

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 13, 2023 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, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III
Members Present: Sherman Bell, Glenn Gautreaux (**arrived late*), 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 JANUARY 2023 MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Kennedy that the minutes from the January 2023 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 JANUARY

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to pay the bills for January. 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 DECEMBER

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to pay the bills for December 2022. 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: PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

- No issues were brought to the Council by the general public.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ORDINANCE 01-09-2023 ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITIZENS OF SIMMESPORT

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to pass ORDINANCE 01-09-2023, ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITIZENS OF. 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 9: AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT RICKEY ADAMS

APSB Vice President Rickey Adams announced to those assembled that the Avoyelles Parish School Board won the US Department of Education’s Full-Service Community Schools grant. This grant, which will be shared between Riverside Elementary and Plaucheville Elementary, will fund a program \$2.5 million over 5 years to forge stronger connections between parents and the schools their children attend. Specifically, this grant provides funding to develop the capacity, infrastructure, and partnerships to improve and enhance the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for students, their families, and community members, ultimately providing a holistic pipeline of academic, social, and health services. An official announcement was made at Riverside and Plaucheville elementary schools. Mr. Adams wanted to commend all those who worked on the grant application.

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 many water leaks. He pointed out that the line on the side of College Dr. near Martin Luther King Dr. was especially problematic. There have been 23 water leaks repaired in the last 2 weeks.

SEWER PLANT

Mr. Carter said that the plant is functioning normally. Mr. Carter also informed the board that the upgrade to the sewer plant has begun. He said that the project to upgrade the sewer plant is planned to be completed and running by November 2023 assuming no delays.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Dana Smith said that they are working on water leaks, especially those under or near streets. All lawn mowers and weed eaters were sent to shops to be serviced for the upcoming grass season. New STOP signs came in and the brackets for the missing street signs will be installed soon. Mayor Draper told Mr. Smith to begin putting out the signs Friday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith told those assembled there were no calls for fires in the month of February. There were several medical calls. The SVFD is currently on delivery of a new fire truck.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Daniel Firmin gave an arrest and ticket report. Chief Firmin said 38 tickets were written and 17 reports filed in December. The wrecked unit was picked up from John Barr's Collision but there were still some mechanical issues with it. The new radars have been ordered and will be in at the end of the month.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Dacia Adams told those assembled that the final processes for the 2020-2021 audit had begun. The auditors will be on site at the Town Hall the last week of February.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

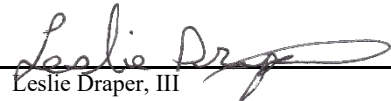
Town Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council that only one outstanding lawsuit remains to be litigated. Magistrate LaCour said there was a great turn-out for court.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADJOURN

There being no further business, 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	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