

TOWN OF SIMMESPOT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III
CHARLES DUPAR



DISTRICT II
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
PATRICK WRIGHT

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April 14, 2025 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Monday, April 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Ted Turner

Council Members Present: Glenn Gautreaux, Patrick Wright, Alvin Dauzat, Sherman Bell, Charles Dupar

Council Members Absent:

Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour

Town Clerk: Gwen Barr

Fiscal Administrator: Joel Robideaux

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

Mayor Ted Turner called the meeting to order and Alderman Bell gave the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Dupar and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to accept the agenda. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion was passed and the agenda was accepted as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dauzat and seconded by Councilman Wright to accept the minutes for the December Council meeting. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion was passed and the minutes accepted.

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AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Bell and seconded by Councilman Dauzat to pay the bills. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Marguerite Rusk thanked all those helped with the town clean-up on Saturday, April 12. She commended all those who came out and joined in the effort to clean up the town to celebrate the Lieutenant Governor's initiative to beautiful Louisiana.

Citizens who wished to rent the Yellow Bayou Park wanted to know why there was no water at the park. They said a family reunion was planned for the weekend. It was explained that the water at Yellow Bayou Park is provided through Bordelonville Water and it was currently cut off at Yellow Bayou. Fiscal Administrator Robideaux said he would call the Bordelonville Water System to see what the cost would be to have the water restored at the park. However, Mr. Robideaux told all present that it was his job to prioritize where money is to be spent as his overriding goal is to avoid the bankruptcy and possible unincorporating of Simmesport itself.

Brian Washington asked for permission to use the Senior Center for meetings with a youth group. He told those assembled that the group is designed to curb drug use and violence among young people. Mr. Washington said he will work in conjunction with the Simmesport Police, the judges and district attorney to initiate change.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RESOLUTION 04-2025-01: RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 MILLAGE RATE

A motion was made by Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderman Dupar to give pass Resolution 04-2025-01, a resolution to set the millage rates for 2025. Those present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 9: PORT COMMISSION MEETING ABOUT AMONIA PLANT AT PORT OF AVOYELLES

Mayor Turner wanted to discuss the possibility of an anhydrous ammonia production facility coming to the Avoyelles Port. According to La.R.S. 34:1801 the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission is made up of the following:

(2)The members of the police jury of Avoyelles Parish shall select two commissioners, the Town of Simmesport shall select one commissioner, the representative representing House District Twenty-Eight shall select one commissioner, and the senators representing Senate District Twenty-Eight and Senate District Thirty-Two shall, collectively, select one commissioner. Each commissioner shall be domiciled in Avoyelles Parish.

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Further, section four of the law allows for the Mayor or his designee to be a non-voting member of the commission:

(4) The mayor of Simmesport or his designee, who shall be a member of the board of aldermen of the town of Simmesport, shall be an ex-officio nonvoting member of the commission.

At present the current Avoyelles Parish Port commission consists of the following members:

Name	Address	Appointed By
vacant	N/A	Mayor of Simmesport/non-voting
Jason Bordelon	Cottonport, LA	Daryl Deshotel & Heather Cloud
Patrick Deshotels	Plaucheville, LA	Daryl Deshotel
Christopher LaCour	Moreauville, LA	Avoyelles Police Jury
Andre Webb	Simmesport, LA	Town of Simmesport
Scott Williams	Effie, LA	Avoyelles Police Jury

The commissioner selected by the Town of Simmesport, Andre Webb, was not present at the Town Meeting. Administrator Joel Robideaux informed everyone that Simmesport's police jury member, Jacob Coco, did say a meeting about the plant was to take place on April 28 at the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury parish barn in Mansura. Alderman Alvin Dauzat asked about the possibility of the Town of Simmesport annexing the port property into the city limits. Town Attorney Kirk Lacour, commented that the property needed to be surveyed and there would be a cost. Attorney LaCour said he got prices of approximately \$15,000 to survey the property. Mr. LaCour stated that his opinion is to wait and see if there are any tax abatements it would not be worth the cost of the survey. Councilman Wright asked if the Town needed to appoint who is a member to the board. Town Clerk told those assembled that Mr. Andre Webb is the Town of Simmesport's voting member, but Mayor Turner can be the non-voting member or appoint someone to be his designee. Attorney LaCour commented that it was too early for the Town to be concerned about the ammonia plant as no decision had been made on its construction. Administrator Robideaux voiced that with the non-voting member being a member of the council, at least the council would have knowledge about what was happening at the port. Mayor Turner said he would appoint Councilman Alvin Dauzat to be his designee. Attorney LaCour immediately commented that the Council would have to approve the appointment. Attorney LaCour stated that a motion to amend the agenda had to be passed by unanimous consent to add a resolution to appoint a councilman as the Mayor's designee stated in the law written above.

A motion was made to amend the agenda by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Dauzat to add the Mayor's appointment of the ex-officio member of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Those present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion passed and was added to the agenda as Item 9a.

AGENDA ITEM 9a: APPOINTMENT OF ALVIN DAUZAT AS THE MAYOR'S EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION

A motion was made by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Dauzat to appoint Councilman Alvin Dauzat as the Mayor's ex-officio member of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. A local citizen voiced opposition to Councilman Dauzat's appointment as she felt the appointment should go to Councilman Bell.

A motion was made by Councilman Dupar and seconded by Alderman Wright to table the issue of the Mayor's ex-officio appointment to the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____	_____

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Alderman Gautreaux	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dauzat	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Dupar	X	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Wright	X	_____	_____	_____

The motion passed and the issue was tabled.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Joel Robideaux

Mr. Robideaux gave the basis of his report during the public discussion.

B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS

Dana Smith said with the company installing fiber optic lines have hit several water lines. The repairs have been made but there may be more as the project continues. Mr. Smith also informed the council that the bush hog was scheduled to be repaired.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

Absent

D. ENGINEERS: MEYER, MEYER, LaCROIX & HIXON, INC.

The engineer present said he found a map from 2011 showing existing water lines and cut-off valves. A citizen asked about the breaking of water lines and who will pay for them. Town Clerk Gwen Barr said the town is keeping track of each break and repair and will get with the company doing the boring to talk about restitution.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dana Smith said the annual fire department fund raiser BBQ dinner was coming up.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Fayazz said the department now has 5 police units running now. He said there were 53 citations written. He also reported that the server for the ticketing system was being repaired so he did not have a more detailed report. Chief Fayazz also said the department was fully staffed.

G. TOWN CLERK

Ms. Barr gave the council a list of bills that have been paid along with the bills that have not been paid. Ms. Barr noted that the bill to LMGA(Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority) has not been paid since 1/25/2022. She noted the bills that had been paid as well as those that had not been paid. Ms. Barr also said she received notice from the bank that financed the John Deere tractor the bill had not been paid. Ms. Barr contacted the bank and negotiated a lower monthly payment. Ms. Barr said we owe approximately \$21,000 on the tractor. Alderman Bell said he thought the Council had voted to pay off the tractor under the previous administration. Ms. Barr informed the council that several citizens were caught stealing utilities, Some customers had their meters locked and cut the locks off to turn their utilities back on. On those customers, the meters were pulled out of the ground. One customer without a meter actually ran pipe from the service line to bridge the missing meter in order to steal water.

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TOWN ATTORNEY/MAGISTRATE

N/A

ITEM 12: ALDERMAN REPORTS

- A. **District 1: Glenn Gautreaux** Mr. Gautreaux expressed his appreciation for all who joined in the Save the Boot program to help clean up the Town.
- B. **District 2: Alvin Dauzat** Councilman Dauzat commended the clean-up effort. He also said there was a water leak in front of the school that needs to be repaired. He also said the maintenance crew needs to not let the grass and weed growth get out of hand.
- C. **District 3: Charles Dupar** Mr. Dupar said he noticed the house at 216 Laurel had sewer running into the ditch. Attorney LaCour said that there was an ordinance against such things and creating public health hazard can be taken to court.
- D. **District 4: Sherman Bell** Mr. Bell said on College Dr. near the bayou college seems to be collapsing. He also said there was a water leak on his property that has been there for some time.
- E. **District 5: Patrick Wright** Alderman Wright thanked Brian Washington for getting offenders from the Sheriff's Office to help clean up the parks.

ITEM 11: 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.

Ted Turner
Ted Turner
Mayor

Gwen Barr
Gwen Barr
Town Clerk