

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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November 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 Monday, November 8, 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, Patrick Wright

Members Absent: Romaro Turner

Town Attorney: Present

Town Clerk: Present

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Draper with Alderman Sherman Bell giving the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 4

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux that the agenda be accepted. 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 accept 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 Wright to approve payment of the November 2021 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: UPDATE ON SEWER PLANT UPGRADES

Mr. Charles Carter, Maintenance Superintendent, presented the planned upgrades to the Simmesport sewer plant. An additional grit chamber will be added to handle solids. Mr. Carter explained that the sewer pumping stations (a.k.a. lift stations) send sewer to the plant from homes and businesses. A chamber at the sewer plant then takes out the larger solids and the remaining sewage is then passed on to be further processed and treated. The new grit chamber will take out all solids and these solids will be disposed of at a certified landfill. Mr. Carter said this will require a dump truck or we will have to hire someone to haul it. The new grit chamber will not only be more efficient but will be able to handle more volume than the current system. Final engineering drawings will be sent to Sustainability Partners in December and then construction can proceed.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

Marcelin Joseph, our new rep from Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixon, Inc engineering was not present.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter, Maintenance Supervisor, told the Council and those assembled that they had been having a series of serious water leaks. This has taken up a lot of time. Mr. Carter also reminded citizens that sewer and water problems are the Town’s responsibility only up to the sewer tap and water meter. Mr. Carter also suggested that all customers make sure their sewer cleanouts are covered or capped. If left open, rainwater will get into the customer sewer system and cause backups. Further, Mr. Carter wanted to remind customers that the same applies to gas lines. The Town of Simmesport is only responsible for the line up to the gas meter. Anything past the meter, like a hot water heater or stove, is the responsibility of the customer. Mr. Carter also explained that the Water Boil Advisory was issued only for a section of the town affected by a water leak. Because the pressure in those certain lines fell below a designated level due to the water being cut off, the State makes the Town issue a boil advisory. The water was tested after the leak was fixed and all the tests passed Louisiana Department of Health standards. Mr Carter further explained that the brown water had nothing to do with the leak or the water boil advisory. He explained that the Town uses phosphates in our water system to keep rust inside the pipes from getting into the tap water. The phosphate pump was broken and needed to be repaired.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith said that the Town was still unable to pick up limbs until DEQ issued us a permit to burn. He asked that citizens do not pile limbs and debris up in the ditches as this will only exacerbate flooding problems.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith told the Council that the department had the fire rating exercises. This must be done every 5 years and is used to establish insurance ratings. Chief Smith also asked people to blow out their gas heaters before lightings them. Excessive dust and lint on the heater coils can be a fire hazard

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin told the Council that a total of 30 tickets were written resulting in 50 charges. Sixteen calls for service which that required reports. Ten juvenile arrests were made. . Seven adult arrests were made, five of which were felony arrests. Chief Firmin also reported Anthony Williams, a suspect in a shooting, was arrested. He also said that two patrol units were giving trouble but were being serviced. Chief Firmin thanked RISE, Alderwoman Kennedy and Alderman Gautreaux for participating in the Halloween activities in Ehrhardt Park. The Chief commented on how nice the event was.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk was absent.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour said that the turnout for Magistrate's Court last month was very good. He said there were several trials in the last court. A federal lawsuit filed against the Town of Simmesport was moved from the court in Baton Rouge to the Western District Court. Mr. LaCour said he completed his notice of liability for the 2019-2020 audit, which is one of the final steps in the audit process. From there, the 2020-2021 audit will begin.

AGENDA ITEM 9: COUNCIL REPORT

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux had nothing to report.

District 2 Report

Alderwoman Kennedy reported she had a few street lights out in her district.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright said he talked with Alderman Bell about getting pole numbers for out street lights in District 4. Mayor Draper said Cleco had changed many of the out lights with the newer LED bulbs.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell had no issues to report. Mayor Draper asked Mr. Carter about plans to change out the water lines on Lincoln St. Mr. Carter said he would have to get with the engineers because of there were multiple water lines, fiber lines and gas lines all in the same area. Mr. Cater also said they needed to find maps with cut-offs for various lines. Mayor Draper also reiterated that there was a time issue at play because Road District 2 is scheduled to resurface Lincoln Street in the spring.

Alderman at Large

Alderman at large Romaro Turner was absent.

Mayor Draper told those assembled that there were questions about the Christmas Parade. In light of safety concerns over violence in recent weeks, the Council decided not to hold the Christmas Parade.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DELEGATION TIME

A citizen complained about his high water bill.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk