

# Town of Simmesport

Leslie Draper, Mayor

372 Mission Drive ♦ Post Office Box 145

SIMMESPORT, LOUISIANA 71369

## Board of Aldermen

District 1: Ted Turner

District 2: Kenneth L. Marsh

District 3: Myron K. Brown

District 4: Sherman R. Bell

Alderman-At-Large: Jacob Coco

## August 31, 2017 Special Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Thursday January 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Ted Turner, Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell, Jacob Coco

Members Absent: none

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Draper and was opened with a prayer given by Alderman Myron Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the agenda be approved. All present voted in favor of the motion to approve the adgenda and the motion was carried.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the board as to how the Town of Simmesport fared through Hurricane Harvey. A discussion ensued about possible evacuation shelters in Simmesport should the need arise.

An update was given to the Board of Aldermen by Mayor Draper about the status of the negotiations with the Avoyelles Port Commission over the Town of Simmesport acquiring the trailers at the former Canadaville facility. The negotiations are still ongoing.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the Board as to the payment of bonds issued in 2011 for \$236,000. The current administration did not know about the bond payments until a quarterly payment was missed. The \$11,000 quarterly payment was made.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the Board on drainage issues in Simmesport. A laser level was purchased by the town and will be used to correctly dig out and slope stopped and filled in ditches. There was also discussion about the possibility of getting a large pump and pumping water from Mayberry Pit across the levee to the Atchafalaya River during heavy rains.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the board as to the status of the reading of water and gas meters. The company hired to read meters in Simmesport apparently had not actually been

reading all or good portion of the Simmesport meters. A plan was suggested by Alderman Marsh to deal with abnormally high, or “catch-up”, bills whereby a customer’s last month bill would be the amount paid and the next month bill would start from the correct reading.

After a suggestion from the Mayor, the Board decided to have Mayor Draper as to move up the due date of several bills so that they were paid before the regularly-scheduled town meetings. This way the Board would see all of the current monthly bills at the regular meeting. No motion was made.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the board as to the need to update/amend the Town of Simmesport Employee Handbook to include a drug testing policy for accidents.

A report was made by Mayor Draper to the board as to the status of the Community Center remodel. The State Fire Marshall would need current drawings of the facility and drawings of proposed renovations for approval. In the end, due to cost concerns and the imminent possibility of the Town acquiring the old Dunbar High School facility from the Avoyelles Parish School Board, the Board decided to abandon a remodel. A decision was made to stop renting out the facility after December 31, 2017. No motions were made on this issue.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown that the meeting be adjourned. All present voted in favor and the motion was carried.

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Leslie Draper, Mayor