

# 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

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## April 12, 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 Monday, April 12, 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 Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner that the agenda be amended to add an executive session regarding case number 3:21-cv-00190 as agenda item number 15a. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to accept the agenda as amended. 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 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell 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 Turner 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 from the public brought forth any issue.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: R.I.S.E. UPDATE**

Marsha Strong, President of R.I.S.E., addressed the council about the activities of the organization. RISE has scheduled a one-day event on October 2, 2021. This will be a craft-selling event because of the cancelation of the River Festival in 2020 and 2021. Ms. Strong did inform the Council that the River Festival is planned for 2022. RISE also received a grant to upgrade the electrical systems in Ehrhardt Park. RISE would also like to work with the Town of Simmesport and Cleco to repair and upgrade the electrical systems at Yellow Bayou Park.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: FEMA UPDATE**

Ms. Myrna Chase, a representative from FEMA, was at the meeting and asked to meet with individual members of the Council after the meeting. She also informed everyone that she had informational material to hand out. Ms. Chase also informed the Council about several Zoom meetings regarding safety planning for storms. These meetings are for everyone, not just town officials.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: OPERATION SAFE CHILD SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Police Chief Daniel Firmin told the council that Operation Safe Child is a non-profit organization who wants to hold a support group meeting for victims of domestic violence. Chief Firmin informed the Mayor and Council that the organization would like to use the board room to hold the meetings one Friday per month at 6 PM. Alderman Bell said he would like to talk with those running Operation Safe Child. Chief Firmin said he would contact the organization to get someone to appear at the next Town Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: TRACTOR PURCHASE PROPOSAL**

Mayor Draper informed the council that the Town currently has no operating tractor. The Mahindra is not operational and the John Deere has lost power at the PTO. Mayor Draper presented a quote for a John Deere model 5075M with a front loader bucket.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to purchase the John Deere 5075M with the loader. 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 12: COUNCIL TOUR UPDATE**

Mayor Draper said a tour was scheduled for Council members to see the physical facilities with Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter had to meet with a repairman before the tour. Councilman Gautreaux and Councilman Wright waited on Mr. Carter, but the repairs took longer than expected. In the end the Council members wanted to reschedule the tour at a later date.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13: RULES AND REGULATIONS ON PARKS AND BALL FIENDS**

Alderman Bell informed those assembled that he had located copies of the former rules and regulations. Councilwoman Kennedy and Councilman Turner also volunteered to be on a committee to finalize the rules and regulations.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14: DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

##### **TOWN ENGINEER**

The town engineer was not present.

##### **SEWER & WATER**

Mr. Charles Carter informed the council that several severe weather events came through after the ice storm and felled some trees and power lines. Mr. Carter also said there have been many water leaks which took priority over grass cutting. Mr. Carter addressed the many complaints about the sewer backing up. He explained this was due to heavy rains and flooding, where floodwater gets into the sewer lines through manholes.

##### **STREETS & DRAINAGE**

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith informed the council that grass cutting is behind schedule due to the number of leaks. He stated that as soon as the leaks were repaired the workers would return to grass control and other regular tasks.

##### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

From the Fire Chief report Mr. Smith told the council the Fire Department smoothly. There was a small accident on the day of the meeting, but nothing serious.

##### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Firmin introduced two new officers, Patrick Riche and Jordan Barton. Chief Firmin stated that the department currently has seven officers, 4 full-time and 3 part-time. On a question from Councilwoman Kennedy, Chief Firmin stated that only two of the current officers were POST Council certified. In March there were a total of 23 calls with 40 tickets written and 20 arrests. Chief Firmin said a QuickPD representative came by the police department to resolve issues with the system. The Chief also presented a quote to the Council for a complete body camera and taser package. Chief Firmin also stated he was working on grants to cover the expense of some of these systems.

##### **TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk Dacia Adams told the council that day-to-day operations were keeping everyone busy. Mrs. Adams also said that the 2015 bond to remodel the Town Hall was paid off at Simmesport State Bank.

##### **TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE**

Attorney LaCour related that the March court was postponed and all cases were moved over to the April court date. Mr. LaCour said that once the QuickCourt files were sorted out, there is a substantial amount of money owed to the town in fines that could be collected. Attorney LaCour stated that there were some legal matters to contend with and reminded anyone that tampering with a water or gas meter is a crime. Mr. LaCour said that the Town of Simmesport is obligated to pursue such cases. He also stated that a new lawsuit was brought against the town and the specifics would be discussed in executive session.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: COUNCILMEN REPORTS**

**District 1 Report**

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux reported that grass needed to be cut in his district and there were missing street signs. Councilman Gautreaux also stated that there were ditches that needed to be cleaned and dug out.

**District 2 Report**

Alderwoman Kennedy reported serious drainage issues on Main St.

**District 3 Report**

Alderman Wright reported spots on LA 1 that need to be cut. He pointed out areas along Brushy Bayou.

**District 4 Report**

Alderman Sherman Bell had no issues to report.

**At Large**

Alderman Turner had no issues at that time.

**AGENDA ITEM 15a: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell to move into executive session. 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 Gautreaux and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to come out of executive session. 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 16**

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

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

  
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Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

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