

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 09, 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, 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 Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux 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

Councilman Bell noticed an error on the December minutes. In the December minutes the paying of both the November and December bills was tabled because of possible errors in reporting the bills.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright that the minutes from the last meeting be accepted contingent on the correction of the minutes as it applied to tabling the paying the bills for November 2022 and December 2022. 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 Councilman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to pay the bills for November. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X		
Alderman Gautreaux	X		

Alderman 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 6a: 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	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>
Alderman Gautreaux	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>
Alderman 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 6b: PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR JANUARY**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Wright to pay the bills for January 2023. 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>
Alderman 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 7: PUBLIC COMMENT TIME**

- Mrs. Linda Cooper and Mr. Roosevelt Cooper, representing RISE, presented the idea of having an event celebrating Black History Month on February 18, 2023 in Yellow Bayou Park.
- A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to allow RISE to host an event celebrating Black History Month on February 18, 2023 at Yellow Bayou Park. 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>
Alderman 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.

- Police Chief Daniel Firmin expressed his thanks to the RISE organization for their certificate to the Simmesport Police Department expressing RISE’s thanks for its help during the Christmas event.
- School Board Member Rickey Adams asked all assembled to please use extra caution starting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 as schools were back in session.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to introduce ORDINANCE 01-09-2023, ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITIZENS OF SIMMESPORT and set a public hearing for this ordinance on February 13, 2023 at 5:30 PM. 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>
Alderman Kennedy	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                          </u>	<u>                          </u>

Alderman Turner	_____	_____	_____ X _____
Alderman Wright	_____ X _____	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilwoman Kennedy that the executive session should be moved until after the department reports on the agenda. 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: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to move the executive session to after the department reports. 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. During the hard freeze in December, there were multiple burst pipes and water leaks. People experienced lower than normal water pressure due to so many people running water all night during the freezing temps. Mr. Carter said a the second well pump was turned on and this filled the tower faster.

**SEWER PLANT**

Mr. Carter said that the plant is functioning normally. He said that the project to upgrade the sewer plant is scheduled to begin shortly and 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. An 811 call was put in to mark the leak on College Dr. A Simmesport police officer asked about putting up another city limit sign at the town entrance on Highway 105.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Daniel Firmin gave an arrest and ticket report. In December there were 23 calls for service, 30 tickets issued, 38 violations resulting in 9 arrests. Chief Firmin also gave a report on the police vehicles. He stated that 3 units needed control boxes for the lights and sirens. The recently wrecked unit is at John Barr's body shop and will cost \$4,299 to repair. Mayor Draper stated that since the insurance deductible on vehicles is \$2,000, the Town of Simmesport would pay for the repairs outright instead of filing an insurance claim. The chief also stated that the police units needed new radar systems and he found a deal for 3 radar systems for \$12,000. The Chief also stated the police station needed a new hot water heater and refrigerator.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to purchase the three control boxes for the lights and sirens in three police cars. 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.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to pay outright for the wrecked police car at John Barr's bodyshop. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to buy four radar systems for the police cars up to \$13,000. 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.

**TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk Dacia Adams told those assembled that the final processes for the 2020-2021 audit had begun. All the information asked for by the auditors was sent immediately.

**TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE**

Town Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council that only one outstanding lawsuit remains to be litigated. Magistrate LaCour thanked the police department for their help and especially clerk Nicole Schuyler.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to move into executive session. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to move out of executive session. 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  
The motion was carried.

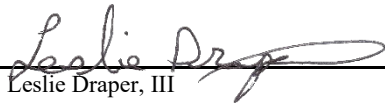
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**AGENDA ITEM 12: ADJOURN**

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