

# 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

## August 26, 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 Monday, August 26, 2019, at 12:00 PM.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Ted Turner, Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell, Jacob Coco 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 Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh to add Avoyelles Parish Police Jury member Henry Moreau to the agenda. 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 Coco to pay the bill from the regular 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 discussion was led by Mayor Draper about the drainage issue in the Town of Simmesport. Mayor Draper informed everyone that a plan was being formulated to deal with drainage issues. A Power Point presentation was made to the council and those assembled by the Mayor’s Executive Assistant Rene Whitmore which showed drainage patterns for the entire town and potential problem areas that need to be addressed. Simmesport has three main bayous; Brushy Bayou, Wilson Bayou, and Harlan’s Bayou. These bayous along with Mayberry Pit and other ponds and basins form the natural drainage pattern for the town. Mayor Draper pointed out that many of these bayous are choked with weeds and small trees which impeded drainage. Further compounding this are some manmade obstacles such as driveways and culverts that were put across these bayous without permission. Police Juror Henry Moreau confirmed that these driveways and culverts need to be removed to restore the natural drainage patterns. Mayor Draper also showed that many culverts and ditches need to be cleaned and dug out to maximize water flow during heavy rains. Juror Moreau also said that Brushy Bayou, which drains south to the state canal, has spots south of Simmesport which need to be dug out. The issue of beaver dams was also brought up. Beavers have dammed the large culvert which connects Mayberry Pit to the drainage basin across Martin Luther King Drive. This basin has a flood gate in the levee which is designed to drain Simmesport inside the ring levee to Brushy Bayou and away south. Mayor Draper told the council that he would work on a plan and scope of work to address the drainage issues in phases.

A presentation was made to the council by a company called TEPCO Inc. This company specializes in aquatic weed control by using environmentally friendly herbicides to kill weeds and small brush in lakes and bayous. Mr. Bob Paul, the TEPCO representative, informed the council that weed control in these bayous is a key component in managing drainage. TEPCO agreed to meet with the Mayor either Wednesday or Thursday to work up a quote for the Town of Simmesport.

Mayor Draper also gave an update on the wireless water meters. The meter company that is to install the meters is waiting on a purchase order from Brilliant Efficiencies to begin the install.

Mayor Draper also informed the council of the need to purchase a drone for the police department. The Mayor said the drone would be useful in spotting potential hazards and for getting quickly to areas where the police units are unable to go. They could also be useful for seeing situations from the air before units arrive and even preventing high-speed car pursuits in town. Many times suspects head for the levee during pursuits when they are on ATV’s or motorcycles, knowing the police cars cannot follow into the woods. A drone would be able to easily follow a suspect from the air. Simmesport has large, wild areas surrounding it with few roads that only a drone can access. The drone could also be used in the utilities department for surveying dangerous situations or places where town workers would have extreme difficulty accessing. This could be flooded areas where utility lines reside, spotting abandoned houses and vehicles that are overgrown by weeds, or utility areas near the Atchafalaya River or Bayou de Glais that would otherwise require a boat to inspect.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Marsh to purchase a drone. All present voted as follows:

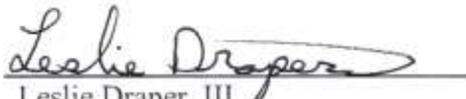
	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Brown	X		
Alderman Coco	X		
Alderman Marsh	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

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  
Town Clerk