

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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February 10, 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 Monday, January 10, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

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

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 amend the agenda to add the extension of Kirk LaCour's contract as Town Attorney to 2021. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. All present voted as follows:

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

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 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 Bordelon	<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.

EXTENSION OF TOWN ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Mayor Draper asked that current Town Attorney’s (Kirk LaCour) contract be extended through 2021. The mayor said that continuity at the position is key and praised Mr. LaCour’s performance as Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Turner to extend the Town Attorney (Mr. Kirk LaCour) contract through 2021. 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.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE AVOYELLES PARISH DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

Mayor Draper informed the council that a committee had been working diligently to involve all communities in developing a parish-wide disaster mitigation plan as required by FEMA. The document details plans incase of a disaster affecting an individual town or the entire parish. It was written and prepared in conjunction with the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury and the Avoyelles Office of Emergency Preparedness.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to adopt a resolution that the Town of Simmesport accept the Avoyelles Parish Disaster Mitigation Plan. 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 Bordelon	<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 resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION TO REMOVE JACOB COCO FROM TOWN OF SIMMESPORT BANK ACCOUNTS

Jacob Coco was recently elected to the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury which required his resignation from the Simmesport Town Council. As Alderman at Large, Mr. Coco could cosign checks for the Town of Simmesport since he was added as a signatory on the Town accounts. This resolution is to remove his name as a signatory from all Town of Simmesport Bank accounts since he no longer sits on the council.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner that a resolution be adopted to remove Jacob Coco as a signatory for the Town of Simmesport bank accounts. 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 resolution was adopted.

UPDATE ON INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC METERS

Mayor Draper reported to the council that 604 meters were installed and running. The Town’s maintenance crew were working to repair some leaks caused by the installation process, but overall the installation went as planned. There was a mix-up in the count and the order was 130 meters short of replacing all meters in the Town’s service area. Of those 130 meters not replaced, the installation crew did find a problem in that some of the service lines coming into the old meters were three-quarter (3/4) inch lines and some were one-inch lines. The meters that were ordered were all 3/4” meters. Mayor Draper informed the Council that when the maintenance workers read those 130 old meters, they will write down the size of the service lines so that the proper number and type of meters could be ordered. Alderman Marsh asked why enough meters were not ordered before the installation. Mayor Draper said the number of active meters were given for the order and apparently most if not all of the 130 unordered meters were not active accounts. These would include houses or trailer lots that were unoccupied or torn down or moved. Mayor Draper said that once the proper number and type of meters needed is determined, a second order would be made. This would increase our monthly costs, but the rate increase along with more accurate readings should more than cover the cost of the additional meters. The installation crew said they could install the remaining meters in a day or two.

REPORT BY POLICE JUROR JACOB COCO ON THE PROPOSED SIMMESPORT HEALTH CENTER

District 9 Police Juror Jacob Coco gave an update on the efforts to open a public health unit in Simmesport. Mr. Coco said that there appears to be majority support for the Police Jury to fund the health center. He also informed everyone present that the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury was meeting the next night (2/11/20) to actually vote on funding the health unit. He asked that anyone interested in seeing the unit opened to attend the meeting and show their support.

REPORT BY DISTRICT 7 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RICKEY ADAMS

Avoyelles Parish District 7 School Board Member and Vice-President Rickey Adams address the Town Council about general school issues. He said that 7 months into the 4-day school week, there has been a measurable decrease in overall student absenteeism. Further, teacher absences were down significantly. He said that a tutoring program on Mondays (*the day schools are closed*). Mr. Adams hoped this would especially help those schools

that were receiving low grades under the State evaluation system. Mr. Adams also said that suspensions are down by 2/3 from last year. Mr. Adams said they are looking for ways to reach out to parents and get them more involved in their kids' education.

DELEGATION TIME:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Mr. Hebron had nothing new to present. He said that as soon as the Town of Simmesport is back in compliance with its audits, there were grants we could apply for.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

Mr. Charles Carter some of the crew worked all of Friday and Saturday on water leaks caused by the installation of the water meters and old lines. He also reported that due to a trailer fire and heavy use of water by fire trucks to put it out, some people near the hydrant were reporting discolored water. Mr. Carter said they flushed the lines and the water should be back to normal. He also reported that the water department has developed a system of using the two water towers. Mr. Carter also told the Council that the Town is required to test chlorine levels daily and the Louisiana Department of Health does perform random checks.

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

Mr. Carter also reported that the sewer plant was working normally. The system is old and ageing, but his discharge tests show that the water exiting the sewer plant is passing all DEQ tests for quality. He did say that with the new year the Town will have to apply for new permits for the plant and to haul off the dried byproducts from the drying beds.

Street Department- Dana Smith

Dana Smith reported that he was in the process of reading meters. He also they are attempting to get all the equipment needed for grass cutting ready and working for the spring season. They have already been doing some grass cutting. Road repairs have been difficult with the high amount of rain we have been having. The asphalt

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 98 calls for service in January. They also responded to 6 medical calls. Two felony arrests were made. The department collected \$1,900 in fines.

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Mr. LaCour said the magistrate court was going smoothly and he expected a better turnout for the February court.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams informed the Council that the Clerk's office has been busy gathering materials to finalize the 2017-2018 audit. According to the auditors, the final draft is very close to being completed and work has also begun on the 2018-2019 audit. Occupational licenses have been coming in at a good pace. Mrs. Adams also said her

office was working on a way find new businesses who have not gotten occupational licenses, adding that some of these are online or run out of homes so they are not visually obvious.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner suggested that the Town of Simmesport no longer accept cash for any bills or fines. There was discussion and some aldermen felt that there were some people, especially elderly people, who do not use credit/debit cards and who like to pay in cash. Alderman Turner also wanted to know if the credit card processing fee was being charged to the customer. Alderman Bordelon suggested that if Alderman Turner felt so strongly about changing the cash policy that he make a motion to change it.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the Town of Simmesport no longer accept cash payments. 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 failed.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh expressed concerns that all of the Town Maintenance crew were taking Town vehicles home and using them for personal use. Alderman Marsh suggested that all Town of Simmesport vehicles with the exception of the Police Chief, Town Maintenance Superintendent, and worker on call be parked at the Town Hall after 4 PM.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown had no issues to bring up.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell had no issues to address.

At Large

Newly installed Councilman at Large Presley Bordelon stated that the issue he had to present had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

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 Bordelon	<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