

# 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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## October 19, 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, October 19, 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 Marsh to amend the agenda by adding Item 11a, the appointment of Alderman at Large, and 12a, an executive session regarding attorney-client privilege as provided for by L.A.R.S. 42:17(A)(10). 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 Brown 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	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>

The motion was carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh 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>                          </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.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments from the general public.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ORDINANCE NO. 08-2020-05 UTILITY DEPOSITS AND PERMIT FEES**

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to pass Ordinance No. 08-2020-05.  
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.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ORDINANCE NO. 08-2020-06 ESTABLISHING BASIC WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to pass Ordinance No. 08-2020-06.  
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.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: ORDINANCE 09-2020-01 BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown that Ordinance No. 09-2020-01 be accepted. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>

Alderman Brown	X		
Alderman Bordelon			X
Alderman Marsh	X		
Alderman Turner	X		

The motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: HALLOWEEN**

Mayor Draper informed the Council that the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department is requesting permission to hold a haunted house from 5 PM to 7 PM and R.I.S.E. is holding a trick-or-treat for kids in Leo Ehrhardt Park at the same time. There will be no doo-to-door trick-or-treating.

**AGENDA ITEM 11a: SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMAN AT LARGE**

Mayor Draper informed the Council that the Louisiana Secretary of State sent a letter notifying the Town it must appoint an Alderman At Large to finish the term of deceased Alderman at Large Presley Bordelon by October 26, 2020 or the Governor will appoint someone. Attorney LaCour told the Council that this must be done by the 26<sup>th</sup> because of the timeline dictated by state law. Mayor Draper suggested that a special Council Meeting be held on October 26, 2020 to appoint a person to the vacancy.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown that the a special meeting be set on October 26, 2020, at 5:30 PM, to appoint a Councilman At Large to fill the vacant seat. 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 12: 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**

Mr. Carter told the Council that the Town prepared for Hurricane Delta. Equipment was checked and serviced, ditches were cleaned out, sand and sandbags were put out for the public. Post-storm there were trees down and power was out for several days. Damage assessment is ongoing. There was damage to the water tower and contractors are being brought in to assess what needs to be done there. The utility department and maintenance workers were busy picking up limbs and trees. There were several water and gas leaks, with one gas leak occurring during the storm. Alderman Marsh commented that cleaning the culverts and ditches did help with flooding. Mr. Carter also said he had a main sewer pumping station that went down when the power went out. Alderman Marsh asked if the generators were working. Mr. Carter told the Council that the Town only had generators on the water wells and not the sewer lift stations. Mayor Draper also commended the utilities department on their hard work during and since the storm.

**Sewer Plant- Charles Carter**

Due to the storm, leaves and branches were blown into the treatment plant tanks which upset the balance of the water being discharged to the river. Mr. Carter relayed that they were still assessing damages to the treatment plant.

**Street Department- Dana Smith**

Mr. Smith said Mr. Carter mentioned all items he had to talk about. Mayor Draper informed the council that the Town had gotten the culvert cleaner from the city of Rayne. He also commended Mr. Cecil Whitmore for repairing the Jetta that everyone had given up on. It was now running at full capacity and was instrumental in cleaning out ditches before the storm.

**Fire Department – Dana Smith**

There were several emergency calls during the storm. The fire department worked with the Town Maintenance crew to clear trees and on a gas leak that occurred because of storm damage.

**Police Department – Chief Glenn Hall**

Chief Glenn Hall was not able to attend. Officer Brandon Perry was representing the Police Department. Mayor Draper did commend the police department on a drug bust that took a large amount of drugs and cash off the streets. He also said several burglaries were solved. Alderman Marsh asked about any shootings in town. Officer Perry said they have had reports of people shooting in town, but no incidents had a victim.

**Town Attorney/Magistrate – Kirk LaCour**

Magistrate LaCour told the Council that the court was going well. They have been having larger turnouts for court which bodes well that people are trying to resolve their legal problems in a timely fashion. From the Town Attorney side, Mr. LaCour said that he asked for the Executive Session for the meeting based on a complaint that came to his attention shortly before the meeting. The executive session involves attorney-client privilege and Mr. LaCour felt the issue was important enough that it needed to be addressed immediately.

**Town Clerk – Dacia Adams**

Day-to-day operations are going on as normal. Reconciling for the audit is ongoing and information is going to Faulk & Winkler as needed.

**District 1 Report**

Alderman Ted Turner asked if the tall grass between Branch St. and the railroad track could be eliminated. Mayor Draper said it is difficult to mow there as our tractors have picked up several flats when mowing in that area. Mayor Draper asked Mr. Carter if we could spray the grass there to try and kill it.

**District 2 Report**

Alderman Kenneth Marsh also said there is a water leak on Mission that needs to be repaired. Mr. Carter said they are aware of it and will repair the leak as soon as they can.

**District 3 Report**

Alderman Myron Brown said there were several street signs down in his district. He said the sign on the corner of Brown and MLK was in the ditch. Mayor Draper said we would repair or replace the signs as soon as we can.

**District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell there was a sign down on Lincoln and College Dr. Alderman Bell also said we need to clean up the small bayou along Clark St.

**At Large**

**AGENDA ITEM 12a: EXECUTIVE SESSION: ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE PURSUANT TO L.A.R.S. 42:17(A)(10)**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the Council go into Executive Session. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the Council come out of Executive Session. 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>

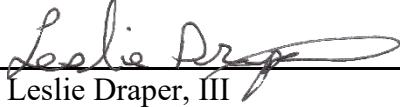
The motion passed.

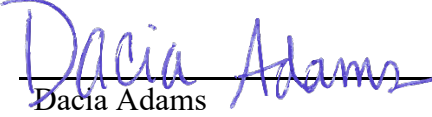
**AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOIURN**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Turner 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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dacia Adams  
Town Clerk