

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

January 14, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Monday, January 14, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

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

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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Turner 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Coco to accept the minutes from the last meeting. 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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A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco to pay the bills. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to pass a resolution for the Louisiana Municipal Gas Association. All present voted as follows:

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

The motion was carried.

Mayor Draper informed the council that he had a meeting with the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission concerning an agreement with the trailers. The mayor said he received conflicting information from the Port Commission's lawyers and their board members. Mayor Draper expressed his frustration with the process and that he found out about the Port's plan to sell the trailers and move them off Port property from the newspaper. The Mayor reiterated his desire to work cooperatively with the Port Commission and be good neighbors so that the Port and the Town of Simmesport could benefit.

Mayor Draper informed the council that he had not received an update on the curfew ordinance discussed at the prior meeting. The Mayor told the council that as soon as he got a final draft from the town attorney, he would pass it on to the Council members to read over. Once a final draft was approved, the Council could move to hold a public hearing prior to enacting the ordinance.

The Mayor made a report on roads to the council. Many roads in town are in bad shape and the maintenance crews were working hard to repair potholes. The Mayor related to the council that with the heavy rains in December, previously patched potholes were reopened and new ones developed. Asphalt was ordered and crews were patching roads. The Mayor also told the council that he was waiting on the Road District 2 resurfacing to catch up with the schedule that was made last year.

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Utility bills were discussed next. Many residents complained about abnormally high utility bills. The Mayor explained that with the heavy rains and holidays in December most customers had 47 days on their utility bills instead of the usual 30. Mayor Draper reported that the Town was working with customers.

During delegation time the most complaints were about utility bills and minors throwing rocks and impeding traffic. Many citizens expressed concerns that large groups of teens and pre-teens roaming the town at night. Reports of these young people beating on doors, throwing rocks at passing cars and refusing to move out of the roadway were related to the Council. The Mayor and Chief agreed to increase patrols in town and asked citizens to please call the police department or 253-4000 at night to dispatch officers.

Engineer Jeremy Hebron told the mayor that Meyer & Meyer Engineering firm was working on a needs assessment for the Town and still pursuing the USDA Grants.

Charles Carter reported that one of the stirrers at the sewer plant would need a new motor or the existing one rebuilt.

Kevin Gates related that the Town tried a new mix for repairing potholes and they were ordering new asphalt to help with this. He also told the Council that the Road Repair mix previously used worked but they were taking only prepaid orders.

Fire Chief Dana Smith told the council that the town had no fires in the month of December and the number of emergency calls had decreased.

Chief Damion Jacobs gave his monthly report for service calls and arrests. He also told the council that he would increase patrols in town to thwart the gangs of young people roaming the streets.

Alderman Turner said he would like to see more potholes filled in the streets in his district.

Alderman Marsh of District 2 also said he had complaints about kids causing trouble at night and 4-wheelers and go-carts being driven on public roads.

Alderman Brown asked that the workers continue to fill potholes.

Alderman Coco asked about drainage and how efforts to increase drainage were coming along.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh 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