

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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December 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, December 14, 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, Sherman Bell, Tonya Coco

Members Absent: Ted Turner, Kenneth Marsh

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 Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown 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

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Coco 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 Coco	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Marsh	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 12-2020-01 SETTING PAY FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the Mayor and council that a draft of the proposed ordinance was in the folders of the council members and is submitted for the consideration of the Council to comply with L.A.R.S. Title 33 §404.1. Mr. LaCour said a resolution was needed from the Council to introduce the ordinance.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to pass a resolution introducing Proposed Ordinance 12-2020-01, An Ordinance To Establish Salary And Compensation For The Mayor, Town Clerk, Chief Of Police, Maintenance Supervisor, And Members Of The Town Council.

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

The motion was carried.

A public hearing was set for January 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The regularly scheduled council meeting was also moved to January 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM to comply with the required 30-day requirement for public viewing of a proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Bell to move the regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting to Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6 PM and to set a public hearing for proposed ordinance 12-2020-01 also on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REMOVAL OF THE FORMER DEPUTY CLERK’S NAME FROM THE BANK SIGNATURE CARD OF THE TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

Mayor Draper thanked the former deputy clerk for her help and service to Simmesport. Since this person no longer worked for the Town, a resolution had to be passed by the Council removing this person’s name from the signature card for the Town of Simmesport bank accounts.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Coco to pass a resolution removing the former deputy clerk’s signature from the Town of Simmesport bank accounts.

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 9: SIMMESPORT IN NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

Mayor Draper informed the Council and those assembled that the Town of Simmesport appeared on the cover of the newsletter produced by Sustainability Partners. Sustainability Partners is a large company that does business here in the United States and internationally. SP enabled the Town of Simmesport to acquire the wireless meters and implement our financial recovery plan. Since our financial recovery plan has been implemented, the Town of Simmesport has received calls from the cities of Chicago and Atlanta as well as several municipalities in Louisiana inquiring about our agreements with Sustainability Partners. Simmesport was an early model for SP in using their innovative financing strategy in a municipality. Mayor Draper lauded SP for their continued support of the Town of Simmesport.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DELEGATION TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments from the public

AGENDA ITEM 11: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

The town engineer was not present.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter said that the Town Maintenance department repaired six water leaks. There were two permits for mobile homes. The situation with water tower being down is in the process of being attended to. The equipment that automates filling the water tower was damaged by lightening. However, a new system is being acquired that will remedy this problem. Mr. Carter also reported the tow was cited several times by the State Department of Health for low chlorine levels in certain areas of the water system. Mr. Carter said the new equipment automating the filling of the water tower will likely bring the low chlorine levels where they should be. Mr. Carter also said the town was putting locks on the sample sites. This will require the Department of Health testers to call Mr. Carter before they test so that he can observe the testing procedures. Mr. Carter also informed the Council and Mayor that the sewer plant had several issues he was dealing with. He said that the upgrades coming soon from the project with Sustainability Partners will fix all the issues he is experiencing now. Mr. Carter did state emphatically that the sewer plant is in compliance with all State of Louisiana requirements. Mr. Carter also said he is investigating places to purchase street and road signs. Alderman Brown informed those present that the street sign for MLK and Brown St. was in the ditch.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith informed the council that the crew would be removing limbs soon. Alderwoman Coco informed that the intersection of MLK and Flower St. is in serious need of repair. Mr. Carter said he would look into filling the holes until the Police Jury comes back into town. Mayor Draper thanked the Town maintenance crew for their work at the Ehrhardt Park. The Mayor

outlined future plans for both the Yellow Bayou Park and Ehrhardt park. The Mayor commended the small maintenance crew for their work.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the general public that the Town received a check for \$12, 304.38 from the Simmesport Housing Authority in lieu of taxes. Mrs. Adams wanted to make sure the public knew that the lobby was open for regular operating hours (*M-Th, 8AM to 4PM*). She also stated the Town recently purchased a fogging sanitizer to sterilize the lobby and counter surfaces for the safety of the general public and the Town workers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Hall was on a call. Mayor Draper told those assembled and the Council that a new officer was sworn in.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour said that there was a good turn-out for the November session. Court will be held on December 28 for the final Town Court of the year. Mr. LaCour also said he had spoken to the Legislative Auditor's Office regarding the investigation done in Simmesport and the results and recommendations put forward by the State Legislative Auditor's Office were not surprising. Attorney LaCour informed the Council that in the coming months the Town administration would be working to implement the suggested changes. Attorney LaCour said the auditors were very professional and helpful and gave feedback that genuinely tried to help the Town move in a positive direction. Mayor Draper also reiterated that the experience was taxing but ultimately very positive. Mayor Draper said the auditors taught the Town a lot about proper procedures required by State law. Mayor Draper wanted to let the public know that the investigation found **no** criminal wrongdoing. The Mayor stated that administrative changes were made and will be continue to be made to comply with the results of the investigation.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCILMEN REPORTS

District 1 Report

Alderman Ted Turner was not present.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kenneth Marsh was not present.

District 3 Report

Alderman Myron Brown that he has enjoyed serving on the Town Council since 2007. Alderman Brown said he will continue to help the Town in any way he can when asked. Mayor Draper thanked Mr. Brown, as well as those not present, for their dedication and service to the Town. Mayor Draper relayed to those assembled that this was the last meeting for four of the Council members as the newly elected members would take their seats at the January 2021 meeting.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell said he talked with the Chief about people who tore up property on the end of Martin Luther King. Alderman Bell also thanked those members who are not returning. Mayor Draper also thanked Alderwoman Coco for taking Presley Bordelon's Alderman at Large position after his untimely passing.

At Large

Alderman Coco thanked the people of Simmesport, the Mayor and the other Council members for helping her during her time as Alderwoman at Large.

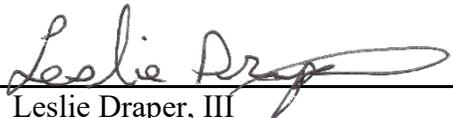
Before adjourning Mayor Draper wished blessings on those present and all the people of Simmesport. He asked for prayers for Simmesport and Avoyelles Parish going into 2021. He also thanked School Board Member Rickey Adams for representing the children of Simmesport and his tireless dedication in keeping the Council apprised on all matters concerning the Avoyelles Parish School System.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOIURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Coco 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</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