

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I DISTRICT II
TED TURNER KENNETH



MARSH

DISTRICT III DISTRICT IV
MYRON K. BROWN SHERMAN

BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
JACOB COCO

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December 9, 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, December 9, 2019, at 6 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 Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to amend the agenda by adding the appoint of a person to the Fire District II Board to replace Jacob Coco. 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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco to approve the amended agenda. 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 Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner to pay the bills. 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.

Mayor Draper informed the council that the rate for standby pay should be \$150 per weekend. He also stated that Mr. Carter is training other people on the maintenance crew so that they can respond to possible emergencies if he is not available. To that end, he introduced resolution number 11-2019-01. This would compensate the town maintenance worker on duty at \$150 **only** for that weekend. This will be regardless of whether the standby worker has to come out or not.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Bell to pass resolution 11-2019-01. 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.

Because Jacob Coco was recently elected to the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, he (Jacob Coco) will step down from the Fire Protection District 2 Board of Commissioners. After discussion, it was decided to appoint Mr. Dana Smith to take the place of Mr. Coco.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh to appoint Dana Smith to the Fire Protection District 2 Board of Commissioners. 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.

Mayor Draper wanted to formally recognize the Simmesport Council on Ageing for their recent recognition at the meeting of the Avoyelles Council on Ageing. The Simmesport Council had the largest increase in the number of elderly served in 2019 in Avoyelles Parish. Mayor Draper and the Town Council would like to congratulate Mrs. Maudry Anderson and her staff for this recognition and for their service to our elderly community in Simmesport.

Mayor Draper began a discussion with the Council about the formation of Committees and Commissioners. Alderman Bell has been the Police Commissioner for some time. The Mayor stressed the importance of these committees and the importance of getting the council involved. The mayor would like to see a Sports Committee formed to oversee the use and upkeep of the athletic facilities behind Riverside and on the Port Commission property. The Mayor also said he would like to form a Hall of Fame Committee to manage the planned

Simmesport Hall of Fame. The Mayor would also like to see an Economic Development Committee formed to work with RISE and other community organizations seeking to improve Simmesport's economic standing.

DELEGATION TIME:

Karen Gautreaux thanked the Town for repairing a culvert near her home.

Ruby Sykes stated that she was threatened with arrest when she called the police department on neighbors. She said that the neighbors continually play booming music and this was a large disturbance for her since she is ill. She also asked that the lot behind her home be cleaned and mowed as she is having a problem with mice.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Mr. Hebron said he had no new information to report and was awaiting the Town of Simmesport to move back onto the compliance list.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

Mr. Charles Carter told the council he is still dealing with the most recent DEQ water inspection. He said the state is asking for paperwork now that they did not require in the past. Mr. Carter further relayed that the shredder on the John Deere tractor is being repaired and will be operational soon. Plans are also in the works to retrieve the backhoe from the Alexandria repair business. The sewer Jetta is also broken and attempts to repair it have been unsuccessful. The maintenance department is researching the possibility of building one to see if this is a more cost-effective option than buying a new one. Alderman Marsh suggested that the Town pick up the smaller Jetta from the Simmesport Housing Authority. Mr. Carter also said that one pumping station was down due to a bad relay. He was able to get the pump running again by bypassing the relay until it can be repaired but the downtime caused a buildup in the water lines and they were flushed.

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

Mr. Carter said that the sewer plant was functioning normally. However, he did relay to the council and mayor that he doesn't have the time he used to devote to the sewer plant compared to before he was named supervisor of maintenance.

Street Department- Dana Smith

Dana Smith reported that parts for the shredder would come in tomorrow. The Mahindra tractor is functioning normally. During this point the Mayor said that he talked with Kansas City Southern railroad and related that if we mark the tracks along Branch St. that are no longer used, KCS will remove the rails. Patrolman Glenn Hall also asked if a speed limit sign could be put up on South Main.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

Chief Smith said the gumbo sale for the Christmas Program went very well. The fire works program also was a success although it cost the fire department more than they thought. Fire department member Karen Gautreaux asked why the Fire Department could not use the Town's liability insurance for the event. Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the Council that since the Fire Department was a private LLC, the Town of Simmesport could not pay for anything for them, including event insurance.

Police Department – Glenn Hall

Office Hall reported that the Police Department wrote 5 tickets from 11/1/2019 to 11/30/2019. They also collected approximately \$1,700 in fines. There were 155 calls for service in the November time period. Alderman Bell,

who is also the Police Commissioner, brought up an issue of both Simmesport duty officers being in Moreauville at the same time. Officer Hall said the incident he was referring to was Simmesport PD helping the Moreauville police department on a call where an individual locked her keys in her car. Alderman Bell and Alderman Marsh said it is improper that both officers should respond on a non-emergency call and leave Simmesport unguarded.

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Mr. LaCour reported that the agreement for the use of the Port Commission athletic facilities had been finalized. Mayor Draper signed the final agreement, making it official. Attorney LaCour informed the council he had complied with the auditor’s request for a letter on pending litigation. Mayor Draper asked Mr. LaCour if he could craft an official description for the duties of the Police Commissioner. Attorney Lacour said he would contact Moreauville to research their description and draw up a job description for our Police Commissioner. Attorney LaCour also informed the Mayor and Council that the final magistrate court of the year would be December 30, 2019.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams was unable to attend the meeting.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner asked that the applications for occupational licenses be mailed out to businesses. He also expressed concern that the curfew ordinance is not being enforced. Alderman Turner said there were still potholes that needed to be filled on North Live Oak. He also reiterated that the crushed limestone mix does not work on potholes as it washes out quickly.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said there were potholes on Main St. that s till needed to be filled.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown reported that the curfew needed to be enforced. Mr. Brown said he is still seeing juveniles roaming the streets at night. He recently saw a group of kids well after the curfew on St. John St. Alderman Brown also reported that someone is walking around at night shooting out the streetlights.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell reported that potholes needed to be fixed. He also asked if the maintenance crew could better repair the spot on Juneau St. where they recently had to dig.

At Large

Alderman Jacob Coco reported that Hillside Dr. is very rough. Alderman Coco also tendered his resignation from the Simmesport Town Council effective on midnight January 14, 2020.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell to accept the resignation of Alderman Jacob Coco effective midnight on January 14, 2020. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Brown	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Coco	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Marsh	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion was carried.

At this time Mayor Draper told the Council that he would like to form a committee to search for someone to be appointed to finish out Alderman Coco's term.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to form a committee to search for someone to be appointed to finish out Alderman Coco's term . All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	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.

Alderman Brown and Alderman Turner agreed to serve on the committee with Mayor Draper to search for candidates to appoint to Alderman Coco's vacant seat.

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.

Mayor Leslie Draper, III

Town Clerk Dacia Adams