

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

June 10, 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, June 10, 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 naming a road, adding Mrs. Connie Desselle and Patrick Bonnette to the delegation time. 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 Turner to accept the minutes from the previous 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.

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

Mrs. Connie Desselle addressed the Council and the public about her qualifications and bid to run for Avoyelles Parish Clerk of Court.

Mr. Patrick Bonnette did not attend the meeting.

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.

After a public hearing was held, a motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco that Ordinance No. 05-2019-01, in which the FY 2019-2020 operating budget is contained, 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 informed the Town Council and the public that after numerous attempts to get certain property owners to comply with the blighted property ordinance (No. 05-2018-02) and the condemnation of buildings ordinance (No. 05-2018-05), the Chief of Police needs to begin issuing tickets to those property owners. Mayor Draper told Chief Jacobs to begin issuing tickets to those property owners who have ignored requests to comply with the ordinances stated above.

Mayor Draper also expressed his wishes to hold the Simmesport Farmer’s Market again. The council agreed that June and July was an excellent to reinstitute this event since most vegetable crops were coming in.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer Jeremy Hebron was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Charles Carter reported to the Council that they had been short handed and the unusual amount of rainfall, the sewer system had been taxed. He also related that the small crew has been stretched thin with water leaks and digging ditches. Mr. Carter also expressed concerns that the new water tower at the Avoyelles Parish Port may

be adding additional pressure to our water system and causing an unusual number of water leaks. There have been problems with the water tower overflowing and not cutting off. There is some problem with the tower where it is purging water before it fills. This needs to be addressed because it is causing the water pump to work more than it should. This is wasting water and increasing the Town's electric bill for the pump. Mr. Carter has concerns that the pump may break down soon due to the increased stress on it. Mayor Draper also said that he would like to get someone from the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at the next meeting to see if they can help work on this problem.

The sewer plant is also running on only one pump which is causing a problem. Mr. Carter said he is concerned because regulations suggest that you have two pumps in order to switch them. This reduces the stress on one motor and decreases the chance it may fail. Mr. Carter also said it was red worm season but so far they have not caused a problem.

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the council that bank reconciliation has been progressing with the accounting firm and they are now running up to date. She also asked if the council would consider changing the cutoff date for utility customers to the 3rd of the month.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner cited potholes that needed to be repaired especially on Main St. just past the Live Oak intersection. He also commented that the Town needs to enforce the blighted property ordinances. Alderman Turner also said that the grass needs to be cut on Branch and Main St.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh expressed concerns about potholes also. He also said he'd been getting complaints about blighted properties that needed to be cleaned up. He also stated that Wilson Bayou on the side of the Fire Station needed to be cut again.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown also asked for potholes to be filled. He also reported a streetlight out on Cooper St. The councilman further reported that the grass needs to be cut on Cooper St.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell expressed concerns about the condition of Clark St. Alderman Bell also commented that he had been receiving complaints from constituents about potholes.

At Large Report

Alderman Jacob Coco was concerned about the erosion under the road on Mission Dr. near the intersection of Murphy LaCour Dr. A culvert connects the north portion of Wilson Bayou to the southern portion behind the fire station passes under Mission Dr. On the south side of Mission the soil has eroded between the culvert and the street to where a worrisome portion of the concrete road is unsupported. Alderman Coco suggested talking with the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury about the possibility of connecting the culvert under Mission Dr. with the culvert under the sidewalk of Ehrhardt Park and filling in the ditch there to support the road.

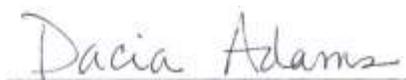
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	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