

# 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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## June 9, 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 Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. *\*This meeting was live-streamed via the Town of Simmesport's Facebook page.*

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

### AGENDA ITEMS 1,2,3

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: ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux that the agenda accepted as presented. 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: VFW BUILDING RESTORATION

Mayor Draper presented several estimates for the restoration of the VFW building due to a fire that occurred in January. Mayor Draper reiterated that this process was difficult and that building materials were on the rise. Mayor Draper also added that a cooperative agreement between the Town of Simmesport and the VFW was very close.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell to and seconded by Alderman Turner to approve accept the bid by Gremillion Carpentry for the restoration of the VFW building. All present voted as follows:

YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
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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 6: TRACTOR PURCHASE**

Mayor Draper presented three quotes for tractors for the Town to Purchase. One was from Case, one from Kubota and one from John Deere. Alderman Gautreaux said he did not see a loader mentioned on the Kubota quote.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy purchase the Case tractor. 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 7: FINAL DRAFT OF RULES FOR PARKS AND BALL FIELDS**

A final draft of the cost for renting each athletic facility and the rules associated for each was presented to the Council for approval or amendment.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded Alderman Turner to accept the rules and regulations for use of parks and athletic facilities. 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 8: DISTRICT CULVERT CLEANING STRATEGY**

Mayor Draper asked the Council to come up with a strategy for cleaning out culverts. Alderman Wright suggested that two days be spent in each district so that each district will get some culverts cleaned. Alderman Gautreaux also suggested a priority list from each district so that the worst areas could be addressed first.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: REPAIRS AND UPGRADES TO SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING**

Mayor Draper informed the council that the roof of the Senior Citizen Building was leaking and the roof needs to be repairs, Mr. Cecil Whitmore also said that the roof was covered in pine needles from the trees on the side of the building. He also said that the rain gutters were fully clogged up with pine needles and debris and that the gutters could be taken down or rain guards could be placed on the gutters. Mr. Whitmore also suggested the pine trees causing the problem, some of which are dead, should be removed. Mayor Draper also said the administrator of the Simmesport Avoyelles Council on Ageing needed an office added to the building. Mayor Draper also said the Council on Ageing requested some benches be placed outside for the seniors to sit on.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner that the Town proceed with necessary repairs and upgrades to the senior citizens building:

	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 10: REVISIT POLICE COMMISSIONER**

Mayor Draper told the council that the issue of a “Police Commissioner” required a legal opinion and that since Town Attorney LaCour could not be present, the Mayor asked if the issued could be tabled to the June regular meeting. The Mayor said that this was part of the agreement with Sustainability Partners nearly two years ago.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: PHASE II UPGRADE TO THE SEWER TREATMENT PLANT**

Mayor Draper reported to the Council that the upgrades to the sewer plant had moved to Phase II. This means the project is out of the initial planning stages and physical construction and upgrades should begin soon.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

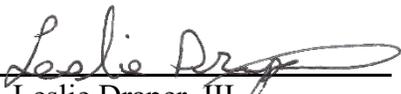
The Mayor said that he knew the council had projects they wanted to get done in their districts. Alderman Bell said he did not currently have anything yet. Alderwoman Kennedy talked about putting speed bumps in some neighbors and would like to see some “Kids At Play” signs put up in certain areas. Ms. Kennedy also talk about an app called “Nextdoor”. It is a free app that allows people to send messages to one another. Ms. Kennedy said she would have some printed info at the next meeting. Officer Fayyaz said he uses the app and it is something of a virtual neighborhood watch. Alderman Wright said we needed plans for the grass cutting and culvert cleaning. Mr. Wright also commended Cleco for all the street lights they replaced in Town. Alderman at Large Turner said he would like to continue the Town-wide initiative to clean up the town. Alderman Gautreaux said he likes the idea of a systematic way to clean the culverts. He also asked if the Town had looked into getting a used hot patch machine for the potholes.

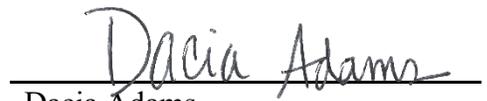
**AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN**

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