

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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March 11, 2024 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III
Members Present: Sherman Bell, Glenn Gautreaux, Patrick Wright
Members Absent: Romaro Turner, Tiesha Kennedy
Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour
Town Clerk: Jalesia Batiste

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 Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux to approve 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 passed.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilwoman Gautreaux accept the minutes from the January 8, 2024 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 passed.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR JANUARY 2024

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bell and seconded by Councilman Wright to pay the bills for January as posted. 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: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 03-2024-01: WATER RATES

The ordinance to increase the water rates for the Town of Simmesport was introduced. There was some discussion about commercial rates, however, it was decided this issue could be addressed by amending the ordinance at a later date. To allow for 30-day time for public inspection, the Council decided to move the April meeting to April 15, 2024 at 6 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright to move the regularly-scheduled Simmesport Town Council Meeting to Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6 PM. 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.

It was decided to hold the public hearing on Ordinance 03-2024-01 on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM. This will gather public comments on the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilman Wright to hold a public hearing on Ordinance 03-2024-01 on April 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM. 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 8: PUBLIC COMMENT

The Simmesport VFW Post presented a plaque to the town in thanks for the Town’s unwavering support for the VFW. The Post also asked for permission to secure Yellow Bayou Park during Labor Day weekend for the Annual Car Show. The VFW wished to rent the park from August 31, 2024 to September 2, 2024.

A motion by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilman Wright to allow the Simmesport VFW use of Yellow Bayou Park from August 31, 2024 to September 2, 2024 for their annual car show. 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: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dana Smith reported that the lawn mowers were being serviced in anticipation of grass season. A citizen notified Mr. Smith that the stop sign on Carver was leaning and needed to be straightened. The VFW also asked the culvert be taken up near the VFW building. Mr. Smith informed the Council that he and clerk Tyriana Fredrick attended training to become certified gas operators. They are both qualified to perform all covered tasks on gas distribution systems and the installation of mechanical fittings. This fulfills the obligations by us for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the governmental agency who oversees and inspects gas systems.

B. SEWER PLANT

Mr. Charles Carter was absent.

C. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Cody Jackson was absent.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Firmin thanked the Tunica-Biloxi tribe who recently made a contribution to the Police Department.

E. TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Jalesia Batiste said daily deposits were being made. She told those assembled that the move to using QuickBooks was well on the way and account reconciliations were nearly complete.

F. TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

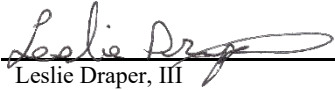
Magistrate LaCour said there was a great turn out to city court last month. The only outstanding lawsuit was the MPERS and there was no movement on that one.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT


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.



 Leslie Draper, III
 Mayor



 Jalesia Batiste
 Interim Town Clerk