

# 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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## November 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, September 25, 2019, at 12 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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco to approve the 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.

Mayor Draper informed the board that the new water meters have been ordered and will be shipped to the Town Hall for installment. Mayor Draper also related that the installation may not occur until early next year because of the holidays. Once the meters arrive here, a representative from the installation company will come to survey the current meters to make sure no unused meters get replaced.

Mayor Draper also informed the Council that he talked to a company at the LMA convention about the possibility of installing security cameras in high crime areas around town. The Mayor told the Council that the company would be willing to inspect our situation and give a demo and quote. During these discussions it was brought up that someone was traveling door to door around town selling things. The Council and Mayor agreed that anyone coming into town selling door-to-door needs to come by the Town Hall and purchase a peddler's license.

Mayor Draper informed the council that the current trailer ordinances did not specify if it included trailers that were already within the city limits. This included trailers and trailer parks. The board agreed that the ordinances should be amended to provide for this contingency.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to begin the process to amend the trailer ordinances to include the contingency that the trailer or trailer park is already in the city limits. 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 brought the issue of Councilman Jacob Coco's seat. Since Alderman Coco's election the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, he will officially resign his seat on the Simmesport Town Council in January. According to the Lawrason Act, which governs small towns like Simmesport, when there is a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen, the following rule and procedures apply:

*A vacancy in the office of alderman is filled pursuant to R.S. 18:602. [The governing authority, within 20 days, appoints a person to fill the vacancy who meets the qualifications of the office. The presiding officer is not be required to vote on such an appointment unless a tie vote occurs, in which case he must vote to break the tie; however, in no case shall he vote more than once on the appointment. If a vacancy is not filled within the time specified, the governor fills the vacancy. If the unexpired term of an office is 18 months or less, the person appointed to fill the vacancy or designated to assume the duties of the office serves for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the unexpired term exceeds 18 months, the governing authority, within 20 days after the vacancy occurs, must issue a proclamation ordering a special election to fill the vacancy and specify in the proclamation, the dates on which the primary and general elections will be held and, the dates of the qualifying period for candidates in the special election. In selecting the dates for such special elections, the governing authority may choose a gubernatorial or congressional election date, if such date is available within 18 months of the occurrence of the vacancy or may select an election date in accordance with state law. If the governing authority fails to issue the proclamation within 20 days after the vacancy occurs, the governor issues the proclamation. In the event of a tie vote in filling a vacancy, the mayor as the presiding officer shall vote to break the tie.] If the mayor fails or refuses to do so, the members of the board must notify the governor of the existence of the vacancy, and within 10 days after he receives the notice, the governor shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy. (R.S. 33:385(B))*

Mayor Draper informed the Council that he will nominate a candidate for Alderman Coco's vacant seat at the December 9, 2019 regular meeting.

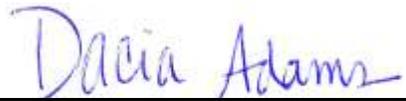
Mayor Draper also brought up the issue of the fireworks ordinance. There has been a recent rise in complaints about fireworks being popped early. Many complaints center around very large fireworks (i.e. "mortar rounds") being fired off late at night and in the early morning hours. Complaints over these larger fireworks center around them actually shaking nearby houses. A concern was also expressed about the fire hazards these larger fireworks presented to nearby property. The Council agreed to review the current ordinance and the fine associated with the violation of the ordinance.

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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Mayor Leslie Draper, III

  
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Town Clerk Dacia Adams