

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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February 16, 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 Wednesday, February 16, 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, Romaro Turner

Members Absent:

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 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy that the agenda be amended to add Item 8A, to add Police Jury member Jacob Coco to report on the status of road projects in town. 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 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		

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to amend the minutes from the January 10, 2022 meeting to conclude that Councilman Wright found the weatherization program presented by Alderman Bell in Agenda Item 7A. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux	X		
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		

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

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

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7: AUDITOR’S COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of the 2019-2020 audit, the Town of Simmesport must submit information in the form of a compliance questionnaire. This compliance questionnaire includes information about the Town and the makeup of the government.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to accept the 2019-2020 Compliance Questionnaire as presented to the council. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROJECT UPDATES

Mayor Draper said the restrooms for the parks had been ordered and they were waiting for the delivery. He also said that the Town would begin the process of renovating the community center. Regarding the renovating of the VFW Hall, Mayor Draper said he was waiting on the permit to finish the repairs and renovations. Plans had been submitted to the State Fire Marshall’s Office for review. Once those are okayed, we would have to apply for a permit with the Avoyelles parish Police Jury.

AGENDA ITEM 8A: POLICE JURYMAN JACOB COCO ROAD DISTRICT 2 UPDATE

Juryman Coco told the council that the process for permitting regarding the VFW would be to send the plans to the Fire Marshall’s office for plan review. Once this plan review is returned, the Town of Simmesport would send that Plan Review to the permitting office at the Police Jury office. Mr. Coco did say that the Town of Simmesport can create its own permit office that would bypass the Police Jury if that is the route the town would want to take. Mr. Coco informed the Mayor and Town Council that Road District 2 funds will be used to resurface Old La 1/Main St in town to the corporation limit. Also, Clark St and Lincoln St will be resurfaced. A small renovation of the Simmesport Library is planned to create a conference/community room that can be used for public meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 9: INTROCUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Chief Daniel Firmin introduced three new police officers. Officers Alex Bordelon, Adrianna Marsh and Erica Voorhies were introduced to the Town Council as new police officers.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

Marcelin Joseph, the Town Engineer, said he was pleased to see the Town advertisement for engineers so that the ARA finds can be used for engineering design and development.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter, Maintenance Supervisor, was called out to a severe water leak.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith was not present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith was out for training at LSU.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin told the Council he was pleased to have the first female officers in his department. He said that 50 tickets were written for a total of 59 violations. 17 reports were filed and a total of 9 arrests for the month. Chief Firmin also said there was an issue on Juneau St. where people were parking in the road and obstructing the lane of travel, He also thanked K&R Petroleum for a \$1,000 donation to the Simmesport Police Department. Chief also informed that as per the request from the previous meeting, a roster of officers was provided and should be in the Council folders.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams informed the council that new copy machines were ordered but due to supply chain issues, it is unclear when they will arrive. Mrs. Adams said the 2019-2020 was being completed and that either this month or next that audit will be complete. She also said that we are also working on the 2020-2021 audit to bring us back into compliance.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Attorney LaCour said that there was one arrest made for failure to pay fines. Mr. LaCour said that the court was very productive. He also said there was only one lawsuit that is outstanding. Mr. LaCour said that a tentative trial date was set for January 9, 2023. Attorney LaCour also stated that after reading the new guidelines from the Legislative Auditors Office on the use of the federal COVID Recovery monies, the money can be used for any purpose that a Town can use public funds for. Mr. LaCour said that he would check to see if or when the Town of Simmesport ceded its permitting authority to the Parish.

AGENDA ITEM 11: COUNCIL REPORT

District 1 Report

Alderman Glenn Gautreaux had no issues.

District 2 Report

Alderwoman Kennedy said she had no issues.

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.

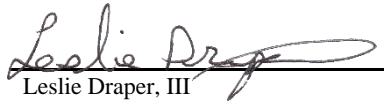
AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by 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 Turner	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk