

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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Simmesport, LA 71369
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May 27, 2020 Special 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 Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

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

Members Absent:

AGENDA ITEMS 1,2,3

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Draper and was opened with a prayer given by Alderman Sherman Bell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown that the agenda be accepted as is. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Bordelon	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 5: 2020 CENSUS PROMOTION

Mayor Draper told the Council that only 15% of Simmesport's population had signed up for the 2020 Census. Mayor Draper reiterated how important the US Census was for federal funding. He asked the Council to please push their constituents to sign up for the 2020 Census. Mayor Draper also suggested setting up a table outside the Town Hall to hand out promotional material urging citizens to sign up for the census. The Mayor asked the Town Council members to ask for volunteers in their district to help do this. Mayor Draper also said he received a

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promotional kit from the Census Bureau to help to get people to sign up. Councilman Marsh suggested a dive-by/ walk-up type setup to hand out promotional materials. Alderman Turner also suggested handing out promotional material with the school lunches on Tuesdays.

AGENDA ITEM 6: UPDATE ON CRISIS AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Mayor told the Council that the first phase of our Crisis and Recovery plan should happen soon with the disbursement of money to the Town. These initial funds will be used to pay the IRS back taxes, the DEQ loan taken out in 2011, a DOT loan that was taken out to more a gas line in 2014, payoff the town maintenance trucks, the Mahindra tractor, the police vehicles, the money owed to Kolder & Champagne, and fees to the accounting firm of Faulk & Winkler. Mayor Draper reiterated that this would pay off all bills, old and new, and give the Town a fresh start. Also included in this round of funding are monies for a backhoe along with some other capital improvements.

AGENDA ITEM 7: SEWER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

Mayor Draper informed the Council that the second round of funding will be dedicated to sewer plant upgrades. As the Town gets back into compliance, we would be able to apply for more grants which we could apply to this project. Engineers are still working out the details, but there will be some important and long-needed upgrades to the treatment plant. Alderman Marsh asked about the leaking discharge line in the levee. Mayor Draper reported that permits were being applied for to do the repairs. Permits had to be obtained from the Corps of Engineers and the Red River Levee Board. Alderman Bordelon asked if there were plans to address the problems with the water tower. The Mayor said that Mr. Carter was meeting with people to repair the electrical problem with the pumps.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CARES ACT

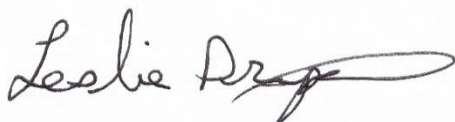
Online meetings have been going on with the State as to how the money for the LACARES for COVID-19 relief will be disbursed. The Town applied for a PIN number to access the state system which will be used to handle this program. Mayor Draper also said that on June 9 and June 22 from 8AM to 11PM there will be testing for the Town of Simmesport at the Avoyelles Parish Port. Alderman Marsh said you must have a valid Louisiana ID and be 18 years of age or over to receive the test. Mayor Draper asked for people to continue social distancing and respect those who choose not to. Alderman Bell asked if there were plans to test kids before they go back to school. Mayor Draper thanked the Department of Health for bringing masks to the Town of Simmesport. Alderman Brown thanked the volunteers who came out and cut grass and picked up trash for the Town. Mayor Draper and the rest of the Council also thanked those citizens and asked that more citizens get involved.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURN

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

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Bordelon	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.



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Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk