

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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April 11, 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, April 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Tiesha Kennedy, Patrick Wright, Glenn Gautreaux, Romaro Turner

Members Absent: Sherman Bell

Town Attorney: Present

Town Clerk: Present

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Draper with the Mayor 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 Alderman Wright that the agenda be accepted as is. 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 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux to accept the minutes from the March 14, 2022 meeting. 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 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to approve payment of the bills as presented by the Town Clerk. 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: MILLAGE RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to pass resolution 04-2022-01, a resolution to collect millage taxes for the Parish of Avoyelles. 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 8: PROPOSED UPGRADES TO HILLSIDE DRIVE

Mayor Draper told those assembled that Councilwoman Kennedy wanted to repair/resurface Hillside Dr. and erect school zone signs around Riverside Elementary School. She also said she would like to see speed bumps and speed limit signs put on Erhardt St. Town Attorney Kirk LaCour reiterated that the speed bumps would require an ordinance.

AGENDA ITEM 9: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE TRASH CANS FOR SIMMESPORT UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Alderman Wright put forth a plan for the Town of Simmesport to purchase and assign trash cans for all Simmesport utility customers with a water meter. Mayor Draper researched the feasibility of this plan and told the council it would require approximately 740 of the planned 96-gallon trash cans. Since the cans will be the property of the Town of Simmesport, they will be assigned to an address. Should the resident move from that address, the trash can is to stay at the address to which it was assigned.

A motion was made by Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to purchase the 96-gallon trash cans. 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 10: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO REOPEN THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Mayor Draper explained the need for Simmesport citizens to have a multipurpose building to hold events and gatherings. To that end, the Mayor proposed that the Town of Simmesport remodel and reopen the community center on Mission Dr.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to remodel and reopen the community center and to proceed to get quotes for the lowest bid. 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 11: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE COVID SHOTS

Mayor Draper related to the Council that Simmesport had the lowest vaccination rate in the Parish. To promote the vaccination for COVID-19, there will be a fish fry and vaccination drive on Friday, April 29, 2022. Mayor Draper would like the Town of Simmesport to put up \$1,000 to be raffled off

if you get vaccinated or get a booster shot. Town employees and council members are not eligible to win. During the discussion, Councilwoman Kennedy thought that \$1,000 was too much money.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to reduce the amount of the prize to \$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_____	_____

Mayor Draper cast the tiebreaking vote as NO.

The motion failed.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright that the Town of Simmesport give \$1,000 as a prize via random drawing to a person who was vaccinated or got their booster on April 29, 2022. The dynamics of the drawing to be controlled by the Town of Simmesport. All present voted as follows:

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

Mayor Draper cast the tiebreaking vote as YES.

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN ENGINEER

Marcelin Joseph, the Town Engineer was absent.

SEWER & WATER

Mr. Charles Carter, Maintenance Supervisor, informed those present that there were serious water leaks on Lincoln and College. The Maintenance crew was working to repair the lines but Lincoln St was proving to be a problem. Mr. Carter said that they would like to replace the entire water line along Lincoln, especially before the resurfacing occurs. Mr. Kevin Bordelon, of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, offered suggestions on running a tap across the road and offered to help Mr. Carter with the planning and/or process.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Town Maintenance worker Dana Smith said the two new zero-turn lawnmowers made a huge difference in cutting grass. He said the grass behind the community complex was still very wet and they would have to let it dry before attempting to but the grass there.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith informed those present that the Fire Department was waiting on the new Fire Truck. He also said they had a few emergency calls for medical help but no fires.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin told the Council and Mayor they had 19 reports, issued 32 citations and had 6 arrests in the prior month. Chief Firmin also thanked the Mayor and Council and said he appreciated the raise that was given to the police department.

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.

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: DELEGATION TIME

The Simmesport VFW chapter asked the Town if they could have roadblocks on Memorial Day (Saturday, May 28, 2022) and Veterans Day (Saturday, November 12, 2022). Without vote or objection the Council agreed to those two dates. Town Citizen Roosevelt Cooper commended the Town Council, the Mayor and the Town workers for all the progress they have made over the last years.

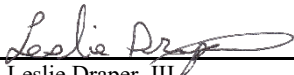
AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

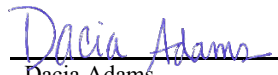
	YES	NO	ABSENT/ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Gautreaux	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderwoman Kennedy	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Dacia Adams
Town Clerk