

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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August 16, 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, August 16, 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: Absent

Town Clerk: Absent

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 Wright and seconded by Alderman Turner that the agenda be amended to remove Agenda Item 11G, the Town Clerk's report, from 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 Alderman Bell 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 Bell 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

The monthly bills could not be presented as the Town Clerk was absent from the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ORDINANCE 07-2021-01: RULES AND FEES FOR USE OF TOWN RECREATIONAL FCILITIES

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to pass ORDINNACE 07-2021-01 as written. 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.

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: LMA CONNUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mayor Draper announced that Simmesport, once again, won the 2021 Louisiana Municipal Association Community Achievement Award. Mayor Draper and Alderman Bell accepted the award at the LMA State Convention on July 31, 2021. The Award was for Outstanding Community Improvement in Basic Services.

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 leas-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	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____

The resolution was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLECO POWERWISE PORGRAM

Councilwoman Kennedy introduced Miss Katie, from Cleco to talk about a residential and commercial program to improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses. Through this program, you can request Cleco-approved contractors to come to your home and do an energy audit. Some improvements to your home, such as weatherizing, AC/Heating improvements, thermostat upgrades may be eligible for rebates when you have them installed. To see the full program you can go the website www.cleco.com/energyefficiency and peruse the details. Or you can call 833-373-6842. Also, you can go to the Simmesport website (www.simmesportla.com) and see a copy of the Power Wise brochure.

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. Mayor Draper informed the Council that Meyer & Meyer, our engineering firm, and Mr. Jeremy Hebron have been working on a project for the Town now that we are back in compliance. Mayor Draper said he would have more information on that project by next meeting.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter told the Council that they had repaired 5-7 water leaks. He also told those assembled that the new tractor came in but there were some equipment problems such as the dump truck not running. He said that they had some people who were being quarantined with COVID and they were finally catching up on the grass. Alderman Bell said he would like to see some the holes dug for water leak repairs to be dressed and smoothed out. Mayor Draper asked the Council that if the work crews miss coming back and smoothing out holes to please call him or fill out a work order so the problem can be addressed.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith said Mr. Carter talked about the issues in his report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith said there was a house fire that was contained. He also said there were several emergency calls for people with breathing problems. He also said that the 911 Tour of the parish in remembrance of the tragedy will take place on Friday, September 10, 2021. Alderman Bell asked when does the Town flush the hydrants. Mr. Carter told the Council he has a regular flushing program. However, he said that because of years of unmarked water main installation, he cannot isolate parts of the town as he should. So there is a unique way the hydrants have to be flushed. Alderman Wright asked about pressure testing of the hydrants. Chief Smith said the fire department does pressure tests on the hydrants. A citizen asked why the department of health was testing our water. Mr. Carter said the Department of Health tests our water every month, and that test was not a special test.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin had an emergency to attend so Mayor Draper gave the police department report. He informed the Council that Officer Fayyaz started the police academy on Monday. Chief sais he is working the vehicles and there are several investigations ongoing.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams was unable to attend the meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour was unable to attend the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12: COUNCIL REPORT

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux said his questions had been answered during the course of the meeting.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kennedy thanked Mr. Carter and the maintenance crew. She also said that there was a large pothole on Main St. and the multiple potholes on Hillside Dr. needed to be addressed, especially now that school was back in session and the busses were running. She also asked for speed bumps on Ehrhardt.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright said he would put in work orders for water leaks and other issues.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell he had no issues.

Alderman at Large

Alderman at large Romaro Turner said he had no issues to report.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DELEGATION TIME


No citizens had any issues to bring to the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

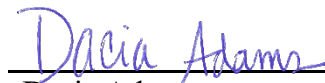
There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

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

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk