

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
TONYA COCO

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November 16, 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, November 16, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. **This meeting was live-streamed via the Town of Simmesport's Facebook page. The meeting can be reviewed on Facebook, and the Town of Simmesport's website (www.simmesportla.com).*

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Sherman Bell, Tonya Coco

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.

AGENDA ITEM 4

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to accept the agenda as posted. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	_____	X

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 5

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to defer the approval of the minutes until they could be printed out. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	_____	X

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Alderman Marsh asked about payments to the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury and to DEQ. Clerk Dacia Adams said the Police Jury payment was for the Coroner’s office. 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	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	_____	X

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Roosevelt Cooper asked if there were any programs to start a food drive here in Simmesport. Mayor Draper said there was a number of public and private programs that offer food to the needy. The Mayor also offered that could be a project for RISE.

Citizen Deidra Mack asked the Town to check on the water pressure on her building on Riverside. Mayor Draper said the Town would check out the situation but reiterated that any leaks from the meter to the customer are the customer’s responsibility. However, Mr. Charles Carter did say he would check out the leak as they have had problems in that area before.

AGENDA ITEM 8: LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION AWARD

The Town of Simmesport was awarded first place by the Louisiana Municipal Association for its efforts in Economic Development. Mayor draper also reminded those assembled that this was the third year in a row Simmesport won first place with the LMA. Mayor Draper told everyone that this was for the Town of Simmesport’s Crisis and Recovery Plan. The Mayor thanked everyone who worked behind the scenes including Town Clerk Dacia Adams, Rene Whitmore and Town Attorney/Magistrate Kirk LaCour. Further, the Mayor thanked Sustainability Partners for their cooperative endeavor with the Town. Mr. Jason Hewitt and Eric Street with Sustainability Partners helped develop the agreement that allowed Simmesport to get out of serious debt. Plaques were awarded to Mayor Draper for the Town as a whole and the Town Council Members, including deceased Councilman Presley Bordelon.

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	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	_____	X

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter said that the Town Maintenance department was still cleaning up after the storm. There was some minor damage to the sewer plant but it is still operational. He also said they are still dealing with the control system with the water tower. An automated system for turning on and off the pumps has been requisitioned. Mr. Carter reported that having to manually turn on and off the pumps

has affected the Town's chlorine levels during DEQ tests. Mr. Carter also said that by the end of 2021, DEQ is requiring automated SCADA (*Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition*) systems on all water systems in the state.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to move forward with the quote for the SCADA system to control the water tower. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Brown	X		
Alderman Coco	X		
Alderman Marsh	X		
Alderman Turner			X

The Motion was carried.

A citizen brought up a leaking water main near Clark St. Mr. Carter said he was aware of the leaking line, which crosses Wilson Bayou has been leaking for some time. The leak is on the elevated section of water line crossing Wilson Bayou and Mr. Carter said they would need to get contractors with proper equipment in to repair it.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Mr. Carter said they were also trying to pick up limbs and clean trash from ditches. A citizen asked if there was a place where citizens could dispose of debris. Mayor Draper informed those present that the Town only had a place to dispose of limbs, but the Police Jury barn will pick up certain kinds of debris if you call them and let them know exactly why needs to be picked up. Attorney LaCour also stated that the Parish Barn will not accept large amounts of debris from building demolition. The person demolishing the building is encouraged to rent a dumpster from Waste Management to dispose of a large amount of debris.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the general public that the Town Hall lobby was now open as normal. Mrs. Adams also said that all property tax notices were mailed out

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Hall was on a call. When he returned, Chief Hall said he needed some speed limit signs and some stop signs. A citizen asked the chief if the K-9 officer had begun working with the Town of Simmesport. Chief said there were some mechanical issues with the vehicles being worked out.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour advised there was one lawsuit pending and he was going to contact the Town's insurance and see how they wanted to handle it. Also, Mr. Lacour said that court was scheduled for the last Monday of the month and the docket should be large. He also said he swore in three new officers.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCILMEN REPORTS

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner was not present.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh asked if the Town of Simmesport was back in compliance with our annual audits. Mayor Draper said no, but we have sent the auditors all the information they asked for and are just waiting for them to post the audit to the Legislative Auditors.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown said there were several street signs down in his district. He said the street light on South Martin Luther King is out.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell there was an electric line drooping down almost to the ground. Mayor Draper said the Town would call Cleco and commended Cleco for the enormous amount of work they did since the storm. Alderman Bell also asked if anyone knew what was going on at the Port with the trailers. Some trailers have been moved, but the corresponding porches were left on the property creating

a mess. Some people in the audience asked if they could get one of the porches. Mayor Draper said the Port Commission meets on the third Monday of the month and the porches belong to them.

At Large

Alderman Coco had no issues to bring up at this time.

Before Adjourning a citizen asked if it was possible to burn debris from a house in a “buffalo”. The Mayor also said it depended on what was being burned. Things such as asbestos and lead paint needed to be taken into consideration before burning.

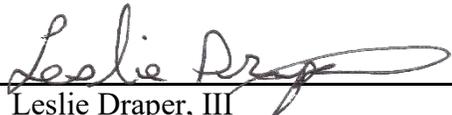
Mayor Draper also said that there will be no Christmas Parade because of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Alderman Marsh informed everyone that the Fire Department will cancel it’s gumbo for Christmas and hold it sometime early next year.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOIURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Marsh 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 Coco	<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 and the meeting adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk