

# 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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## February 25, 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, February 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. *\*This meeting was live-streamed via the Town of Simmesport's Facebook page. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, no sound was recorded.*

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 a representative from Sustainability Partners as Agenda Item 9A and the appointment of Mr. Marvin Cooper to the Simmesport Housing Authority Board as Item 9B. 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 Turner and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy 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 Turner and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy 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 PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DELAGATION TIME**

No one came forward to present any issues or comment.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ORDINANCE 1-2021-01: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BOND REQUIRED BY THE TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF SIMMESPORT**

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to pass ordinance 01-2021-01.

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 9: RESOLUTION 02-2021-01 TO ADD DEPUTY CLERK JOEL RENE WHITMORE TO THE TOWN OF SIMMESPORT SIGNATURE CARD AT SIMMESPORT STATE BANK**

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Wright to pass resolution 02-2021-01. 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.

**AGENDA ITEM 9A: PRESENTATION BY JASON HEWITT OF SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS**

Jason Hewitt, a representative from Sustainability Partners, address the board about the upcoming venture to upgrade the Simmesport sewer plant. Mr. Hewitt told the board that the sewer plant was installed in 1987 and is in dire need of repairs and upgrades. Using the Sustainability Partners’ financing model that was used for the installation of the wireless water meters, approximately \$1.4 million in

total will be used for improvement to the city’s sewer facilities. In the initial phase about \$625,000 was used to pay off debts the Town of Simmesport owed. The second phase will focus on physical improvements (equipment and such) to the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Hewitt informed the Council that the cost to the Town of Simmesport of this second phase will equal approximately \$11 per customer per month.

**AGENDA ITEM 9B: APPOINTMENT OF MR MARVIN COOPER AS A COMMISSIONER TO THE SIMMESPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD**

Mayor Draper nominated Mr. Marvin Draper to serve as a Commissioner on the Simmesport Housing Authority Board.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to appoint Mr. Marvin Turner as a Commissioner on the Simmesport Housing Authority Board. 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.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**TOWN ENGINEER**

The town engineer was not present.

**SEWER & WATER**

Mr. Charles Carter said that they are slowly recovering from the storm. Because the power failed and many people were leaving water running for the hard freeze, the water tower reached low water levels. This low water level automatically triggered a boil advisory as required by state law. Water tests were performed by the Department of Health and the boil advisory was lifted on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The water department was dealing with a water main that burst on the water tower at the Avoyelles Parish Port water tower. The valve to that 10-inch line was closed off until the line can be repaired.

**STREETS & DRAINAGE**

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith informed the council that the streets department managed to fill many of the larger potholes filled on Charles Dr. and in several other areas of the Town. Mayor Draper informed the Council that Charles Drive is on the list of roads to be resurfaced this spring via Road District 2. Mr. Smith informed the council that both tractors were still down. The Mahindra is not working and the John Deere had been taken to the dealership to get a repair estimate.

**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](http://www.simmesportla.com)) under the Town Clerk section. Mrs. Adams also said that the auditors were asking for more documentation for the annual audits. She also said that deposits were being made daily.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Firmin reported that he is slowly rebuilding the police department, adding new officers. Chief Firmin reported that arrests were made in a recent string of burglaries and more arrests were to come.

**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 informed the Council that court was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Currently the Town of Simmesport has no outstanding lawsuits.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCILMEN REPORTS**

**District 1 Report**

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux said he turned in some pole numbers to Cleco for streetlights that were out. Mayor Draper asked that all of those numbers be turned in to the Town Hall because we have a specific person to send those pole numbers to. This will cut down on confusion at Cleco’s end and hopefully expedite the repair of street lights. Mayor Draper also reiterated that the Town of Simmesport had no control over street light repair.

**District 2 Report**

Alderwoman Kennedy said she had some street lights to turn in for repair.

**District 3 Report**

Alderman Wright said he is still concerned about the amount of trash around town. He also stated some concern about the amount of equipment the maintenance department had to work with.

**District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell said there were some potholes that needed to be filled on Carver St.

**At Large**


Alderman Turner had no issues at that time.


**AGENDA ITEM 12: ADJOIURN**

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

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

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

  
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Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

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