

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 15, 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, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III

Members Present: Glenn Gautreaux, Patrick Wright, Tiesha Kennedy

Members Absent: Romaro Turner, Sherman Bell, Administrator Joel Robideaux, Town Clerk Jalesia Batiste

Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour

Town Clerk: Jalesia Batiste

Fiscal Administrator: Joel Robideaux

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 Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright 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 MARCH MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright 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 Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Wright to pay the bills for March as posted. All present voted as follows:

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

The motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT

Representing R.I.S.E., Ms. Marsha Strong and Mrs. Jennifer Gautreaux presented Councilwoman Tiesha Kennedy with a plaque celebrating National Women’s Business Month.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ORDINANCE 03-2024-01

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Wright to bring forward Ordinance 03-2024-01. During discussion a motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Wright that the master meter at the Scallan Apartments (2171 South Live Oak St) be removed, and the two apartments will be charged via their usage according to the meters there. 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 amendment passed.

Also, during the discussions a motion was made by Councilman Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright that a second amendment to the ordinance be made to increase the monthly rate of the Shenandoah Apartments to \$1,357.55 per month. All Present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 2 passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Wright for a third amendment to Ordinance 03-2024-01 stating that the Simmesport Square Apartments pay a commercial rate according the usage as read by the existing meter for the apartments and the existing meter on the washateria. All present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 3 passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux for a fourth amendment to Ordinance 03-2024-01 stating that the flat rate for the Simmesport Housing Authority be abolished and the Simmesport Housing Authority be charged the commercial rate for their usage as measured by the existing meter. All Present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 4 passed.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux for a fifth amendment to Ordinance 03-2024-01 stating the flat rate to the Jeansonne Trailer Park be abolished and that the Jeansonne Trailer Park pay the commercial rate for water usage as measured by the existing meter. All present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 5 passed.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux that a sixth amendment to Ordinance be added setting the Commercial Rate for water usage at \$20.00 for the first 2,000 gallons used and \$4.50 for every 1,000 gallons used thereafter. All present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 5 passed.

A motion was made by Councilman Gautreaux and seconded by Councilman Wright that Ordinance 03-2024-01 be passed as amended. All present voted as follows:

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

Amendment 03-2024-01 was passed as amended.

A spontaneous discussion broke out about customers illegally using utilities. Attorney LaCour stated the process is a statement is to be made, a citation is issued to the customer and they will appear before town court. If the meter is damaged in anyway, they can be charged with damaged to Town property.

AGENDA ITEM 9: SIMMESPORT CENTENIAL

Mayor Draper informed those assembled that 2025 will be the 100th anniversary of Simmesport’s incorporation. Simmesport was first incorporated as a village and then as a town. Mayor Draper wants to begin planning for some type of town-wide celebration of the event.

AGENDA ITEM 10: MAYOR’S UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy informed those present that she was working with the Red Cross on a program to install smoke detectors for people in Simmesport. Local people would provide the labor. The date will be announced. Councilwoman Kennedy said that the Red Cross would have a list of people from a sign-up and the Red Cross along with volunteers would provide the actual installation.

Mayor Draper also reminded the Council about their state Ethics Training if they have not completed it. Also, Mayor Draper told the Council that they needed to get a date for the opening of the Splash Pad.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dana Smith reported that the lawn mowers the maintenance department has begun cutting grass and repairing water leaks. Councilwoman Kennedy asked about pothole repair. Mayor Draper said the Parish would be coming back with their repair truck in the near future.

B. SEWER PLANT

Mr. Charles Carter was absent.

C. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jackson had a family emergency so another volunteer fireman stepped. Their annual chicken BBQ is slated for May 5, 2024 with plates selling for \$12. The representative said that they were waiting on the fire marshal for approval to hand out smoke detectors. The new fire truck is also slated for delivery in the second half of the year.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Clerk Nicole Schuyler informed the Council that officer Craig Lee is to graduate from the Lafourche Police Academy tomorrow. Officer Christian Maloid is scheduled to attend the same academy starting May 6th. There was a total of 36 tickets for March, 63 violations. There were \$8,194.50 in tickets and fines paid.

E. TOWN CLERK

Mr. Rene Whitmore filled in for Jalesia Batiste. He reported that the Town was nearly fully integrated with Quickbooks and they are very close to direct deposits. Mr. Whitmore reported they had been working with the Administrator in getting information out to vendors for insurance quotes in hopes of getting reduced rates.

F. TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE


Magistrate LaCour said there was a great turn out to city court last month. Mr. LaCour said that legislation has been introduced to limit MPERS from demanding back pay to 2013 and reduce that to 3 years. The Fiscal Administrator’s initial report was submitted to the district court.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderwoman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux 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