

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

372 Mission Dr
P.O. Box 145

www.simmesportla.com
townofsimmesport@simmesportla.com

Simmesport, LA 71369
(318) 941 - 2493

November 18, 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, November 18, 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

Town Attorney: Present (Kirk LaCour)

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 Bell to accept the. 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 Brown and seconded by Alderman Coco 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 Bell 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 presented updated information on the cost and names of roads that needed to be resurfaced. The cost estimates included complete resurfacing and overlays.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

Mr. Charles Carter relayed to the mayor and council the results from the recent state inspection of our water system. There were some minor violations and we are awaiting the outcome of those. Some of those violations stem from 2016 records that were either not completed or we cannot find. The inspector did tell Mr. Carter that the water tower needs to be repainted. Mayor Draper brought up the subject of an elderly citizen who is complaining of problems with our water that is giving her rashes. Mr. Carter said they have continually tested her water for contaminants and consistently found nothing. Mr. Carter also told the mayor and council that he added that particular address to the lead and copper testing the state does to see if that could be a problem.

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 the meters were read. He said that they were cutting the grass in Yellow Bayou Park. After, that, the streets department was moving on to filling potholes. Mr. Smith related that during cold months it was difficult to use the asphalt-tar mix because it didn't stick as well in cooler weather.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

Chief Dana Smith reported that the things were running. He also said there was going to be a SVFD-sponsored fireworks display in Yellow Bayou Park on November 30. Another member of the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department, Karen Gautreaux, asked if they needed to get insurance through their insurance or if they could use the Town of Simmesport's policy for liability reasons. Attorney Kirk LaCour informed all present that the fire department needed to get their own insurance because the Town of Simmesport could not insure a private entity like the fire department.

Police Department – Damion Jacobs

Chief Jacobs informed the Mayor and Council of the number of misdemeanor and felony arrests made for the month of October. He also said the police department had collected \$6,625.00 in fines.

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. Court was continuing to be a success and running smoothly. Mr. LaCour said he was unable to find out any more information about the \$77,000 owed to DOTD for the moving of a gas line in 2015. Mayor Draper said he was working on trying to find someone in DOTD who knew about the money borrowed and the terms of the loan. Mayor Draper said he had talked to several people at DOTD but no one so far knew about the money. There was also mention of the bridge project over Bayou Moreau being put forth by DOTD engineer Reno Johnson. No one was clear exactly where Bayou Moreau was. Mr. Johnson was asking about the Town of Simmesport moving one of our gas lines. Mayor Draper said he would get some clarity on that project.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams informed the Council that the audit is moving along. The auditors were only missing 4 items from us to complete the 2017-2018 audit. That is down from the 40 missing pieces of information for the 2016-2017 audit. The auditors are hoping to complete the 2017-2018 audit by December 31, 2019. They will then move to the 2018-2019 audit, which is expected to move considerably faster. Mrs. Adams also informed the council that she received a public information request for payroll for the council and mayor for the 2019 fiscal year.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner commented on the number of potholes that needed to be filled.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh asked if there was weekly flushing of the water lines on Riverside Dr. Mr. Carter said he routinely flushes the lines once per month. Alderman Marsh also asked about the water in the ditch on Norwood St. near the Masonic hall. Alderman Marsh said that leak had been there for quite a while and wanted to know what were the problems in repairing it. Mr. Carter said he was aware of the leak, but was having trouble finding it. Mr. Carter related that he thought it may be an unused line that was never killed when new lines were put in. He said it could also be leaking at the meter to a house that is no longer there. However, this meter is on the property owner's land and not in the right of way. Attorney Kirk LaCour suggested the Town secure written permission from the property owner before any sort of digging occurred on the land.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown reported no pressing issues.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell reported no issues the Town needed to be aware of.

At Large

Alderman Jacob Coco reported no issues.

At this time Mayor Draper told the Council that an executive session was needed to discuss a personnel issue.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Turner to move into executive session. 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 Brown to exit the executive session. 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.

Mayor Draper addressed the council saying that he would not pay overtime pay for employees who violated the posted overtime policy by working unauthorized overtime. Clerk Dacia Adams told the council that straight time was paid for those hours, but not the extra half time for any hours in the police department over 86 hours. Attorney Kirk LaCour was of the opinion that federal law dictated the Town had to pay the half time since the employee worked it. Alderman Marsh then put forth a motion to authorize the Mayor to pay the half-time overtime for this employee one time. Mayor Draper was adamant that he would not pay the overtime if “authorized” by the council and that the council would have to motion to order him to pay the overtime. Mayor Draper informed the council that he would not violate a policy the council had approved at a previous meeting (*to wit: the authorization of overtime policy*). There was general confusion about how to word the motion the council wanted to make. Suggestions of a written resolution to clarify the intent of the council were ignored. Alderman Turner stated he was adamantly opposed to vote for a motion the town attorney could not articulate on two tries.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to make a one-time override of the policy governing authorization of overtime and pay the employee the half time for any hours worked over 86 hours. 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> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>

The motion was carried.

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