

**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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**August 8, 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, August 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Tiesha Kennedy, Patrick Wright, Glenn Gautreaux

Members Absent: Romaro Turner, Sherman Bell

Town Attorney: Present

Town Clerk: Present

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

Mayor Draper 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 Councilman Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright to accept the agenda as presented . 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 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		
Alderwoman Kennedy	X		
Alderman Turner			X
Alderman Wright	X		

The motion was carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Bell to pay the bills. 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: UPDATE ON AUDIT**

Mayor Draper told the council that the 2019-2020 Audit had been completed and turned into the State Legislative Auditor’s Office. He told those assembled that work began immediately on the 2020-2021 Audit.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: UPDATE ON TRASHCAN DISTRIBUTIUN**

Mayor Draper informed the council that the trash cans would be distributed by town workers. The workers will hand out the address to each active water account with the Town of Simmesport. The trash can numbers will be recorded as the cans are distributed. Mayor Draper introduced resolution 08-08-2022, which detailed the distribution of the trash cans.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright to pass Resolution 08-08-2022. 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 8A: Y NOT STOP GAS CARDS**

Town Clerk Dacia informed the Council and Mayor that the Y Not Stop (Shell Station) will no longer allow employees to sign for gasoline purchases. The business will instead issue gas cards to commercial customers that will be used to purchase gasoline only. This change in store policy will begin July 1, 2022.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright to get the gas cards from the Y Not Stop station. All present voted as follows:

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

Alderman Gautreaux abstained because he worked for the parent company of the Y Not Stop stores. The motion was carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- A. TOWN ENGINEER- Not present**
- B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT- Charles Carter:** Mr. Carter informed the Council that the crew had been working several new water leaks. He also informed those present that the DHH violations were 90% solved in that 9 out of 10 violations had been satisfactorily addressed.
- C. SEWER PLANT – Charles Carter:** Mr. Carter also said there was movement on the sewer plant upgrades. The engineering firm will choose a final bid by the end of August and parts and equipment will be sourced. Mar. Carter did say that the inspector did cite that we need to put fans need to be placed in the chlorine room.

- D. STREET DEPARTMENT – Dana Smith:** Mr. Smith told the Council they had been working diligently to stay on top of grass cutting. They also had been addressing complaints about potholes and low-hanging trees. Road District 2 was also going to overlay several roads in Simmesport including Main St.
- E. FIRE DEPARTMENT – Dana Smith:** Chief Smith informed the Council and Mayor that the fire department will cook food for the VFW Car Show Labor Day weekend.
- F. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Daniel Firmin:** Chief Firmin informed the Council that there were 28 tickets issued for 57 violations. Three arrests were made and 14 reports were generated in the month of July. Chief Firmin also said that one of the patrol units was mixing oil with water.
- G. TOWN CLERK – Dacia Adams:** Mrs. Adams reported that the 2019-2020 audit was completed and work had begun on the 2020-2021 audit. Mrs. Adams said the Louisiana Municipal Association annual convention. The conventions were informative and very useful. Also, Mrs. Adams said the Town of Simmesport won another LMA Award for civic projects.
- H. TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE – Kirk LaCour:** Magistrate LaCour said the July court was successful and orderly. He said there was one outstanding lawsuit against the town that is being litigated in federal court. Attorney LaCour addressed the canceled July meeting saying it was rightfully canceled when COVID struck several Town of Simmesport employees. In regards to the attempted make-up meeting on July 26, 2022, Attorney LaCour said that since the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tempore was not present, and since the Town does not have an ordinance for a line of succession should those two events occur, canceling the meeting entirely was proper. Alderwoman Kennedy questioned this citing the Lawrason Act saying it gives the council members the authority to decide who will run the meeting. Attorney LaCour argued that once the meeting was officially canceled and the notice was published on the Town’s Facebook and webpage, to have a meeting would require a 24-hour advance notice to the public for the meeting to be legal. Attorney LaCour then suggested that an executive session be called to discuss matters with the council that fall under attorney-client privilege.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: EXECUTIVE SESSION (ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE)**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to move into executive session. 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 Wright and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to come out of executive session. 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 11: DELEGATION TIME**

No citizens had comment.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: JULY BILLS**

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderwoman Kennedy to add the payment of the July bills to 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.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Wright to pay the bills for July. All present voted as follows:

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

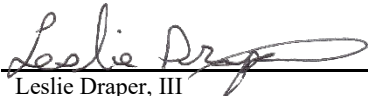
The motion was carried.


**AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy 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