

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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April 13, 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, April 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. **This meeting was live-streamed via the Town of Simmesport's Facebook because of COVID-19 meeting restrictions. The meeting can be seen on Facebook, the Town of Simmesport's website (www.simmesportla.com) and on YouTube.*

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 Bell and seconded by Alderman Bordelon to amend the agenda by removing the compensation for the Avoyelles Council on Aging Simmesport site director from the agenda. 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 Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh to accept the agenda as amended. 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 Bordelon 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	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Turner to pay the bills. 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.

ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 04-2020-01) FOR SALARIES OF THE MAYOR, TOWN COUNCIL, AND TOWN CLERK

A proposed ordinance was introduced at this time regarding the salaries of the Mayor, Town Clerk, and Aldermen. Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council that the ordinance does not change the current salaries of the Mayor, Town Clerk or the Council. The Town of Simmesport did not have a signed ordinance on file for the salaries, as required by state law. This ordinance (04-2020-01) is necessary for the Town to comply with state law. **See proposed ordinance attached below* The Mayor’s salary is set at \$2,250 per month plus benefits and reimbursements as allowed by Louisiana law. The Town Clerk’s salary is to be set at \$18.50 per hour plus benefits and reimbursements as allowed by Louisiana law. The Town Council’s salary would be \$450 per month plus benefits and reimbursements as allowed by Louisiana law. Alderman Marsh questioned what was wrong with the old ordinance. Attorney LaCour told the council that the Town did not physically possess the old ordinance and that was one of our compliance issues with the audit. Attorney LaCour further explained that this proposed

ordinance did not provide an additional rate for special meetings. There would be one flat rate regardless of how many special meetings were held. Alderman Marsh asked attorney LaCour to investigate if the State set a rate for special meetings. Alderman Bordelon said he had studied the rules regarding alderman pay and related that he did not see provisions that set a specific pay for aldermen. There was lively discussion as to whether this ordinance amounted a pay raise for the aldermen. Mayor Draper said this was not a pay raise as the \$450 per month was already written into the budget (which is passed by ordinance). Alderman Marsh was adamant that he would not vote for any ordinance that gave the Town Council a raise. The question was again brought up by Alderman Marsh as to why the original ordinance could not be found. Alderman Bell plainly said the original ordinance could not be found because documents were destroyed by a pervious administration. Simmesport is required by State Law to have an ordinance on file and they did not have one.

A motion was made by Alderman Bordelon and seconded by Alderman Bell to present Ordinance No. 04-2020-01, an ordinance to set the pay for the Mayor, Town Clerk and Aldermen with the conditions stated above. 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.

The Mayor and Town Council agreed to set the public hearing for this proposed ordinance on May 18, 2020. The council decided to move the regular town meeting to the same date so that a special meeting would not be necessary. By moving the regularly-scheduled council meeting to May 18, 2020 (the third Monday of the month), the Council could hold the public hearing and pass the ordinance without the need of a special meeting.

DELEGATION TIME:

Due to safe practices instituted by the Governor, there were no members of the general public present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Because of the meeting size restrictions, all department reports were given by Mayor Draper from written reports by the Town of Simmesport department heads. The only department head present was Town Clerk Dacia Adams.*

Engineer – Jeremy Hebron

Utility Department- Charles Carter

The utility department had been repairing quite a few water leaks and have finally gotten a handle on it. Also, the transition from the old mechanical water meters to the new ultrasonic, wireless meters had been completed in the utility billing software. The emergency generator was still out on well Number 1 and a professional was scheduled to inspect it

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

Mr. Carter had been working to maintain the sewer plant and was preparing for the hotter summer months to come. Recent visitors to the facility were amazed at how well Mr. Carter was able to maintain the 34-year old facility.

Street Department- Dana Smith

The street department is trying to fix as many potholes as possible. The dumping truck is now broken and the town crew is attempting to make repairs. Also, Mr. Smith is learning to operate the track hoe so that someone else can run it.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

There was no Fire Department meeting this month due to meeting restrictions. There a few medical calls last month, but nothing serious or life-threatening.

Police Department – Damion Jacobs

Police Commissioner Bell reported that things were going well, but the new curfew seemed to be working overall. There were some young people who seemed to be lacking, but overall, it seemed to be working. Alderman Bordelon said he received calls from citizens worried about the number of people in the local stores. Alderman Marsh also told those assembled that there seemed to be parties that were going on late into the morning hours.

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Magistrate LaCour said that city court was canceled for March and likely would be canceled for April due to the Louisiana Supreme Court's recommendation that all court activities be suspended. He also said that the emergency proclamation the Mayor issued was due to run out, and that Mayor Draper would extend it to the end of April. Mr. LaCour said that this proclamation allows the Town of Simmesport to let in help from the Parish level and above.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams informed the Council that she and Rene Whitmore had been here daily to print bills and collect payments. Payments can be made over the phone via a credit card or a check or money order can be dropped in the mail slot to the left of the main doors. Alderman Marsh asked how people would be getting their receipts. Mrs. Adams said they would be mailed out to customers. Mrs. Adams asked that people have patience as the main line can only allow one call at a time. Mayor Draper also said that we had two administrative employees on quarantine and, along with the layoffs recommended by the council, this left the admin offices short-staffed. Basically, two people were doing four people's jobs. The Mayor also told the council that we are coming back into compliance and began getting money from DOTD for cutting grass along the highway, tobacco monies and video poker monies.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner said he had no complaints, especially in light of all that is going on.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh had no issues. He complimented the maintenance crew for fixing water leaks and spraying weeds.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown had no issues to bring up. He said he would like to see the Town to keep the curfews in place for now. Mayor Draper reiterated that these curfews and restrictions were for general public health.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell had no issues to address.

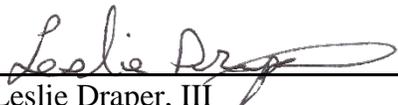
At Large

Alderman Presley Bordelon stated that he had no new issues to bring up at the time. He also reiterated that people please practice safe habits and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

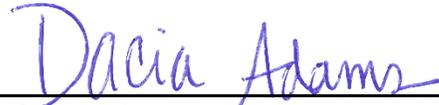
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Marsh to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	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