

**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](http://www.simmesportla.com)  
townofsimmesport@simmesportla.com

Simmesport, LA 71369  
(318) 941 – 2493

**May 13, 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, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper, III

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

Members Absent, 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 Bell and seconded by Councilwoman Kennedy to amend the agenda to add Item 7A, a project to install fire alarms. 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 passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kennedy and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux accept the minutes from the April 15, 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 APRIL 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
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 7A: FIRE ALARMS

Councilwoman Tiesha Kennedy told those assembled that the Red Cross was offering free smoke alarms for those who wanted them. She said those wanting a smoke alarm need to sign up. She also asked for volunteers to help install smoke detectors in the homes. Councilwoman Kennedy also said the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department would assist. The Red Cross would be in Simmesport on May 18, 2024 from 8 AM to 1 PM.

#### AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

##### A. UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dana Smith was absent.

##### B. SEWER PLANT

Mr. Charles Carter told the council the pumping stations were continuing to be a problem. He also noted that during heavy rains the rainwater can overwhelm the sewer system and cause slow flushing in toilets.

##### C. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jackson was absent.

##### D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Firmin notified the Town that he was resigning as Chief of Police of Simmesport. He thanked the Council, Mayor Draper for giving him the opportunity to serve the people of Simmesport.

##### E. TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Jalesia Batiste told the Council that there was one new business registered, LA 1 Food Company. Also, the Family Dollar/ Dollar Tree has opened. Mrs. Batiste informed the Council about an incident with a customer who came to argue about a bill and actually came back into the office. This person actually left the office and came back in. This frightened many in the office and employees did not feel safe. An officer was called to escort the customer out. Mayor Draper was upset that his staff had to endure the incident and was working to pursue avenues to ensure the safety of personnel working for the Town of Simmesport.

##### F. TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

Magistrate LaCour said there was a great turn out to city court last month. There were no new lawsuits filed against the Town of Simmesport and only the MPERS issue remains outstanding.

#### ITEM 9: 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			

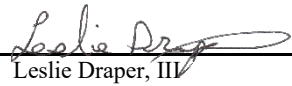
Alderman Turner

X


Alderman Wright

X

The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned.



Leslie Draper, III  
Mayor

  
Jalesia Batiste  
Interim Town Clerk