

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 28, 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 Monday, September 28, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell

Members Absent: Presley Bordelon, Ted Turner

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: AMENDING OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the agenda be amended to include a discussion of professional services related to the CARES Act. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell that the amended agenda be accepted. 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 DRIVE

Mayor Draper informed the council that the US Census is ending soon and Simmesport remained the lowest participating town in the parish. Mayor Draper encouraged the Councilmen and those assembled to please ask people to sign up for the census. Alderman Marsh asked people watching on Facebook to please fill out the census either on paper, over the phone or online

AGENDA ITEM 6: RENEWAL OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL GAS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTAION

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown that the agenda be accepted as amended. 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 7: BLIGHTED PROPERTY

Mayor Draper told the council that the Louisiana Municipal Association issued guidelines to a process for dealing with blighted and abandoned property. Attorney LaCour said that the ordinance passed by the council in 2018 was in line with the suggested guide issued by LMA and could be effectively used to get property owners to clean up. Mayor Draper asked the Council to submit addresses of properties in their districts that needed to be cleaned so that the process of enforcing the ordinance could begin. Attorney LaCour said the process would begin by serving the property owners with a certified letter and giving them a chance to respond before moving into municipal court.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COMMUNITY CENTER REPAIRS

The Mayor said that there were capital outlay funds allocated some time ago for a new community center. However, because Simmesport is not in compliance with their audits, we could not access those funds. During the process of applying for the capital outlay funds, the Town found out the funds could be used for remodeling and not just for new construction. Therefore, Mayor Draper said he would like to begin the process of remodeling the community center with the hopes of obtaining grant money as soon as we are back in compliance. The Mayor also said the community center was one of the few buildings left in town that had some historical significance. The Mayor outlined to the Council what could be done by Town of Simmesport employees. Councilman Marsh was cautious that this remodel was not included in the budget. Mayor Draper said he would keep an eye on the budget and if some aspect of the remodel required more money than we could afford, that part would be halted until money could be found.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown that the town move forward with an in-house renovation of the community center. 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 9: LOBBY, PARKS AND BALLFIELD OPENING

The Mayor informed the council that implementation of Phase III by Governor Edwards would allow for the opening of the two parks and the lobby. Mayor Draper also said that a heavy-duty swing set was purchased and ready for installation along with playground equipment donated by the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Councilman Marsh said the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department would go ahead with a haunted house in the Fire Station.

AGENDA ITEM 10: LMA MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Mayor Draper informed the council that this was agreement pushed by the Governor to ask small towns to help each other during these difficult times. This agreement would cover the Town of Simmesport like an intergovernmental agreement without having to pass an agreement with each and every town. This agreement would be valid between all towns who are members of the Louisiana Municipal Association. Attorney LaCour said he looked over the agreement and thought it was, legally, a valid agreement.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown that the Town of Simmesport go forward with the LMA Mutual Aid Agreement. 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 10a: ROSTAN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICESSSS

Mayor Draper informed the Council he was approached by a company called ROSTAN who wants to contract with the Town to handle filing for reimbursement for CARES Act monies. The Mayor told the Council that ROSTAN will charge up to \$10,000 for the services, which would be recoverable as an expense under the CARES Act. Attorney LaCour informed all those present, that the deadline was for this was early October 15 for the CARES Act and October 1 for ROSTAN to review the paperwork; any contracted service would need to be approved by resolution of the Council. Councilman Marsh asked if the \$10,000 would have to be paid up front. Attorney LaCour said the only way ROSTAN could get the money back through the CARES Act was to invoice us before they apply for reimbursement. This would mean the Town would have to pay up front or sign an agreement with them and pay once the Town is reimbursed. Attorney LaCour emphasized that only those costs the Town incurred over and above normal operating costs that were directly related to COVID-19 are eligible for reimbursement. Even though the Town had employees self-isolate due to COVID-19, it was decided that the amount of money Simmesport was eligible for reimbursement would not warrant the expense of gathering the required documentation. Coupled with the possible \$10,000 fee from ROSTAN, the Council felt this arrangement was too uncertain.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman marsh that the Town of Simmesport **NOT** enter into an agreement with ROSTAN consulting for professional services in reference to the CARES Act. 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.

Mayor Draper addressed the Council on the recent passing of Alderman At Large Presley Bordelon. The Mayor asked all to pray for the family. Mayor Draper asked that the Town of Simmesport do something to recognize the work that Presley Bordelon did during his time as Alderman At Large. Mayor Draper also suggested presenting the family with a plaque recognizing Mr. Bordelon’s service.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Marsh that the Town of Simmesport pass a resolution recognizing the contributions the late Alderman At Large Presley Bordelon made to the Town of Simmesport. All present voted as follows:

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

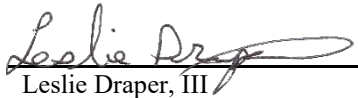
The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURN

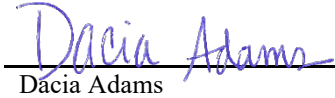
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Brown to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	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.



 Leslie Draper, III
 Mayor



 Dacia Adams
 Town Clerk