

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAU



DISTRICT II
TIESHA KENNEDY

DISTRICT III
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
ROMARO TURNER

372 Mission Dr
P.O. Box 145

www.simmesportla.com
townofsimmesport@simmesportla.com

Simmesport, LA 71369
(318) 941 - 2493

March 8, 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, March 8, 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 Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to accept the agenda. 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 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 PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to pay the 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 7: DELAGATION TIME

No one came forward to present any issues or comment.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RESOLUTION 03-2021-01 MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to pass Resolution 03-2021-01.

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 resolution was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 9: RULES, REGULATIONS, AND RATES OF PARKS & BALLFIELDS

Mayor Draper stated that the Town of Simmesport owns or is in control of Ehrhardt Park, Yellow Bayou Park, Eagle Park (behind Riverside Elementary School) and the Avoyelles Port recreational facilities. Mayor Draper said that a cohesive and consistent set of rules and fees needed to be developed for public use of these facilities. The Mayor suggested forming a working group of no more than two Council members (so as not to have a quorum) to develop rules and regulation for the use of the parks and ball fields.

AGENDA ITEM 10: EASTER EGG HUNT BY OPERATION SAFE CHILD

Mayor Draper informed the Council that a group called Operation Safe Child wished to hold an Easter Egg hunt for children in Ehrhardt Park on March 27, 2021.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to approve the Easter Egg hunt in Ehrhardt Park on March 27, 2021. 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>
Alderwoman 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 was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCIL TOUR OF FACILITIES

Mayor Draper proposed the Town Council take a tour of the Simmesport physical plant and facilities. These facilities include the well, sewer plant, lift stations, water towers and parks. Mayor Draper said this would give the Council a better understanding of how these facilities work and the particular needs of each one. Mr. Carter, Maintenance Supervisor, said if the Council could pick a time he would make sure someone from the Town would be available to show them around. Council members agreed that Saturday’s would be a better time. Mayor Draper agreed to coordinate with the members after the meeting was over to set a date.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

The town engineer was not present.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter said he received a notification from the Department of Health that our water tower was out to compliance because it needed to be cleaned and painted. However, as Mr. Cater informed everyone, the water tower at the Avoyelles Port is less than ten year old and is available to our water system. Mr. Carter said that the new automated controls will be installed at the new water tower at the Avoyelles Port. He also said there was a leak in the main line coming from the new tower, but a repair crew was coming out Wednesday. He also informed the Council that he had an aerator at the sewer plant was down and that a pump on a sewer lift station was down with bad bearings.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith informed the council last Wednesday the Town picked up some limbs and finished the next day on Thursday. Mr. Smith said he saw that some people had put more out, but those would be picked up the next Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

From the Fire Chief report Mr. Smith said they had a bad situation with a trash fire that got out of hand. He reminded everyone that it was dangerous to open burn anything with a steady high wind. Councilwoman Kennedy asked if there was a burn ban in effect. Chief Smith said no, but with the dead grass and high winds, it is dangerous to openly burn anything.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the general public that it is time to renew occupational licenses for 2021. The occupational licenses expire on December 31 of each year. The Occupational license application can be downloaded from the Town of Simmesport website (www.simmesportla.com) under the Town Clerk section. Mrs. Adams also said that the rates for natural gas fluctuate. The Town of Simmesport buys its natural gas from the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority (LMGA) and then sells it to customers. The price for natural gas is determined by LMGA and **not** by the Town of Simmesport. Because of the cold weather, most people used more gas than normal, and, with higher gas prices, this resulted in higher bills.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Firmin was out on an emergency call. Mayor Draper did report to the Council that after speaking with the Chief there were still some needs. Firstly, the radios for the officers are in poor condition. Also, the current body cameras the officers wear are failing and have been deemed by the manufacturer as unrepairable. Mayor Draper presented several options for body cameras to the Council members. Mayor Draper informed the council that the Town Maintenance department needed another tractor and zero-turn lawn mower.

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 22nd of February and they have not had a chance to hold another court yet. Mayor Draper encouraged the new Council members to attend a session of the magistrate court. Also, Mr. LaCour said he swore in three police officers and one part-time detective. Another part-time detective is scheduled to be sworn in soon.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCILMEN REPORTS

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux said he turned in some work requests by e-mail. Mayor Draper said the Town received the photos but we could not figure out the address. The work order Councilman Gautreaux sent was received. Mayor Draper passed out blank copies of the Council Members’ work orders and told the Council that blank copies were available on the Town website under the Town Council page.

District 2 Report

Alderwoman Kennedy said she had no issues to address at this time.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright said he had no issues to address at this time.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell said he would like to see the police department crack down on people riding 4-wheelers on the roads and in other people’s property.

At Large

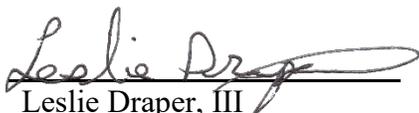
Alderman Turner had no issues at that time.

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.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk