

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 14, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM

Minutes of the regular town meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper III

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

Members Absent: Myron Brown (arrived late)

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

A motion was made by Alderman Ted Turner and seconded by Alderman Jacob Coco to approve the July 10, 2017 town meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Sherman Bell and seconded by Alderman Jacob Coco to pay the bills for August 2017. A voice vote was taken and all present were in favor. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Kenneth Marsh and seconded by Alderman Jacob Coco to appoint Mr. Kirk Lacour as Town Magistrate. A voice vote was taken and all present were in favor.

Jason Handley, owner of Handley Rentals, LLC., was asked about citizen complaints over his rental properties, specifically the trailer park on Main Street. The complaints were specifically about the dilapidated condition of many of the trailers. Discussion ranged from poor lighting conditions around the trailer park to increased police protection. Mr. Handley blamed the poor condition of the trailers on kids breaking into them and breaking the windows. Mr. Handley stated that he was not maintaining the trailers because of the vandalism. Alderman Marsh informed Mr. Handley that the trailers must be brought up to code to remain in the city limits. Tracy Lemoine asked the Town Council and Mayor if they were allowed to have the Annual Halloween Bash at the Simmesport Memorial Park on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. This event brings trick-or-treaters and everyone wishing to hand out candy to the park where kids can be supervised. The Mayor and Town Council approved and lauded past events as a success.

Mrs. Pam Adams, director of the Simmesport Housing Authority presented the Town of Simmesport with a check as payment in lieu of taxes. Mrs. Adams also asked the Mayor and Council if repairs on St. John St. were forthcoming. Mayor Draper assured Mrs. Adams that the road was scheduled for repair.

During Delegation time the following items were brought up:

- A. Mr. Jason Handley brought up the need for a culvert to put in on N. Live Oak to drain the apartments there
- B. Ms. Carolyn Jones brought attention to a large hole that has formed on Carver St.
- C. Another citizen informed the town that his property has been too wet to get the grass cut, but that he has contracted someone to cut the grass as soon as the land dries enough.

Department Reports:

- A. Engineer: Jeremy Hebron informed the town that Simmesport missed out on the CBG grants for this year. CBG grants are assigned scores by need from 1 to 100. Simmesport's proposal scored in the 80's and the agency only funded grants from 1 through 70. However, the grant cycle for CBG is two years and we do not need to reapply because the grant will be looked at again next year automatically. Mayor Draper discussed the possibility of find other grant sources with Mr. Hebron.
- B. Utility Department: Mr. Frankie Bordelon and Mr. Alex Adams reported to the council and the Mayor that lightening had struck the lift station on La. Highway 1 between the Shell Station and the Sportsman. Several components had to be replaced. Mr. Charles Carter further reported that he spoke with an electrician about possible grounding problems at the lift station. This is the second time in a month the station had been knocked out to lightening/electrical surges.
- C. Treatment Plant: Mr Charles Carter reported that the infestation of worms and parasites had been eradicated. Mr. Carter reported that the good bacteria he needs to treat the waste water was now back at the levels needed for proper treatment. Further, Mr. Carter stated that he would like to get a list of expenditures for the treatment plant so that he could show a financial need when writing grants to upgrade the plant.
- D. Streets: Mr Kevin Gates reported that they had begun the spraying of Roundup in the ditches to keep them clear of weeds. He also told the Mayor and Council that they were in the process of painting the buildings in the Simmesport Memorial Park. Mr. Gates also informed the council and mayor that he would repair a pothole on Riverside Dr. as well as looking at other holes that needed to be repaired.
- E. Fire Department: Fire Chief Jacob Coco reported that July was a slow month for fires. There were some emergency medical calls. He also said the Simmesport Volunteer Department was looking for new members and that they held meetings every second Wednesday of the month. He also informed those attending that a CPR and First Aid class was going to be held on September 9th and 10th at the fire station in Simmesport. The cost would be \$10 to the general public.
- F. Police Department: Chief Damien Jacobs gave a report on the number of calls for the month of July as well as the number of misdemeanor and felony arrests. The Mayor and Council recognized Mr. Jerrell Jackson completed the police academy. New officers were introduced to the Board and the audience.

Aldermen Concerns:

- A. Alderman Brown said he had been having complaints about stray dogs. Discussion ensued about possible solutions for the dog problems.
- B. Alderman Sherman Bell notified the Council that there was a very bad hole on Carver St. He said the road was general in very bad shape but the Police Jury needs to be notified as the portion of the road was outside the city limits.
- C. Alderman Jacob Coco told of the flooding on Simms St. Culverts need to be cleaned and some need to be aligned. During the discussion a motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Coco for the town to by a Berger laser level to be used for checking grades and slopes on the ditches and when digging ditches. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed by all present.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Turner to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion to adjourn was carried by all present.

Leslie Draper, Mayor