

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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July 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, July 12, 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

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 Wright that the agenda be amended to include a the introduction of new police officers as agenda item 5a. 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 that the agenda be accepted 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: 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 5a: INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Chief Daniel Firmin introduced his police department. Mr. John Johnson, who is also the police chief of Mansura, is working part time as a detective for Simmesport on major cases, not as a patrolman. Chief Firmin then introduced patrolman Guage Schuyler, patrolman Jardon Barton, patrolman Alvie Jones, patrolman Jimmy Fayyaz, and patrolman Marvin Samuel.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux 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: COUNCILMEN REPORTS

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux said there were some potholes that needed addressing on North Main near the regulator station.

District 2 Report

Alderwoman Kennedy had no issues to report.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright said he sent in a work order and it was taken care of. Mr. Carter said there were some complaints about cutting grass in that district, but citizens are putting trash out on the property that needs to be cut.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell said there is a large tree limb hanging in the road con Clark St. He asked that the limb be cut. Also, he said there are vines that need to be sprayed near Juno St. that are hanging in the road.

At Large

Alderman Turner told those assembled that his local basketball team, the Bluehawks, won the USSSA national basketball tournament. Alderman Turner said that most of the players on the team were from Simmesport and he wanted to recognize their success. Mayor Draper congratulated the players and the coaches. Alderman Turner also thanked the Town of Simmesport for allowing them to do a fundraising roadblock, which helped fund the trip to Orlando, FL. The girls team were runner up in the national tournament also!

AGENDA ITEM 8: RESOLUTION 07-2021-01

The resolution was needed by the finance company for the purchase of the tractor. The resolution is to give the Mayor authority to sign the lease-purchase agreement as a tax-exempt purchase.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to pass resolution 07-2021-01. 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>
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 resolution was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 9: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 07-22021-01: REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

This is an ordinance for rules, regulations and fees for use of the Town of Simmesport’s parks and recreational facilities. Since 30-days is required between the introduction of an ordinance voting on passage of the ordinance, the Town Council voted to have a public hearing on August 16, 2021 at 5:30 PM and move the regular meeting to August 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to accept the introduction of Ordinance 07-2021-01. 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>
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 Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Turner to move the regular meeting from August 9,2021 to August 16, 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to hold a public hearing on Ordinance 07-2021-01 on August 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>
Alderwoman Kennedy	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 10: RAPIDES FOUNDATION DONATION

Mayor Draper wanted to thank the Rapides Foundation for its donation of \$1,000 to help improve recreational parks. Mayor Draper said that former Alderman Kenneth Marsh began working on this over a year ago and thanked him for his dedication in seeing this through.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

The town engineer was not present.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter informed the council that they have been cleaning culverts. He told the council that the spraying of weeds had been limited because of heavy rains. The zero-turn lawn mower is undergoing repairs. Also, Mr. Carter said they have put out a pallet and a half of asphalt although the rain has caused setbacks.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith was unable to attend the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith was unable to attend the meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin informed the Mayor and Town Council that a total of 58 tickets were written and 11 arrests. Chief Firmin thanked Mrs. Juanita Moreau who is the Woodman of the World representative in Simmesport. Woodman donated \$500 to the Simmesport Police Department for supplies. The cameras and taser packages were in and Chief Firmin said he was waiting on a rep to install the switches in the units so that the cameras would automatically come on when an officer exited the unit. Chief Firmin also informed the Council that he had completed the course to become a certified TASER instructor and he can certify and recertify our officers. Chief Firmin also said he lost one officer to a better job offer and had to terminate another. An officer was involved in a traffic accident which the State Police worked.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams said that they were meetings with auditors two days last week working on the 2019-2020 audit. As of today, Mrs. Adams informed all present that the Town of Simmesport was back in compliance with the State Legislative Auditor’s Office.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour also said court went very well and attendance was high. He also said that QuickPD was working well and Mr. LaCour thanked Mrs. Nicole Schuyler for her hard work in handling the day-to-day operations of QuickPD. Mr. LaCour said also that there was no active lawsuits at present.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DELEGATION TIME

Mayor Draper told the Council that there would be a meeting with a group wanting to build a housing complex in District 4. The Mayor told the Council that only two council members could meet at a time. The Mayor also said that he is working with a company to develop a hazard mitigation plan for Simmesport. The Mayor said he had someone come and look at the Senior Citizen’s building and that quotes will be shared as soon as they have them. The Mayor said he met with DOTD personnel about getting lights on the bridge. Mayor Draper said it was a very good meeting. Mayor Draper also said the Town needed to move more forcefully on blighted property. Attorney LaCour said he needed photos and property information from the Assessor’s Office.

School Board Member Rickey asked people to be mindful that in a few weeks school will begin again. He asked that drivers be careful and mindful of kids catching the busses in the morning.

Mr. Cecil Whitmore thanked Chief Firmin for his officer’s responses to calls. Mr. Whitmore also asked the Mayor if it would be possible to ask DOTD to put sound barriers on the bridge.

A citizen asked what the law was in Simmesport regarding the riding of ATV's. Attorney LaCour said that Simmesport follows the state law regarding ATV use. The levee is private property and a person would need to obtain permission from the Red River Levee Board to ride on the levee. Attorney LaCour said that a person could ride the ATV on their own property but there is no public land in the Town where riding an ATV is permitted.


Another citizen asked about the drainage system in Simmesport. She asked what plans the Town had to remedy the drainage problems. Attorney LaCour said drainage is a problem everywhere. He said the Town will continue to clean drainage and culverts where we can. He also asked citizens to help in not throwing trash in the ditches.

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	<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.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk