

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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June 8, 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, June 8, 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: Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell, Presley Bordelon

Members Absent: Ted Turner

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 Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the agenda. 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

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 Bordelon 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.

AGENDA ITEM 7: UPDATE ON SEWER DISCHARGE LINE CROSSING THE LEVEE

Mayor Draper told the council that the sewer line had been located and it fell within the height that the Corps of Engineers allowed. This means that the line will not have to be moved but can be repaired where it is. This fix will be far less expensive and complicated than moving the line.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Mr, Hebron was out at the site of the sewer line discussed in ITEM 7 with Mr. Charles Carter.

Utility Department- Charles Carter

There were complaints that the new meter boxes were sitting too high above the ground. Mayor Draper related that the cutout in the boxes designed to fit around the water lines was not cut out on some boxes. This is a simple fix and the maintenance crew can handle these issues.

Sewer Plant- Charles Carter

We are currently waiting on the complete plans for the upgrades of the sewer plant. When completed, these upgrades should relieve a lot of pressure on the sewer system, especially during heavy rains. The engineers are currently designing the upgrades and complimented Mr. Carter for what he was able to do in maintaining the current treatment plant.

Street Department- Dana Smith

They are currently working on picking up limbs. There seems to be an abundance of tree limbs around town with the recent thunderstorms. Mayor Draper also thanked the volunteer group that has been helping to keep the town looking orderly.

Fire Department – Dana Smith

Alderman Marsh said there was a 911 call recently. Alderman Marsh, who is a member of the fire department, said they would have their first meeting in some time since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Police Department – Damion Jacobs

Alderman Bell, who is the police commissioner, told those assembled that there was one small problem that was brought to his attention by Chief Jacobs. Alderman Bell said the problem was handled. He said the

Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour

Town Magistrate LaCour said they will hold court this month. Mr. LaCour will ask for extra help from the police department to keep social distancing during the court proceedings. Alderman Bordelon told Mr. LaCour that he would volunteer to help the court with this if needed. From the town attorney side, Mr. LaCour said that two more lawsuits had been settled. Currently the Town had three workers compensation cases and one automobile accident pending. Attorney LaCour said that he expected the final lawsuit to be settled before the first of the year.

Town Clerk – Dacia Adams

Mrs. Adams reported that we are still working with a smaller than normal staff. The lobby is still closed until further notice. Mrs. Adams said that the drop box is still available in the side door for paying bills. She reiterated that there is someone answering the phone from 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Thursday. There may be some instances when people call and no one answers. That is because the person answering is on another line with a customer. Mrs. Adams asked that people please be patient. Also, the Town asks that NO CASH be dropped in the drop box. The Town of Simmesport is also not set up to receive online payments, but customers can call in and pay with a credit or debit card. There was some discussion as to how the lobby could be partially opened to the public, but nothing was decided.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Danny Lemoine, attending the meeting live, asked what the Town planned to do about the potholes near his house on Main St. Mayor Draper said he was working on an intergovernmental agreement with the Police Jury to use their hot patching machine. Mayor Draper told those assembled that the cold tar asphalt mix did not stay in the pothole for any length of time.

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner was absent.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh said the regular problems of potholes. Mr. Marsh also made a point to say that Charles Dr. is one of the most terrible patches of road in Town. Alderman Marsh also said he would like to see drainage addressed more. Hurricane season is on us and the Councilman said he would like to see the ditches being cleaned out on a weekly basis.

District 3 Report Alderman Myron Brown asked about the John Deere tractor. Mayor Draper said the tractor was just put back into service.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell said that he has the same problem with potholes. He also said that the end of Carver St. was especially bad. Alderman Bell said that he was fearful that a citizen could damage their vehicle. Mayor Draper said the Town would patch the holes they could, but the funds were just not there to resurface the roads. The Mayor said he is working on possible sources of funding, but at present the Town did not have the money. Road District 2 did repair some roads.

At Large

Alderman Presley Bordelon stated that some streets in town are nearly undrivable because of potholes. Alderman Bordelon said he knew that the complete repair of the roads would require a lot of money. Alderman Bordelon further said that he thought we should be prepping for hurricane season. Mayor Draper agreed that repairing all the roads in Town is an expensive proposition and asked if anyone has a better plan or ideas to get this road repair going, that they should come forward please present it.

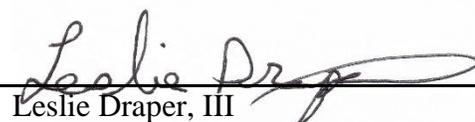
Mayor Draper also said that the COVID-19 testing had been moved from the Port to the Simmesport Town Hall. People can drive up or walk by for the testing. The testing will be June 15th and June 22nd. Mayor Draper also said he planned to hand out Census 2020 materials during this testing time. The Mayor emphasized how important the census was for our state, parish and town.

Mayor Draper also thanked the School Board workers for their work in handing out the school lunches. Mayor Draper also commended the Town of Simmesport workers for going to Marksville to pick up the lunches and helping the Riverside Elementary staff in unloading the lunches.

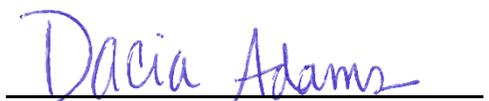
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	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