

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

372 Mission Dr  
P.O. Box 145

[www.simmesportla.com](http://www.simmesportla.com)  
townofsimmesport@simmesportla.com

Simmesport, LA 71369  
(318) 941 - 2493

March 20, 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, March 20, 2023, 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 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 Bell 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: PROPOSAL FOR VFW/BUILDING

Mayor Draper and Town Attorney LaCour presented an agreement to the Council for the Simmesport VFW's use of the Town-owned building on Norwood St. Attorney LaCour explained that the Town of Simmesport cannot give way property or services to anyone. An agreement was drafted and presented to the Simmesport VFW where the post would pay \$1 per year along with in-kind services for a term of 99 years. The post would also have to pay the utilities to the building and the insurance on the building. Mayor Draper said the post did not agree with this offer. A new offer was drafted by the Town of Simmesport whereby the Town would continue to upkeep the insurance on the building but this would not include the personal effects of the VFW.

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright that the Town of Simmesport offer the proposed agreement to the Simmesport VFW Post 7643. 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: PROPOSAL FOR SANITATION STATION**

Mayor Draper informed the council that he had finally secured someone to finish out the sanitation stations for the parks. Mr Alton Dupar was the only person who agreed to take the job.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to hire Mr. Alton Dupar to finish out the restrooms for Ehrhardt Park and Yellow Bayou Park. 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: PROPOSAL FOR POLICE VEHICLE/UNITS**

Mayor Draper and Chief Firmin found a program where the town could lease new police units for \$6,000 per year per vehicle. The provides for 32,000 miles per year and at the end of the year the vehicles are turned in and replaced with a new vehicle. The leasing agency is responsible for all maintenance with the exception of tire changes and routine oil and filter changes. Chief Firmin did add that each car would cost approximately \$7,000 to equip with lights, electronics, radios and cages. Those items can be removed and placed in the new units. Alderwoman Kennedy asked Mayor Draper if the budget would allow for this purchase. Mayor Draper assured the council that the budget could accommodate this especially since the current units are costing approximately \$2,500 per month for repairs.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to lease two SUV’s and a pickup for the police department under the above-mentioned lease agreement as well as outfit the vehicles for police use. 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 Wright that the agenda be amended to add Item 8a, the reaffirmation and reappointment of Mr. Andre to the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. 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 passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSAL FOR POLICE EMPLOYEES’ SALARY**

In order to retain officers and maintain a more stable police force, Mayor Draper proposed increasing the starting pay to \$14 to \$16 per hour, depending on experience and POST certifications, and to add the position of Assistant Police Chief at a rate of \$18 per hour. Mayor Draper added that the Chief’s salary was dictated by ordinance and would be addressed at a later date.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy that the pay for police officers be set at \$14 to 16\$ per hour and that an assistant chief would be paid at a rate of \$18 per hour. All those assembled voted as follows:

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

Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____
The motion passed.	_____	_____	_____

**AGENDA ITEM 8A: THE REAFFIRMATION AND REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. ANDRE WEBB AS SIMMESPORT'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION.**

Attorney LaCour explained that the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission makeup was changed by legislative to include a person appointed by the Mayor of Simmesport. Mr. Andre Webb was appointed in 2021 to represent Simmesport. Mayor Draper explained Mr. Webb's appointment was for two years and that Mr. Webb is reappointed to continue serving Simmesport.

A motion was made by Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy that Mr. Andre Webb be reaffirmed for the 2021 appointment to the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. 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 carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by alderman Wright that Mr. Andre Webb be appointed as the Simmesport representative to the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission for the term beginning July 2023. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____
Alderwoman Kennedy	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	_____	_____	X
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____

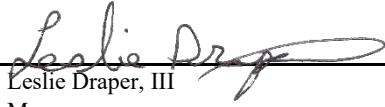
The motion was passed.


**AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright 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.

  
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 Leslie Draper, III  
 Mayor

  
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 Dacia Adams  
 Town Clerk