

# 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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## September 14, 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, September 14, 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

Members Absent: Presley Bordelon

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.

### AGENDA ITEM 4

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to amend the agenda by adding Item 9b, the rescheduling of public hearing for proposed ordinances 08-2020-05 and 08-2020-06. 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 Brown 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.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

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	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

The motion was carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown 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: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Charles Austin, representing Simmesport Bank asked if the police would come by the on Mondays through Thursdays at 4:45 PM, on Friday at 5:45 PM and on Saturday at noon. Mr. Austin said that there were enough employees in the morning, during opening, that the employees feel safe. Mayor Draper stressed that this would be a courtesy to the bank. The Mayor said that other businesses asked for similar services, but he did not want to turn the police force into security guards. Mayor Draper said he did not have any objections to providing this service.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: NEW CONSTABLE**

Police Juror Jacob Coco wanted to introduce the appointment of Shelia Callihan as Constable to replace her father. Juror Coco also read a resolution passed by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury expressing their acknowledgement of Mr. Sylvester Callihan’s service as Constable for the Parish. Mr. Coco also gave an update on the Road District 2 projects in Simmesport. He also gave an update on the proposed health unit in Simmesport.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: BUDGET ORDINANCE**

Mayor Draper presented the Council with a balanced budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. There are small projected surpluses and Mayor Draper stressed the Town would have to be careful in its spending. Mayor Draper also excitedly announced that for the first time in many years, the Town of Simmesport is out of debt, drawing applause from the council and the assembled public. The Mayor said that it is exhilarating to be able to begin to move the Town of Simmesport forward without past debts hanging over everything.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the proposed budget be accepted and a public hearing be set for October 19, 2020 at 5:30 PM. All present voted as follows:

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

Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
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The motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell to move the regularly-scheduled Town Council Meeting to October 19, 2020. 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 passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 9b: RESHEDULING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES 08-2020-05 AND 08-2020-06**

Because the ordinances 08-2020-5 and 08-2020-6 were not published in the official journal in time, the public hearing for these two ordinances has to be rescheduled. The ordinances were for setting the deposits and permit fees on Town utilities (082020-05) and for establishing basic water and sewer rates for commercial customers (08-2020-06). Mayor Draper asked that this public hearing be set for October 19, 2020 at 5 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh that a public hearing be set for ordinances 08-2020-05 and 08-2020-06 on October 19, 2020 at 5 PM. 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 passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: RESOLUTION FOR A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF MANSURA FOR THE USE OF THEIR K-9 UNIT**

Mayor Draper informed the Council that the agreement with the Town of Mansura for use of their K-9 unit needed to be updated. Attorney Kirk LaCour presented the Council with an updated version of the resolution. The Mansura Town Council passed the resolution. Mansura will provide their K-9 animal and officer when needed and Simmesport will provide the Officer and K-9 officer a 2013 SUV to use as a unit. This cooperative agreement will allow the K-9 unit to operate in both Mansura and Simmesport.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell that the resolution for a cooperative endeavor between the Town of Mansura and the Town of Simmesport for the use of Mansura’s K-9 officer be accepted as presented. 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 passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: 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**

No report.

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

There was a major leak on Lincoln St. Mayor Draper said the plan is now to replace the entire line there to be done with it. There were several manholes that needed to be flushed out. Mr. Carter is still assessing damage at the sewer plant from the recent storm. Mayor Draper said the water tower's automatic refill system has not yet been repaired.

#### **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**

Union and Clark Streets have been completely resurfaced. Many potholes around town have been patched either by Simmesport employees or by the Police Jury crew. Mayor Draper said the possibility of acquiring another tractor is a possibility, but we are looking into options. Mayor Draper also said a list was being compiled of blighted properties so that the process can begin on getting those properties cleaned up. Mr. Cecil Whitmore repaired the jetta and the dump truck. Mayor Draper thanked the Town of Mansura for the use of their jetta before the storm to blow out culverts.

#### **Fire Department – Dana Smith**

There were a few emergency medical calls.

#### **Police Department – Chief Glenn Hall**

Chief Glenn Hall told those assembled that there were 140 calls in the past month. Chief Hall said that over 75 citations were written. Mayor Draper also commended the Chief for solving several robberies in the past month.

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

Magistrate LaCour told the Council that the court was very large this past month. Attendance was high. Attorney LaCour suggested that in the future a written agreement be filled out when working with another governmental entity as state law requires that any services of value or use of equipment be accompanied by a cooperative agreement.

#### **Town Clerk – Dacia Adams**

Two public records requests were received and responded to. Information is still being asked for and given to the auditors for completion of the audit. Mayor Draper also commented that several cities and towns wanted information from us on how we worked to get into a debt-free position with the help of Sustainability Partners.

#### **District 1 Report**

Alderman Ted Turner said the pothole patches were working well and commended the town workers for their work during the storm.

#### **District 2 Report**

Alderman Kenneth Marsh also said the road patches were great and the resurfacing is appreciated.

#### **District 3 Report**

Alderman Myron Brown asked about the curfew. Alderman Brown said he had been having problems with people (juveniles and adults) playing loud music late and night and early in the morning. Attorney LaCour told everyone about the curfew for juveniles.

#### **District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell was pleased with the resurfacing of Clark St. Alderman Bell also said that on Shady Ln and Brown St there were low-hanging limbs in the road that were hitting the buses.

#### **At Large**

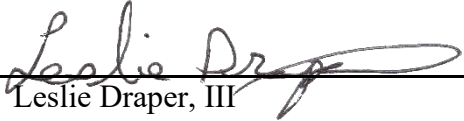
Alderman Presley Bordelon was absent. Mayor Draper asked that everyone pray for Alderman Bordelon that he get well.

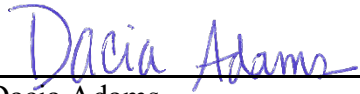
Mayor Draper also added that Mayor Chuck Robicheaux, of Rayne, related that the culvert cleaner they invented would be ready soon. This will go a long way in cleaning our culverts.

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	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Brown	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Alderman Bordelon	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>X</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.

  
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Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

  
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Dacia Adams  
Town Clerk