Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) or Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); maintain records; perform preventative maintenance; perform repairs; analyze records; determine and implement

remedial actions; provide employee training and attend LDH and DEQ investigations.

In other action, some Water Sector project bids were rejected after a company was not able to hold their prices.

The Water Sector is three separate contracts: sewer rehabilitation contract, waste water treatment rehabilitation and removal of Industrial Park waste water treatment plant.

The first contract, sewer

rehabilitation, was rejected. Town officials will now re-advertise for possible lower bids.

Heath McGuffie, an engineer with the Alexandria engineering firm of Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, assured Town Council members the other two projects were scheduled to move forward in August.

During the meeting, Town Council members again tabled an alcohol license for AZ Express. The group had questions over the legality

of the distance of the store from a school.

Also, Town Council members agreed to move forward on a property demolition at Newman Street. The owner now has 90 days to make improvements to the property or tear it down.

Absent to the Tuesday meeting were Town Council members Rex McCarthy and Eddie Dunn. The group had their monthly meeting on Tuesday night after being off Monday for the Juneteenth holiday.

HOF

Continued from Page 1A

Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019.

“This is icing on the cake,” Cooper said. “I’m very excited, and really appreciate this. Of course, every kid plays the game hoping to make it to the NBA. This is a great honor.”

Cooper, who played at Tech from 1995-99, was a three-time All-Sun Belt Conference guard, leading the Bulldogs to the 1998-99 SBC regular season title while earning LSWA Louisiana Player of the Year honors. A top-50 high school

recruit out of McCall High School in Tallulah, he ranks No. 21 in program history in career scoring (1,451), No. 3 in career assists (523), No. 7 in career steals (153), No. 3 in career three-pointers made (219), and still holds the single-season program record for highest free throw percentage (92.1 percent). Cooper went on to play professionally for 11 years.

Cooper averaged close to 30 points a game his senior year at McCall High in Tallulah. Cooper

helped lead the Dragons to one state championship and three runner-up finishes.

“Playing at McCall prepared me for college,” Cooper said. “And, of course, we had a great teacher in Coach (Mitchell) Riggs. He was one of the best to do it.”

Following his career at Louisiana Tech, Cooper played on professionally overseas for 11 seasons.

Cooper didn’t even think about ending his playing days when a sports hernia cut his

season short in the European professional league with Al Riyadi in Lebanon in 2010. But when he came home for surgery and rehab, he made the toughest decision he had ever had to make — one he doesn’t regret today.

“I was thinking, what do I do now,” Cooper said.

Cooper went back to what he loves - that being the game of basketball. He joined Keith Richard’s staff at Louisiana-Monroe.

“Coach Richard was the one

who recruited me at Louisiana Tech,” Cooper said. “I fell in love with coaching.”

Cooper then got the opportunity to join Michael Hunter’s staff at West Monroe High School in 2016.

Cooper is in his second stint at Franklin Parish High School. Cooper said the award is shared by his wife, Andrea, and their son, Drew, a standout basketball and baseball player at FP.

“I was talking to my wife about this award the other day,

and I told her this is more bragging rights for me over Drew,” Cooper said with a laugh.

FP reached the quarterfinals of the Division II non-select division last season before falling to No. 1 Wossman 65-56 Thursday in Monroe.

The Patriots, the No. 9 seed, defeated No. 8 Lakeshore 82-78 February 28 in Mandeville to reach the quarterfinals.

FP finished the season at 25-7.

GULLATT

Continued from Page 1A

pandemic, a costly school bus accident and storm damage to facilities.

In the midst of those challenges he has overseen improvements and maintenance of school plants, including those which enhance the athletic facilities at Franklin Parish High School, the parish’s only public high school.

At the high school, projects related to athletics include plans for construction of a new press box at Patriot Field where the old press box has been relocated to the visitor side, facilities for track and field, and additions to the softball fields including a combination concession stand and locker rooms.

Gullatt said that while some may see a focus on athletics as taking away from academics, he sees accomplishments on the playing fields as a motivator for student involvement.

Some of the successes seen in Franklin Parish High School’s sports programs include hosting the first track and field meet in years at Patriot field and making a deep run in the football, baseball, softball and basketball playoffs. Another success was having several Patriots sign to colleges to play their respective sports.

Going back to the subject of academics and speaking of the recently introduced budget, Gullatt noted that much of the funding for the school system comes from state MFP funds which are tied to student population. Gullatt noted that student population in the parish typically runs between about 2,700 to 3,000.

“It rises and falls,” Gullatt noted.

While he said other parishes

have been affected by declines, particularly since COVID, it is hard to get a real grasp on what is happening. One of the things, Gullatt said, is related to virtual classes. He said the local system tries to stay away from that with the belief that in-class education is better for students academically.

Funding based on student count directly relates to the number of teaching positions and the Franklin Parish school system, like those throughout the state, has to address potential teacher shortages.

While the current budget reflects the same number of teaching positions as the previous year, Gullatt reiterated it depends on student counts and related MFP funding.

Regarding plans to fill any vacancies, the school system recently held a job fair for teachers with the goal to have a bank of possible teachers who might be available to address shortages.

“Even if it were a year that miraculously we didn’t have openings, you still need that bank,” Gullatt said.

However, he acknowledged that teachers move, sometimes for other positions, and that there would always be teacher positions open.

Leadership roles are another area where there are sometimes shortages. The local school system was looking for a principal for Winnsboro Elementary following the recent retirement of current principal Warren Trimble.

Gullatt said having staff members involved as instructional coaches and in instructional leadership is one way he sees as preparing personnel to take

leadership positions in the future. He said he sees such career development as a means to provide a natural progression to leadership positions.

Gullatt noted that the instructional coaches and an instructional leadership team visit every school, and become familiar with ways that each school environment is different.

“I think we’re getting there. I hope we are,” he said, about his vision for leadership development.

But finding personnel qualified for leadership roles isn’t something unique to Franklin Parish, he noted.

“It’s not just here, it’s everywhere. Some of it is you can go into industry now where you are making entry-level salaries of \$100,000 a year,” he said, noting some of the challenges faced.

Speaking of the salary scale for parish teachers, which remains the same in the recently introduced budget, Gullatt noted that a recent increase approved by the legislature was not approved through MFP.

“It was a one-time deal,” Gullatt explained.

The recent amounts approved were \$2,000 for certified staff, and \$1,000 for support staff.

The money will not be dispersed until released by the state to the school system, but Gullatt said his recommendation to the School Board will be that “when we get it we will release it.”

“We did get something, which is better than nothing, but it will not be reoccurring,” he said.

Something which is reoccurring for teachers thanks to a parish-wide sales tax, is what is known as the 13th check, which teachers recently received. Gullatt

said the tax collections were basically the same as last year, but added, “you hope it won’t go backwards.”

The checks are determined by the amount of the sales tax collected.

Gullatt noted that in addition to athletic area improvements, work was done on the sewer plant at Baskin, construction of a girls’ concession/locker room combination for the softball field.

The school system is currently in the process of building a storage building to house records which the school system must maintain. The storage building was one of the first projects that Gullatt said he wanted to tackle so that records will be in one central location.

Roof repair has been done, “basically at every school,” Gullatt said. Problems at one of those schools, in particular, Gilbert, has pretty much been resolved Gullatt noted.

“We’ve done improvements consistently everywhere. My philosophy on this is we have to keep what we have in as good a condition as we can,” Gullatt said.

Funding has come from both local sources and ESSER. ESSER will go away in 2024.

Gullatt said future plans for the extra funds include establishment of a multi-media system. Also planned is a pilot STEM program at Fort School. The Imagine reading and math program has also been implemented to improve skills in those areas.

In a related matter, Gullatt said summer school is winding up. Students who scored below a certain level in reading were required to attend, something

Gullatt said was mandated by the State Department of Education.

At the high school level, the school system is involved in providing programs to meet state accountability standards for courses which are designed to make students career ready.

To that end, Gullatt said that while there have been delays in the state implementing new standards. The high school under Principal Rezbecca Bonner is already preparing for those standards, as Gullatt said, “to get ahead of the game.”

The high school offers programs in nursing, welding, first responder and in the future will offer multi-media programs. However, Gullatt noted that rural areas have more challenges when it comes to finding qualified people with proper credentials to teach those classes.

“We’re doing the best we can. I think we are headed in a good direction. I hope we are,” Gullatt said.

Meanwhile, test scores for the recently-completed year will not be released until well into the new school year.

NOTICE

Village of Baskin
Parish of Franklin
Regular Council Meeting
June 20, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the Village of Baskin met at a regular scheduled session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at the Village of Baskin Town Hall.

Present: Mayor George “Layton” Curtis and Council Members Cary Collier, Mark Troha and Zane Johnson.

Also Present: Town Clerk and others. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was led by Mayor Curtis.

New Business:

Financial Report and permission to pay all bills and obligations
Cary Collier made a motion; Zane Johnson seconded the motion. Yeas 2, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Introduction Of Ordinance of Office Hours’ Time Change.

Introduction of Budget 2023/2024
Introduction of Amended Budget 2022/2023
Resolution: Withdrawing CD #7230249
Mark Troha made a motion; Cary Collier seconded the motion. Yeas 3, Nays 0, Absent 0.

Approval for Tractor and Tire repairs.
Cary Collier made a motion; Zane Johnson seconded the motion. Yeas 3, Nays 0, Absent 0.

Mayor’s Update: AMS is doing good; Discussions were made on upcoming projects.

Fire Department Report: Sammy was out sick; Mayor Curtis gave fire report. Trudie Boudreaux house caught on fire during one of the storms last week. Mayor and council unanimously decided that we were going to go with an Edispatches System to help with response time.

Police Report: Chief Grayson stated that the PD dept is running great and that we have a great bunch of guys working for us. Todd Easterling has 15 days left in the Lafourche Academy. Roger Grayson and Alex Givens will be attending next then all our officers will have Post certifications. The PD has also been assigned to the Ecrash System. Pd is also looking into getting grants for Safer Streets Grant.

Further Business: None

Adjourn: Mark Troha made a motion; Zane Johnson seconded the motion. Yeas 3, Nays 0, Absent 0.

Time: 6:58 pm
6/28

AD FOR EMPLOYMENT

WANTED

TRUCK DRIVER

CDL Class A

with 5 years experience

CALL TODAY

318-724-6133

3-H Farm

UNEMPLOYED DUE TO COVID-19?

WE ARE HIRING !

Franklin Community Services, Inc., a local provider of services to adults with intellectual disabilities, is happy to announce the following job opportunities available with our Agency:

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Applicants must be at least 23 years of age, and must pass a stringent driving and criminal verification. Salary based on experience. Benefits include health, disability and dental insurance. We pay twice per month.

Interested parties may contact Lori Allen at 435-7035 for further information or to obtain an application and to schedule an appointment.

Hours of operation are M-F 8-5