

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
PRESLEY BORDELON

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January 14, 2020 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 Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Ted Turner, Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell

Members Absent: None

Town Attorney: Present (Kirk LaCour)

Town Clerk: Dacia Adams

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 Marsh to accept the. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	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 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	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Brown	<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.

APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMAN AT LARGE

Mayor Draper submitted the name of Presley J. Bordelon, of 507 Main St., to serve out the remaining term of the Alderman At Large seat vacated by Jacob Coco. La. R.S. 18:602 E(1)(a) dictates that if there is 18 months or less on the term of the vacated seat, the council has 20 days to appoint someone to fill the vacant seat and finish the term.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Turner to appoint Presley J. Bordelon to the vacated seat of Alderman At Large. 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 Marsh	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion was carried.

Presley Bordelon was sworn into the office by Town Magistrate Kirk LaCour and took his seat on the council as Alderman At Large.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC WATER METERS

Mayor Draper informed the council that the installation of the electronic water meters will begin as soon as the company receives billing data from our software billing company. A representative from the installation crew is scheduled to meet with our maintenance crew on Monday of next week to survey the current meters. Alderman Turner asked if provisions were to be made for current usage to be incorporated into the changeover or if all readings would start from 0. Mayor Draper said it was his understanding that the software would account for current readings and that the installation company will photograph and record the readings from each old meter as it is taken out. Also, Alderman Turner asked if the cut-off valves would be retained with the new meters so that water service could be cut should a leak arise. Mayor Draper said yes.

DELEGATION TIME:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Mr. Hebron was not in attendance.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

Mr. Charles Carter informed the Mayor and Council that a gas meter had been run over at an apartment in Hamburg Loop. The meter was replaced. Mr. Carter stated that the property wanted a new meter even though he did not have gas service to the apartments. Mr. Carter also stated that the property owner was billed for the meter. Mr. Carter also relayed that there was a gas leak on Simmes St. on January 10, 2020. The leak was repaired without incident. Also, a large tree fell across Live Oak in the storm Saturday night. Mr. Carter also said he is still responding to the DHH compliance letter and that one of the issues is the need to paint the water tower. The Mayor and Council discussed with Mr. Carter the option of using the Port Commission tower should the main tower need to be taken offline.

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

Mr. Carter told the Mayor and Council that the left station on College Dr. near Martin Luther King, Dr. keeps running. Mr. Carter said that he has to manually shut off the pump so it does not burn up. Mr. Carter believes the check valves are eroded.

Street Department- Dana Smith

Dana Smith reported that he was in the process of reading meters. He also stated that ditches were dug out in Spears Subdivision, on Olive St., Watson St., and on N. Simmes St. Mr. Smith also stated that they attempted to fill some potholes but bad weather stopped the process. Mr. Smith also said they were repairing the lawnmower (s) for the upcoming grass cutting season.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

Chief Dana Smith reported that the things were calm and only a few calls were made that needed responses.

Police Department – Damion Jacobs

Chief Jacobs informed the Mayor and Council that the Police Department had 11 calls for service. Of these, 13 were medical calls, 15 misdemeanor arrests were made and 5 felony arrests. Chief Jacobs introduced two new hires to the Council, officer Tim Gilbert and officer Bobby Pierite. Both were POST certified.

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Mr. LaCour said there was poor attendance at the December court. However, those who did show up to have a trial on their issue were well-prepared, intelligent and thoughtful. Mr. LaCour said he was impressed with those who defended themselves. He also said the Town of Simmesport received two new complaints from the Louisiana Attorney General's office. There were no new lawsuits against the Town and Attorney LaCour said he was working with insurance companies to settle the outstanding lawsuits.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams informed the Council that the audit is in its final stages and will hopefully be concluded soon. Corporation Licenses and Property Taxes have been coming in at a steady rate.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner commented that he would like to see Town workers unstop the culverts in the ditches as they get clogged up with leaves and sticks. Alderman Turner asked about the status of the Health Unit and Mayor Draper said they were having a meeting with the new Police Jury about the health unit soon.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said that potholes had still not been filled. He also said that the culvert on the corner of Norwood and Riverside Dr. was not draining and causing water to build up behind it. He also asked why the Jetta at the Housing Authority had not been picked up by the Town workers as agreed upon at the last regular meeting. Mayor Draper said they should have been filled as directed and the Jetta picked up as stated. Mayor Draper also stated that at every meeting there are complaints about potholes and respectfully so. The Mayor told the council that he has been working on a strategic plan with the town engineer, Mr. Jeremy Hebron, and town attorney Kirk LaCour to fix the roads in Simmesport for some time now. He asked the council for help with the plan so the town can eliminate the potholes and road issues altogether and move on to the next issue.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown reported the streetlight out on the corner of MLK and Highway 1. This light has been a constant problem and Mayor Draper stated that he believed someone was intentionally shooting it out.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell reported potholes needed to be fixed on Lincoln and Clark St.

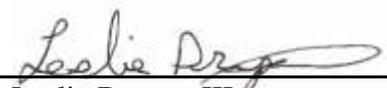
At Large

Newly installed Councilman at Large Presley Bordelon stated that the streetlights on S. Main needed to be repaired. Mayor Draper asked to get the pole numbers so they can be reported to Cleco. Councilman Bordelon also said there was 4-wheeler traffic up and down S. Main at all hours of the night and asked if the police could patrol these areas.

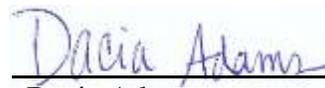
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

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

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk