

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 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Wednesday May 29, 2019, at 9:00 AM.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

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

Absent:

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 Brown to amend the agenda by adding two items: 1) upgrades the Riverside recreational facilities and 2) update on the wireless water meter replacement plan. 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.

Mayor Draper began the discussion about the naming of the ballfields and recreational facilities behind Riverside Elementary School. The possible name that received the most discussion was Eagle Field. Alderman Coco and Alderman Turner were under the impression it was already named Eagle Field. The Mayor suggested the naming of the field be decided at a later date, especially after official rules are adopted for the use of the facilities.

Mayor Draper informed the council that the Town of Simmesport bought fencing for Leo Ehrhardt Park. The Mayor also informed the council that RISE will pay for a portion of the cost of the fence.

Mayor Draper also informed the council that the Town would have to come up with rules for the use of Ehrhardt Central Park. The Mayor cited a need to develop a uniform procedure for the use of the park.

A set of rules for the use of the ball field behind Riverside Elementary School was presented to the Town Council for consideration and adoption. Alderman Bell suggested that the deposit for the ball field be increased to \$100 with \$50 of the deposit to be returned if the ball park is cleaned up and passes inspection after the event takes place. Alderman Marsh Also suggested that the police department be given a monthly schedule of who has officially booked the park for an event so they will know who is legitimately supposed to be using the field.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the rules for the use of the softball field behind Riverside Elementary. 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 discussion was led by Mayor Draper to create consistent policies and procedures for the use of Yellow Bayou Park. Alderman Marsh added that there were lights out in the park that needed to be repaired by Cleco. Mayor Draper said that he would contact Cleco about the light repairs. Further, Mayor Draper suggested that the gate near the stage be closed after dark to prevent cars from parking all the way in the back when no event is being held and at night. The gate would be opened again in the morning. Mayor Draper suggested that fees and formal rules be drawn up for presentation to the Town Council at a later date.

Mayor Draper informed the Town Council that the Leo Ehrhardt Park dedication was a great success. The Ehrhardt was pleased and moved by the efforts of the Town of Simmesport and the R.I.S.E. organization. Mayor Draper thanked Alderman Coco and Alderman Turner for attending the ceremony.

Town Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council that he had spoken with the corporate attorney from Brilliant Efficiencies in regard to the contract to finance new water meters. Mr. LaCour said they had altered the contract to conform with all aspects of Louisiana law and that the cost per meter per month would be approximately \$4 per month per meter. Mayor Draper related to the Town Council that an increase on the customer’s bill would have to be implemented. The Town Council did not reach a decision on what this charge would be.

Discussion then moved on to creating a policy for road blocks. Alderman Bell suggested that a police officer be required for safety reasons when the road blocks are being held. Alderman Coco also suggested moving the location of all road blocks to the intersection of North Live Oak and LA 1/Joe Simon Blvd. because the large lane divider there would allow the participants a place to stand out of the way of traffic. Alderman Brown also posited that those sponsoring the road block have proof of an insurance policy and pay for an officer. The Mayor put forth that the Council would be presented with a set of written rules and policies for road blocks at a future meeting when such rules are finalized.

Alderman Coco presented a plan to the Town Council for rejuvenating the recreational facilities behind Riverside Elementary. His plan included make one of the two tennis courts into a basketball court and reviving the other tennis court with a new net and possible surface. He also proposed to purchase new bases for the ball field and to repair and upgrade the electrical system for the concession stand. Also, purchasing two flag poles and dirt to repair low spots in the field. Alderman Coco estimated a total cost of approximately \$3500. After discussing the matter, the council agreed it was a good idea. The issue of putting up the section of the fence taken town during the cleaning of the courts came up. Alderman Marsh suggested that the upgrades could be implemented in 4 separate stages as the funds become available.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to upgrade the recreational facilities behind Riverside Elementary School. 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 Coco 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
Clerk