

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III
PATRICK WRIGHT



ALDERMAN AT LARGE
ROMARO TURNER

DISTRICT II
TIESHA KENNEDY

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

372 Mission Dr
P.O. Box 145

www.simmesportla.com
townofsimmesport@simmesportla.com

Simmesport, LA 71369
(318) 941 - 2493

May 8, 2023 Special 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, May 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III
Members Present: Glenn Gautreaux, Patrick Wright, Romaro Turner
Members Absent: Sherman Bell, Tiesha Kennedy
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 Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to amend the agenda to add item 8A, the appointment of the Town Clerk. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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 Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux accept the minutes as presented. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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

Mayor Draper gave an update on questions about bills from the last meeting, especially those that were in arrears. Many of those past due bills have been brought current. The Mayor did say that there was a past due amount with Cleco and a meeting was scheduled with a Cleco representative to discuss those past due amounts.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to pay the bills. All present as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alderman Bell				X

Alderman Gautreaux	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderwoman Kennedy	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Alderman Turner	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Alderman Wright	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Mayor Draper informed the Council that he finally obtained the contract paperwork from DOTD so that the Town of Simmesport can get paid for cutting grass along the highway. The Mayor also said he received paperwork from the Humane Society. Someone reported the conditions of the dog pen after a heavy rain. The Humane Society wants to form a working relationship with the Town to keep the dogs safe and healthy. Mayor Draper also said someone called the Fire Marshall about the bathrooms in the parks. Mayor Draper said that the Fire Marshall wanted a written plan which was sent. He also said the splash pad is well on the way to being finished with the concrete poured and finished.

AGENDA ITEM 8A: APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Mayor Draper put forward Mrs. Jalesia Batist for the position as Town Clerk.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Wright to confirm the appointment of Mrs. Jalesia Batiste as Town Clerk. All present voted as follows:

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

The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM 9: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 05-2023-01 REDISTRICTING PLAN

There were two plans (maps) up for discussion. The two plans are very similar.

A motion was made by Alderman Turner and Seconded by Alderman Wright to introduce Ordinance 05-2023-01 featuring redistricting plan A (*see attached map*) and set a public hearing for June 12, 2023 5:30. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: DANA SMITH

Mr. Smith said that all water leaks were fixed with the exception of the line crossing a bayou between North Martin Luther King Dr. and Clark St. Mayor Draper said that he spoke with Police Juror Jacob Coco and the police jury may be able to help repair that line.

SEWER PLANT

Mr. Carter said the additions and upgrades to the sewer plant are still planned to begin in July. He also reported that heavy rains will cause the sewer system to overload and people may experience slowly flushing toilets.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Dana Smith said the crew is trying to keep up with grass cuttings between the rains and filling potholes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dana Smith told those assembled that Fire Department's annual chicken dinner and Bingo went well. He also said that the new fire truck will be delivered in September.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Daniel Firmin said there were 63 tickets written resulting in 94 violations 25 reports filed with 6 arrests. \$6,837.10 were collected in fines. He also reported that two cars were down, one with a crankshaft bearing.

TOWN CLERK

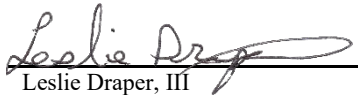
Jalesia Batiste told the Council that the office staff has really been concentrating on delinquent utility accounts and completing the cutoff list. Mrs. Batiste also said she has been in communication with all of the vendors, that she is aware of, that we owed money to. Day-to-day operations have returned to normal as Mrs. Batiste settles into the role of Town Clerk.

TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

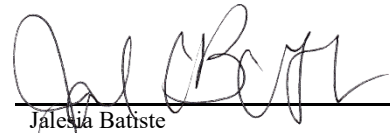
Town Attorney Kirk LaCour informed the council there are still two lawsuits with one negotiating a possible settlement. The other is in discovery although a motion for summary judgement has been filed on some issues. Attorney Lacour said that the Magistrate Court is running well and attendance is up.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Bell to adjourn. All present voted as follows:
The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III
Mayor



Jalesia Batiste
Town Clerk

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

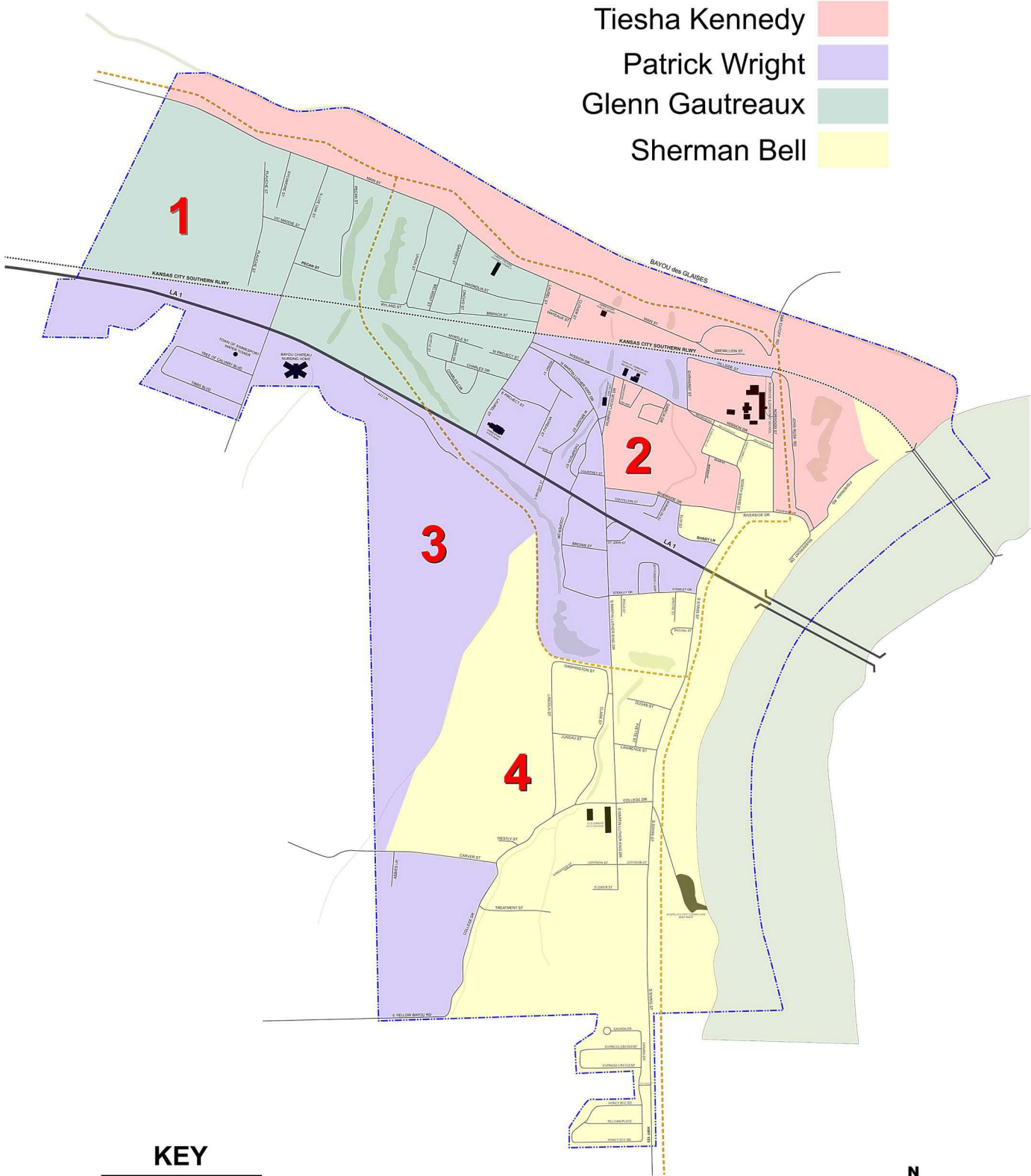
ALDERMAN DISTRICTS

Tiesha Kennedy 





Patrick Wright 

Glenn Gautreaux 

Sherman Bell 



KEY

Town Boundaries	
Levee	
Roads	
Waterways	

PLAN A

