

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

October 14, 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, October 14, 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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell to accept the. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Coco to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. 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.

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

No one brought forth any issues to discuss any issues for delegation time.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Mr. Hebron informed the council that he was working on a report on repairing roads in Simmesport. He told the council that the cost of overlaying the roads, with drainage and raising manhole covers would be approximately \$200,000 per mile.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

Absent.

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

Absent.

Street Department- Dana Smith

Dana Smith reported that grass was becoming less of a problem as fall is setting in. He also said they were continuing filling potholes. Alderman Turner asked him about the grass on the south side of Branch Street where the old railroad spur was. Mr. Smith related that was a problem area because of old railroad spikes causing flats. Mayor Draper suggested spraying the area with Roundup to kill the grass.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

Chief Dana Smith reported that the things were running smoothly and that the Volunteer Fire Department roadblock was a success.

Police Department – Damion Jacobs

Chief Damion reported to the Mayor and the Council that there were 134 calls for service in the month of September which resulted in 5 felony arrests and 5 misdemeanor arrests. The police department also responded to 14 medical calls. Mayor Draper also informed the council that the new assistant chief was Ms. Crystal Duckworth. There was some concern that Alderman/Police Commissioner Sherman Bell had not been consulted. Alderman Bell also expressed concern that the assistant chief would be able to effectively discharge her duties considering the distance she has to drive to work. Chief Jacobs told the Mayor and Council that he recommended the best candidate who could handle the administrative side of the job. Alderman Turner also expressed concern about the assistant chief's driving distance from Simmesport. Mayor Draper specified that he understood Alderman Bell had been informed but apologized for not confirming the fact. Mayor Draper also informed Chief Jacobs that he (Mayor Draper) would like to see the officers of the Simmesport Police Department improve their interpersonal skills when interacting with the general public.

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Mr. LaCour reported that people were consistently showing up for court and that most were honest and respectful to the process. He said the community were learning how the court works which is making the court sessions run more smoothly. Attorney LaCour also reported that 3 of the 12 lawsuits against the Town of Simmesport had been settled. The remaining suits are in negotiation to be settled with one scheduled for trial in April of 2020.

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 the town still needs to work on drainage and that since the storm, we have not begun digging out ditches. He also said the grass needed to be cut again along Branch St.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said there was a water leak near Riverside and another across from the Masonic Hall on Norwood St.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown shared concerns about an overgrown house on Green St. He also said that the grass on the end of Brown St. and Cooper St. had gotten tall again and is interfering with the visibility of drivers.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell reported there was a downed tree that is blocking a fire hydrant on Clark St.

At Large

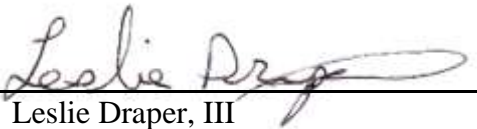
Alderman Jacob Coco reported that the bayou on Clark St. was holding stagnant water and needed to be drained.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Mayor Draper notified all present of several donations to the Town and the RISE organization. The Pierite Group donated \$2,500 to the RISE organization and 4 computers to the Town of Simmesport for the Simmesport Community Complex located on South Martin Luther King Dr. Also, Bishop Joe Simon visited the site and brought 3 computers and a violin to go with the piano already donated for planned music education programs.


There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh 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.



 Leslie Draper, III
 Mayor



 Dacia Adams
 Town Clerk