

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAUX



DISTRICT II
TIESHA KENNEDY

DISTRICT III
PATRICK WRIGHT

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
ROMARO TURNER

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

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January 10, 2022 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, January 10, 2022, 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, Tiesha Kennedy, Patrick Wright, Glenn Gautreaux

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 Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright that the agenda be amended to add Item 7A, a home weatherization program. 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 Gautreaux that the agenda be amended to table Item 7, the audit compliance questionnaire. 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 that the agenda be accepted as amended. 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> X </u> |
| Alderman Wright | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

The motion was carried

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to accept the minutes of the prior meeting. 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> X </u> |
| Alderman Wright | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to approve payment of the November 2021 bills. 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> X </u> |
| Alderman Wright | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7A: WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Alderman Bell presented an application for citizens to participate in a home weatherization program. This program was discovered by District III Councilman Patrick Wright. If granted, a homeowner can have repairs and replacements made to their homes for free. This program is run through the Louisiana Housing Corporation. Applications for assistance can be found at <https://www.lhc.la.gov/hubfs/WAP%20Application%202021%20071921.pdf>. Or citizens can go to the Town of Simmesport home page (www.simmesportla.com) to download a copy of the form.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

Marcelin Joseph, was not present

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter, Maintenance Supervisor, told the Council that they had been fixing water leaks and cleaning ditches. Mr Carter also stated that at some point the Parish will need to be involved so that the drainage water can move out of town and into designated bayous and canals. Mr. Carter also said that issues with brown water in the water system were mainly due to a phosphate pump being down. The pump has since been replaced. Phosphate binds to the iron and magnesium in the water and keeps the water from taking on a brownish color. He also said the sewer plant needed some repairs and is operating at about 45% capacity.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith said that they are waiting for the ground to dry more before attempting to cut the tall weeds at Canadaville.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith told the Council that fire department would be hosting a Bingo and gumbo on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin told the Council that a total of 77 violations with 5 arrests made. Chief Firmin said that he replaced the tires on the Ford Explorer. Also, officer Jamshad Fayyaz graduated the police academy and is now fully POST Council certified. He also received the academy’s Staff Choice award for his dedication to his training. Councilwoman Kennedy also asked for a roster of police officers.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams told the council that the auditors were on site the past week. They scheduled for 3-days, but the on-site visit only required two days. The audit exit report should be ready by the end of the month. Mrs. Adams also said that occupational licenses were due and the application can be picked up at the Town Hall or can be down loaded from the Town of Simmesport’s webpage under the Town Clerk’s page.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour said that there was a productive court at the end of December with a good turnout. He also informed the council that the lawsuit that was outstanding was moved from Baton Rouge to the U.S. District Court in Lafayette.

AGENDA ITEM 9: COUNCIL REPORT

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux had no issues.

District 2 Report

Alderman Kennedy said she had no issues. Mr. Kennedy thanked the town workers for their handling of the low gas pressure situation.

District 3 Report

Alderman Wright had no issues.

District 4 Report

Alderman Sherman Bell had no issues.

Alderman at Large

Alderman at large Romaro Turner was absent.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DELEGATION TIME

No citizens had any comments or issues.

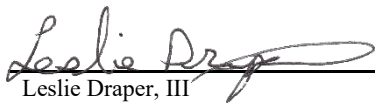
AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

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 Turner | | | X |
| Alderman Wright | X | | |

The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.


Leslie Draper, III
Mayor


Dacia Adams
Town Clerk