

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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December 12, 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, December 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III
Members Present: Sherman Bell, Glenn Gautreaux, Tiesha Kennedy, Patrick Wright
Members Absent: Romaro Turner
Town Attorney: Present
Town Clerk: Present

AGENDA ITEM 1,2,3: CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Leslie Draper, III called the meeting to order and Alderman Sherman Bell gave the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilwoman Kennedy to accept the agenda as presented. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux that the minutes from the last meeting be accepted. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR NOVEMBER

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to delay paying the bills pending a correction on the list of bills presented to the council. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR DECEMBER

A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to delay paying the bills pending a correction on the list of bills presented to the council. 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 8: WILBERT CARMOUCHE, AVOYELLES COMMISSION OF TOURISM

Mr. Wilbert Carmouche, head of the Avoyelles Commission of Tourism, addressed the Council and those present. Mr. Carmouche introduced a new media campaign and slogan for Avoyelles parish. "Avoyelles , Centre de la Louisiane" which means Avoyelles, The Center of Louisiana. Mr. Carmouche gave a sign to put in the ground to market the slogan.

AGENDA ITEM 9: UTILITY TRIALER PURCHASE

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to purchase a utility trailer from Circle M Trailers for \$6,500. 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 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ENGINEER

A representative from Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson was not present.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Charles carter gave an update on the water system and Simmesport’s actions to comply with all DHH regulations. Mr. Carter also said that the lift stations needed to have two pumps each and currently only one lift station has two functioning pumps. He also informed the council that he is currently in the process of getting quotes for an inspection of the water tower. Mr. Carter also told those present that now that the Town will have a new utility trailer, they can safely carry the track excavator to water leaks and begin repairs on them.

SEWER PLANT

Mr. Carter said that the plant is functioning normally. He did inform the council that he met on site with the engineers and construction crew about the upgrades to the plant. The upgrades are in the final stages of planning with construction to begin in February.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Dana Smith said that now that the grass has stopped growing, they are concentrating on potholes. He also informed the council that now they have a way to safely transport the excavator, certain drainage issues can be addressed as well.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith told those assembled there were no calls for fires in the month of November. There were several calls for medical help and the Fire department first responders came out until ambulances arrived.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Daniel Firmin gave an arrest and ticket report. He also informed the counsel that the police units are ageing and repairs are becoming more frequent.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams told those assembled that the final processes for the 2020-2021 audit had begun. The auditors hoped to be at the Town Hall in early January to put together the final components of the audit.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Town Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council that only one outstanding lawsuit remains to be litigated. He also said that Magistrate’s court went well and many people took care of tickets and fines.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DELEGATION TIME

School Board Member Rickey Adams reminded those present that the Avoyelles Parish Public Schools will be out for Christmas Holidays from December 22, 2022 to January 4, 2023. He wished everyone happy holidays.

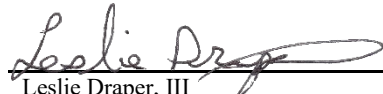
A group of concerned citizens, led by Ms. Jackie Watson, expressed sadness and concern about an incident involving a Council member. Mayor Draper, Attorney LaCour and Chief Firmin assured Ms. Watson, the family, and those gathered at the meeting that the incident was being thoroughly investigated.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux 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, and the meeting was adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk