

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
TED TURNER



DISTRICT II
KENNETH MARSH

DISTRICT III
MYRON K. BROWN

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
JACOB COCO

November 28, 2018 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 Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at 5:30 P.M.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper III

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

Members Absent: Sherman Bell

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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco that that the agenda be approved. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	_____	_____	X
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried

Mayor Draper began a discussion with the Town Council about entering into a cooperative agreement with the Humane Society. The Humane Society would take in and house abused animals (horses and dogs) if they could get police protection when actually rescuing the animals. The mayor assured the council that only animals that have been identified as abused by the Simmesport Police Department would be rescued. Town Attorney Mary Helen Johnson representing the Johnson Law Firm agreed she would have an agreement drafted and ready for adoption for the December 10, 2018 Regular Simmesport Town Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner that the Town of Simmesport enter into a cooperative agreement with the Humane Society for the rescue and treatment of abused animals in the Town of Simmesport. All present voted as follows:

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	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell			X
Alderman Brown	X		
Alderman Coco	X		
Alderman Marsh	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

The motion was carried.

Discussion about a cooperative agreement with the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Currently, the buildings and equipment for the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department are located on property owned by the Town of Simmesport. The Town of Simmesport currently pays the Fire Department's utility bills (electricity, gas and water) and their phone, internet and cable bill. During the discussion the question was brought forth about whether or not the Town (being a governmental agency) could pay those expenses to the Fire Department (being a private corporation and quasi-governmental agency) without a cooperative agreement existing between the two entities. Another source of contention was the natural gas usage not being accounted for since the gas meter on the Fire Department had never been read. Over the years of non-reading, the accumulated gas usage has to be accounted for since the Town of Simmesport purchases natural gas from the Louisiana Municipal Gas Association and resells it to customers. This unaccounted-for discrepancy has been causing problems with the audit. The Johnson Law Firm will draft a cooperative agreement with the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the Town of Simmesport explicitly stating what the Town can and will give to the Fire Department in return for their services in fire protection and first responder services.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Brown that the Town of Simmesport enter into a cooperative agreement with the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell			X
Alderman Brown	X		
Alderman Coco	X		
Alderman Marsh	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

The motion was carried.

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Mayor Draper also gave a report to the Town Council that the arrangements for the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting event was on schedule and that citizens and organizations had been turning in entry forms at a good pace.

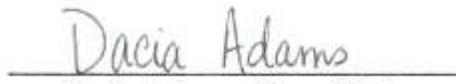
A discussion ensued about the prevalence of juveniles walking the streets after hours and causing disturbances. The Mayor presented the Council with copies of curfew laws from the towns of Bunkie, New Roads, Ball and Addice. The Town Council agreed that an updated ordinance for a curfew needed to be drafted and passed. They also agreed that increased police presence at night, especially during the holidays when the schools are out, needs to occur. Mayor Draper wanted to have a working meeting with the Chief of Police to craft a new curfew ordinance. Town attorney Mary Helen Johnson, representing the Johnson Law Firm, agreed to meet with the mayor on Friday, November 30, to discuss the curfew issue and have possible ordinances ready for the December 10th Regular Meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	_____	_____	X
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.


Leslie Draper III, Mayor


Dacia Adams, Town Clerk