

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREUX



DISTRICT II
TIESHA KENNEDY

DISTRICT III
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
ROMARO TURNER

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November 30, 2021 Special 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 Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 5:30 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, , Patrick Wright, Romaro Turner

Members Absent: Tiesha Kennedy

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 Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright 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 4: PROPOSAL FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

Mayor Draper explained that the first half monies the Town of Simmesport received through the American Rescue Act for COVID relief had been received. The Mayor told those assembled that a committee consisting of Alderman Bell and Alderwoman Kennedy met and came up with the idea of using some of the money for the utility department. Mayor Draper said that during the pandemic year, quite a few customers fell behind paying their utility bills. The committee came up with the idea of paying off the debt customers owed to the utility system during the pandemic and giving every customer \$150 credit on their future utility bill.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner that a \$150 credit be applied to each utility customer's bill from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. 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.

One of the recommendations of the committee was to pay off the utility debts incurred by customers during the pandemic. There were some questions about the legality of paying off debts; specifically, those that occurred before March 1, 2020.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright that the council will pay off the debt incurred by delinquent utility customers during the pandemic, the exact amount to be determined at a later 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Bell to purchase a sewer jetter. 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 Councilman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to purchase a 14-foot dump trailer. 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 Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to purchase two buildings to be used as restrooms for Erhardt Park and Yellow Bayou Park. 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.

Discussion was also had about purchasing radios for the police department. There was some question about whether the American Rescue Plan Act funds could be spent on radio communications. Mayor decided to table this discussion until more information could be obtained.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright add to amend the agenda and add item 5A, a proposal to lease/purchase two copy machines; one for the main office and one for the Police Department. 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.

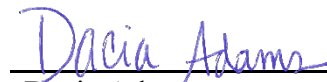
AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Turner to adjourn. 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.


 Leslie Draper, III
 Mayor


 Dacia Adams
 Town Clerk