

# 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

May 13, 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, May 13, 2019, 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 Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner that the agenda be amended to include a proposal for new meters by Brilliant Efficiencies, a proposal for obtaining a storage container for the Police department. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Brown	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Coco	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Marsh	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Coco to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Brown	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Coco	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Marsh	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Turner 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.

DELEGATION TIME:

Citizen Brett Bordelon addressed the council about large potholes on Charles Drive. Mr. Bordelon asked the Mayor and council to fix the potholes as soon as possible because he thinks they are a safety issue.

Ms. Carolyn Harris relayed to the board that the Simmesport Library is preparing for the summer. She also stated that several upgrades that the library has been waiting on were finally coming to fruition.

Mr. Cecil Whitmore addressed the council about loud booming music on and around Simms St. and Shady Ln. Mr. Whitmore asked if there could be increased patrols in the area to try and stop the loud music.

The Mayor introduced a resolution to add Mrs. Bonita Augustine, the Deputy Clerk, as a signature on the Town bank accounts. Because all checks written from the Town of Simmesport accounts require two signatures, the Mayor wished to add Mrs. Augustine in the event the Town Clerk was unable to sign. Town Attorney Kirk LaCour advised that the resolution be altered to require that one signature be an elected official (the Mayor or Alderman) and one a Town employee (Clerk or Assistant Clerk). A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell that the resolution be passed pending the above-mentioned changes. 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 Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner that Resolution 05-219-01, in which the Town of Simmesport will collect the 4.98 mills tax on all taxable property, 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 led a discussion on the financing of wireless water meters by the company Brilliant Efficiencies. Town Attorney Kirk LaCour reported that he had worked with the company to create a contract more in compliance with all Louisiana laws. The financing of the new meters under the put forth option 2 would require the Town to pay approximately \$2,500 per month, which would be placed in a separate fund. Under this option, the meter company, S&J Meters would install Kamstrup wireless meters and maintain a warranty and replacement on the meters for a period of 20 years. This would also include complete installation by S&J Meters. Attorney Lacour informed the council that the monthly fee would amount to approximately \$5 per month per water meter. This cost could be passed to the consumers or be absorbed by the Town and paid for by increased accuracy in the water meter readings. Jeremy Hebron, of Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixon, Inc., the Town of Simmesport's engineering firm, also stated that Simmesport's meters were older and needed to be replaced. He explained that as a mechanical meter ages, it gets more inaccurate and reads less than the actual amount of water used. This causes the Town to lose money. New meters would be more accurate and thus many customers would see an increase in their bill simply because the meter is measuring the actual water they use. Because of this, one of the options the town has in paying the \$2,500 per month is by using increased revenues from the more accurate meters. A third option would be to combine the first two and increase the minimums a smaller amount while relying on increased revenues from more accurate meters to fund the new meters. After much discussion, the Town Council decided to move forward with the purchasing of the new meters through Brilliant Efficiencies while studying in more detail which revenue option it would pursue.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown to move forward with purchasing wireless meters through Brilliant Efficiencies financing. 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 passed.

The Mayor informed the council that the Police Department did not have enough secure space to store all the evidence collected from the recent arrest of a person who committed multiple burglaries. Mayor Draper had contacted a company to rent a secure storage container. The company, Pac-Van, would rent a 40-foot storage container with a secure lock to be placed behind the police department where there was video surveillance.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to rent a 40-foot storage container to be used to store evidence for the police department. 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 passed.

Jacob Waguespak from the accounting firm Faulk & Winkler presented the 2019-2020 budget to the Town Council. Mr. Waguespak briefly outlined the major areas of the budget and voiced his concerns. At this time a

special Town Meeting was set for June 5, 2019 at 9 AM at the Town Hall to work on the details of the budget before passage at the regularly-scheduled meeting. Mr. Waguespak also told the Mayor and Council that the expectation was the 2017-2018 audit was going to be completed in July.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Jeremy Hebron, informed the council that the LMGA grants are due soon. He also stated that the Town is exempt from may grant opportunities because the Town is not up to date on its audits. Mr. Hebron did tell the Council that as soon as Simmesport gets up to date on its audits, there will be many more grant funding opportunities available to us.

Mr. Charles Carter reported that the sewer plant was running smoothly despite all of the heavy rain received in April. He did note that the large amounts of rainfall put a strain on the sewer plant due to its age.

Chief Damion Jacobs gave a report on the calls for service and arrests made for the month of April. He also introduced three new part-time officers to the Mayor and City Council. Officers Barnell Williams, Devil Martin and Chance Davis are three experienced officers who will be working part time with the Simmesport Police Department. Chief Jacobs also reported that the recently passed curfew seemed to working as the police department were getting fewer calls about juveniles walking the streets at night.

Town Attorney Kirk LaCour reported to the Mayor and Town Council that currently 8 of the 13 old lawsuits against the Town of Simmesport were active. He reported that he had finally gotten in contact will all involved attorneys and was staying abreast of each one.

Town Clerk Dacia Adams reported to the Council that she and Deputy Clerk Bonita were working with each other to split many of the day-to-day duties of the Clerk's Office. Mrs. Adams told the Mayor and Council that the extra help and experience Mrs. Augustine brings was going to be a great help to her and to the Town.

### **District 1 Report**

Alderman Ted Turner reported that his main concern was still potholes and that is what most people were complaining about.

### **District 2 Report**

Alderman Kenneth Marsh expressed concerns about potholes also. He also expressed concerns about drainage, especially with the heavy rains. He asked if the Town workers could begin a comprehensive program of cleaning out ditches and culverts.

### **District 3 Report**

Alderman Myron Brown also asked for potholes to be filled.

### **District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell expressed concerns about the condition of Clark St. and asked that the Mayor and Council think of solutions to repairing the road. Alderman Bell also commented that he noticed fewer children walking the streets after dark.

**At Large Report**

Alderman Jacob Coco also commented on the conditions of the roads and suggested that the Town could look into ways of finding monies to repair them. He also presented the Council and the Mayor with a plan to upgrade the tennis courts and ball field behind Riverside Elementary School. His proposal included putting a new net on one of the tennis courts and turning the other tennis court into a basketball court since the tennis posts were gone. Alderman Coco also suggested purchasing new bases for the ball field as well as repairing low areas of the field and perhaps putting Diamond Pro, a special clay dirt designed for baseball infields. The Mayor told the council that funds would have to found for this and that the part of the tennis court fencing removed during the cleaning needed to be put back up.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the Town go forward with the proposal to repair and upgrade the ball field and tennis courts. 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 passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh to go into executive session regarding the case of *Louis Scott v. Town of Simmesport, U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (19-30048)*. 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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to come out of executive session. 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 Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner to allow Mayor Draper to acquire all professional services required for the LCDBG Grant. All present voted as follows:

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

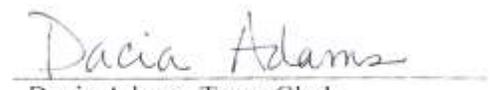
The motion was carried.

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