

# 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

## September 16, 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, September 16, 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 Sherman Bell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh to amend the agenda by taking out Agenda Item number 9, a discussion of standby time. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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 Brown to approve the amended agenda. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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 Brown to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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 Bell to pay the bills. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

**DELEGATION TIME:**

Candidate for Avoyelles Parish Sheriff, John Johnson, addressed the council and all present to announce his candidacy. Mr. Johnson gave a brief description of his qualifications and reasons why he would like to be the next Sheriff of Avoyelles Parish.

Mr. Donald Milligan also addressed the Council and all assembled. He put forth his qualifications for the Louisiana House of Representatives and his intention to run for the seat. Mr. Milligan also spoke about why he was seeking the House seat. He addressed the issue of bringing in jobs and expanding the tax base to help all of Avoyelles Parish.

Mayor Draper led a discussion appertaining to the cost of gas and water taps. Currently, Simmesport has no official ordinance for such costs. Mayor Draper informed the Council that the current rates were \$200 for water taps and \$500 for gas taps. Several board members brought up that the water and sewer taps should be separated. Mayor draper decided with the board to pass a resolution for the current rates so that they may be publicly posted until the Council can come up with an ordinance to replace them.

A Motion was made by Alderman Turner and Seconded by Alderman Marsh to pass a resolution posting the gas tap charge at \$500 and the water tap charge at \$200.

All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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.

After holding a public hearing at 5:30 PM on September 16, 2019 for Ordinance 08-2019-01, an ordinance to raise the basic utility rates in the amount of \$3.50 for water, and \$3.50 for sewer, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell that Ordinance 08-2019-01 be passed.

All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Brown	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Coco	<u>          </u>	<u>X</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 informed the council that the current software package used for the Town’s financial matters was outdated, difficult to use, and did not address some aspects of the Town’s day-to-day operations. Town Clerk Dacia told the Council that CenterPoint software by CSA software solutions would improve accounting and reporting procedures as well as keeping track of budgetary spending.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco to purchase the CSA Centerpoint financial software. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Mr. Hebron was not in attendance.

**Utility Department- Charles Carter**

Mr. Carter informed the Council that the town workers were finally catching up on grass cutting and were beginning to pick up limbs once again. The dump truck used to carry the limbs and debris to the burn pit was out of service for a while but has been repaired. A discussion also began about the proposal by Tepco to clear bayous for drainage issues. The proposal by Tepco did not include removal of dead grass and limbs from the bayous and drainage ditches. The council discussed the possibility of seeking out other options for clearing the bayous and ditches of grass and debris.

**Sewer Plant- Charles Carter**

Mr. Carter discussed the need to train another employee on the operation of the sewer plant. Because he is also maintenance supervisor, there are times when Mr. Carter gets tied up on water or gas repairs and cannot tend to routine maintenance at the plant. All assembled thought this was an excellent idea. Mr. Carter also informed the Mayor and Council that the plant was running normally at the moment.

**Street Department- Dana Smith**

Mr. Smith informed the Mayor and Council that they were still in the process of repairing potholes. However, Mr. Smith did inform the council that he is not able to supervise this himself for two weeks during the month because he has to read meters. Mayor Draper and Alderman Marsh told Mr. Smith that potholes on Main St. west of Live Oak still needed to be filled all the way to the town limits.

**Fire Department – Dana Smith**

Chief Dana Smith reported that the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department responded to 13 medical calls and 14 fire calls in the month of August.

**Police Department – Damion Jacobs**

Chief Damion reported to the Mayor and the Council that the police department had 12 felony arrests and 6 misdemeanors in the month of August. The estimated fines for the month of August were \$10,000 of which \$4,100 had been collected. Chief Jacobs also introduced a new officer, Mr. Glenn Hall. Officer Hall introduced himself and told the assembly of his background with the Alexandria Police Department. Chief Jacobs also asked the council to approve the purchase of 2 laptop mounts for the police vehicles and a power inverter. This would allow officers to access files and write tickets from their cars.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell to purchase the laptop mounts and power inverter for the police cars. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned

### **Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour**

Mr. LaCour reported that three of the 12 outstanding lawsuits had been settled. Attorney LaCour also stated that the Magistrate Court was proceeding smoothly. Mayor Draper asked about the possibility of turning the Magistrate court into a City Court. Mr. LaCour informed the Mayor and Council that such an action would require Legislative action.

### **Town Clerk – Dacia Adams**

Mrs. Adams informed the Council that the current financial software, Abila, used for handling town financial business is outdated and difficult to use. Because of its limitations back account reconciliation, budget tracking and check tracking is time consuming and difficult. Mrs. Adams recommended the purchase and use of CSA solutions software that they learned about at the LMA convention. All current and past data from the Abila software package would be ported over to CSA by the company under the proposed contract.

### **District 1 Report**

Alderman Ted Turner there were still potholes that needed to be filled on Laurel St. and on Old Highway 1. The section of Old Hwy 1 west of Live Oak St. was especially in need of repair.

### **District 2 Report**

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said he would like to see the fences around the tennis courts cleaned now that the weeds have died back. He also reiterated that the curfew was not being enforced uniformly.

### **District 3 Report**

Alderman Myron Brown shared concerns about the enforcement of the curfew. He related an incident near his house where 10-15 young men were gathered in a lot making noise at 2 AM. When the police were called, the group scattered. He also said that during school nights he has observed school-age children walking the streets after dark. All gathered agreed that the curfew needs to be enforced uniformly.

### **District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell reported there were still potholes that needed to be filled. He also said that there were areas in ditches and on roadsides where the weeds were high and needed to be cut. Alderman Bell also reported that there were large vines hanging off the power lines on Clark St. that were hitting the busses as they passed.

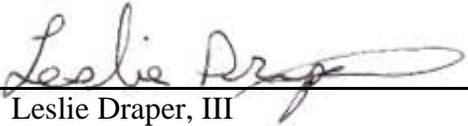
### **At Large**

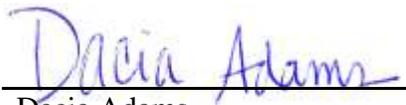
Alderman Jacob Coco reported that the culvert under the road between 452 Main St. and 432 Main St. was clogged and needed to be cleaned.

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

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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 and the meeting adjourned.

  
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Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

  
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Dacia Adams  
Town Clerk