

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAUX



DISTRICT II
TIESHA KENNEDY

DISTRICT III
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
ROMARO TURNER

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January 14, 2021 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 Thursday, January 14, 2021, 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:, Sherman Bell, Glenn Gautreaux, Tiesha Kennedy, Romaro Turner, Patrick Wright

Members Absent: none

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 Sherman Bell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 4

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Turner to amend the agenda to include Delegation Time as Agenda Item 13. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to accept the agenda as amended. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 5

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux			X
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		
Alderman Turner	X		
Alderman Wright	X		

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 6

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright to go into executive session pursuant to La.R.S. 42:17(A)(10), Attorney /Client Privilege, and La.R.S. 42:17(A)(4), Discussion of Allegations of Misconduct.

All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux	X		
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		
Alderman Turner	X		
Alderman Wright	X		

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to come out of executive session pursuant to La.R.S. 42:17(A)(10), Attorney /Client Privilege, and La.R.S. 42:17(A)(4), Discussion of Allegations of Misconduct.

All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux	X		
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		
Alderman Turner	X		
Alderman Wright	X		

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderwoman Kennedy asked if the council could get a copy of each individual bill.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Turner to pay the monthly bills.

All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux	X		
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		
Alderman Turner	X		
Alderman Wright	X		

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ORDINANCE 12-2020-01 ESTABLISH SALARY AND COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR, TOWN CLERK, CHIEF OF POLICE, MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to pass Ordinance 12-2020-01 which establishes salary and compensation for the Mayor, Town Council, Town Clerk, Police Chief and Maintenance Supervisor. During discussion, Alderman Bell made a motion to amend the ordinance to reduce salaries to the original draft document presented to the council on December 14, 2020. This amendment would make the Mayor’s salary \$27,000 per year (*paid in monthly installments of \$2,250.00*), the Town Clerk \$38, 480.00 per year (*paid in monthly installments of \$3,206.67*), the Chief of Police \$38,400 per year (*paid in monthly installments of \$3,200.00*), the Maintenance Supervisor \$38, 480.00 per year (*paid in monthly installments of \$3,206.67*), and the Town Council \$5,400 per year (*paid in monthly installments of \$450*). A second for the amendment was made by Alderman Gautreaux. Alderman Gautreaux then rescinded his second, so the motion to amend by Alderman Bell failed due to a lack of second.

After lively discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Bell to amend Ordinance 12-2020-01 by changing the Mayor’s Salary to \$27,000 annually (*paid in monthly installments of \$2,250.00*). All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	_____	X	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	X	_____
Alderman Wright	_____	X	_____
The motion failed.			

Councilwoman Kennedy made a motion to amend Ordinance 12-2020-01 by increasing the Chief of Police’s salary to \$42,000 annually (*paid in bi-weekly installments of \$1,615.38*) and seconded by Councilman Turner. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	_____	X	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	_____	X	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____
The motion passed.			

The council then voted on the amended ordinance by way of the original motion made by Alderman Turner and the second by Alderman Wright. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	_____	X	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	_____	X	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____

Ordinance 12-2020-01 as amended above was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 9: SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Wright that Alderman at Large Romaro Turner be appointed mayor pro tempore. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to accept the introduction of Ordinance 01-2021-01. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Gautreaux	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Kennedy	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 PM. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Gautreaux	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Kennedy	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to move the regularly scheduled Town Meeting to Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Gautreaux	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Kennedy	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 13: DELEGATION TIME

Several members of the general public asked questions about various topics. *(please see the video at www.simmesportla.com/town-meetings for full public comments.)*

AGENDA ITEM 14: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

The town engineer was not present.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter said that there is far more to running and maintaining the physical aspects of the Town than people see. Mr. Carter said that the water, sewer and gas systems require training and certification to run. These systems are overseen and governed by the State and Federal governments and this requires not only physical labor, but intensive paperwork and reports. Mr. Carter offered to sit down with any of the new council members if they had questions about what they do, he would be happy to sit with them. Mr. Carter also said that the maintenance department was in need of equipment.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith informed the council that the maintenance department had a lot of equipment in need of repair. Currently only one zero-turn mower is working, while the John Deere and Mahindra tractors are not running because of needed repairs. Mr. Smith said the crew would do the best they could with the equipment they had.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the general public that it is time to renew occupational licenses. The Occupational license application can be downloaded from the Town of Simmesport website (www.simmesportla.com) under the Town Clerk section. Mrs. Adams said that property taxes were being paid regularly. She also stated that LMA dues have been paid. Mrs. Adams also informed those assembled that the Town was in the process of completing two audits and that those audits are progressing quickly.

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 magistrate court is the last Monday of every month and invited the council members to attend. Mr. LaCour said that December court was canceled because key personnel were quarantined due to COVID. All the December cases are continued to the January court date. Mr. LaCour said there are, currently, no new liability lawsuits. There is a single workman’s comp case pending, but that should be settled soon.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCILMEN REPORTS

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux said he had some work orders that he would turn in soon. Alderman Gautreaux said there were some street lights out and he would get the pole numbers and turn them in. Mayor Draper stated that he did not think most people knew the Town paid for the lights.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kennedy said she had some work orders to turn in. She also thanked the other members of the council, Mr. LaCour, Ms. Adams and Mr. Firmin. Ms. Kennedy said she looked forward to working with the Council and Mayor.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright said he also would turn in street lights out in his district. He also asked about routine maintenance such as flushing hydrants. Alderman Wright said he was concerned about having the water tower worked manually and the tank going dry. Mr. Carter said he does not let the water tower go dry. He was also concerned about the amount of trash.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell said he had no issues at this point

At Large

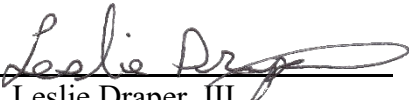
Alderman Turner was also concerned about the number of out street light, especially with all the break-ins. Alderman Turner said he would also like to see more activities for kids in town.


AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOIURN

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

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.


Leslie Draper, III
Mayor


Dacia Adams
Town Clerk

