

# 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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## May 18, 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, Monday 18, 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](http://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 Turner and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the agenda as amended. 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.

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	<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.

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 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.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 04-2020-01) TO SET THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR, TOWN COUNCIL, AND TOWN CLERK**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to pass Ordinance No. 04-2020-01, an ordinance to set the pay for the Mayor, Town Clerk and Aldermen. 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>          </u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>          </u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>

The ordinance was adopted.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: RESOLUTION FOR EMERGENCY PAY**

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh to table the resolution for emergency pay for Town Employees. 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 resolution tabled.

## **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**

No report.

### **Utility Department- Charles Carter**

Lightning struck the Town of Simmesport water tower and shorted out the pump controls. Mr. Carter has been having to manually turn on and off the pump that fills the tower. He is in the process of contacting vendors to repair the controls. However, DHH has informed Mr. Carter that they will soon require all systems to have a SCADA (*Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition*) system which automatically collects data from the system and send it to the State.

### **Sewer Plant- Charles Carter**

Engineers are putting together a plan to upgrade the sewer plant. The nearly 40-year old plant is in need of upgrades and the engineering firm is analyzing and prioritizing the upgrades.

### **Street Department- Dana Smith**

The streets department is trying to keep up with grass cutting. Much of the grass-cutting equipment is down and in need of repair. Repairs are being made as this time. They are also picking up limbs and will use the track hoe to speed up the process.

### **Fire Department – Dana Smith**

The Fire Department handed out masks and it went well. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the department has not been holding meetings. Alderman Marsh, who is on the fire department, said that if they get more masks they will hold another day where people can come and pick them up.

### **Police Department – Damion Jacobs**

Several investigations are ongoing. There was one police car that needed repair, but it was under warranty and was taken back to the dealership.

### **Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour**

There was no court held in April as per order of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Magistrate LaCour said that because they cannot control the number of people in the Town Hall and for safety reasons, the May court will likely be canceled. Attorney LaCour also talked about the LaCARES act where towns can get reimbursed for expenses relating to the COVID-19 crisis. There is a website

### **Town Clerk – Dacia Adams**

Mrs. Adams thanked the general public for their patience and understanding during this time, as the Town is short-staffed. Mayor Draper also thanked all the Town Employees who have been showing up for work during this COVID-19 crisis. Mayor Draper also informed the council that he was going to begin trying to encourage the public to register for the 2020 Census. Simmesport had only about 20% of its population who have reported so far.

### **District 1 Report**

Alderman Ted Turner said that whenever we get asphalt and lawn mowers, those areas needed to be tended to.

### **District 2 Report**

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said the regular problems of limbs and grass. He also said that hurricane season is coming quickly and he would like to see more ditches and culverts being cleaned before the heavy rains come. Alderman Marsh also informed the Council that the Town received a \$3,000 grant for recreation at Ehrhardt Park. Alderman Marsh said he thinks the money originally came through the Rapides Foundation. Alderman Marsh also credited his wife for an idea about what to do with the old concrete meter boxes. The town can give the old meter boxes to businesses and citizens where that can paint them and use them for planters. Mayor Draper expressed concern about giving away Town Property but said that perhaps people would use them to beautify the parks. Another suggestion was to use them as barricades for places that are off limits. Mayor Draper commended Alderman Marsh for finding resources to beautify our parks.

### **District 3 Report**

Alderman Myron Brown said he also talked to the Mayor about what could be done with the old meter boxes. Alderman Turner also talked about using the meter boxes as foundations for filling in holes or ditches.

### **District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell said that the new meter boxes were not being set in the ground deep enough. Mayor Draper said that the installers are responsible for setting the boxes and not the Town Maintenance workers. Alderman Bell wanted to know why the meter boxes were not flush with the ground. Mayor Draper said that Clerk Street is on the approved list for Road District 2. Mayor Draper also said he wanted to get with Alderman Bell about cleaning up the bayou bank of Clerk Street.

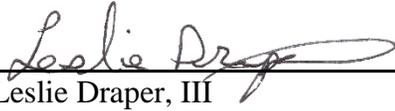
### **At Large**

Alderman Presley Bordelon stated that he had some constituents who wanted to know when they were going to get a new meter. He also asked the Mayor what event went on in the parking lot of the Piggly Wiggly the previous Saturday night. Alderman Bordelon said there were approximately 100 people in the parking lot at 10 PM. Mayor Draper said the incident was under investigation and he could not comment on the incident. Alderman Turner asked if the curfew for the COVID -19 measures was still in effect. Mayor Draper said that the emergency curfew was lifted, but the

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Draper, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dacia Adams". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dacia Adams  
Town Clerk