

# TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I  
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III  
CHARLES DUPAR



ALDERMAN AT LARGE  
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT II  
ALVIN DAUZAT

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

## June 9, 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, June 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Ted Turner

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

Council Members Absent: Joel Robideaux, Sherman Bell

Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour

Town Clerk: Gwen Barr

Fiscal Administrator:

### 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 Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Wright to amend the agenda by adding item 7A, hours of operation for both town parks. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Wright to amend the agenda by adding item 7B, restricting heavy truck traffic through the Town of Simmesport. 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.

# TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I  
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III  
CHARLES DUPAR



ALDERMAN AT LARGE  
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT II  
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT IV  
SHERMAN BELL

A motion was made by Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to amend the agenda by adding item 7C, a resolution to empower the Mayor to enter into a settlement agreement with MPERS (Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System). 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.

Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderman Dauzat to amend the agenda by adding item 7D, a discussion of water leaks in town. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Dauzat 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 Dupar and seconded by Councilman Wright to accept the minutes for the May 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.

# TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I  
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III  
CHARLES DUPAR



ALDERMAN AT LARGE  
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT II  
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT IV  
SHERMAN BELL

## AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Gautreaux 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

Attorney LaCour asked the Council to make a motion to pass a resolution to limit public comment to 2 to 3 minutes. Attorney LaCour stated that this is common practice among other government bodies to move the meetings along.

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Dauzat to limit public comment to 3 minutes per person. 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.

Mr. Andre Webb said he did not agree with the 3-minute time limit. As port commissioner he reported that the proposed anhydrous ammonia point fell through because the company presenting it pulled out. Mr. Webb cited safety concerns, water use concerns, and concerns about who would eventually run the plant. Mr. Webb claims he had "dozens" of residents come to him to express concerns on certain issues. One of those concerns was about the rental of the parks, asking if the parks were public or not. Mr. Webb also brought up an issue about the price of traffic tickets, that they were too expensive. Attorney LaCour told those assembled that the Town of Simmesport adopted Louisiana Title 33 as the law for Simmesport and certain traffic violations, like seat belts, are defined by state law. Mr. Webb said the town did not have to adopt the state law. He also said many people asked about the outcomes of criminal investigations, citing several murders that remain open. Mr. Webb also complained about the partial cave-in on North Martin Luther King Drive.

Ms. Arlene Kirk asked why the meetings are not recorded. Mrs. Kirk was informed that all meetings were recorded on audio and are posted up on the Town of Simmesport website ([www.simmesportla.com](http://www.simmesportla.com)).

Ms. Deidra Mack asked if Mr. Webb was talking about the ammonia plant planned at the Port. Mr. Webb said, as a Port Commissioner, the company that was planning the ammonia plant and solar farm has withdrawn their plans to build at the Port of Avoyelles.

## AGENDA ITEM 7A: PARK HOURS

Alderman Alvin Dauzat brought up the possibility of assigning hours to the park. Ms. Tiesha Kennedy said an ordinance was passed assigning hours to the park. Attorney LaCour advised that he is reticent to endorse restrictions on the general public using public facilities. He said it would place an undue burden on tax paying citizens and he is always in favor of least restrictive means when making rules. Alderman Gautreaux noted that there have been instances of people sleeping in Ehrhardt Park. Attorney LaCour said those instances could be resolved through vagrancy laws.

# TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I  
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III  
CHARLES DUPAR



ALDERMAN AT LARGE  
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT II  
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT IV  
SHERMAN BELL

## AGENDA ITEM 7B: LARGE TRUCK TRAFFIC IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Alderman Gautreaux noted several incidences where large trucks and/or farm equipment pulled down wires in residential areas. Alderman Gautreaux said he would like to see some restrictions placed on those types of vehicles or equipment on residential streets. Alderman Dauzat noted that this was most trucks calling sugar cane. He also noted that the assigned route for the cane trucks is to use LA 451 and not the SB Cutoff through Simmesport. Police Juror Jacob Coco said they are required to take the state highway or Whitney Bernard Rd. Attorney LaCour recommended an ordinance restricting **through** traffic on large trucks. This would allow delivery trucks to businesses and homes but restrict large trucks from just passing through. Attorney LaCour said he would have to look into height requirements as that may affect residences.

## AGENDA ITEM 7C: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SETTLE THE MPERS LAWSUIT

Attorney LaCour stated that the Municipal Police Employees Retirement System (MPERS) has offered to settle the lawsuit it filed against the Town of Simmesport. A resolution is needed to authorize the Mayor to settle the lawsuit. The settlement amount will be paid out over a term. Attorney LaCour said he advised the Council that this is the best settlement Simmesport will get.

A motion was made by Alderman Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Dupar to pass a resolution authorizing the Mayor to settle the lawsuit with MPERS. 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 resolution passed.

## AGENDA ITEM 7D: WATER LEAKS

Alderman Wright wanted to know about the burst water lines caused by the boring company hired to install fiber optic lines. Town Clerk Gwen Barr said the leak is so bad the council would have to make a decision to cut the water for the night or leave the water on and turn on both pumps to try and keep the tower filled. Town maintenance worker told the Council that the leak was so large, the neighborhoods near the leak had little or no water pressure, but most of the Town has water pressure. It was decided to leave the tower running and let both pumps continue to pump water for the night. *(A main water line on Mission Dr. was ruptured on the morning of June 9. Workers were unable to isolate the leak and had to shut the water off at the water tower leaving the entire town without water. While town workers were repairing this leak, the boring company continued to drill and ruptured the same line in two more places. These two subsequent leaks were not discovered until 5 PM when the water was restored after the initial leak was repaired.)*

## AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Joel Robideaux

Administrator Robideaux was absent.

### B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS

Absent

### C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

Absent

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

Absent

# TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I  
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT III  
CHARLES DUPAR



ALDERMAN AT LARGE  
PATRICK WRIGHT

DISTRICT II  
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT IV  
SHERMAN BELL

## E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Absent

## F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Fayazz was in class at the state police chief's convention. Nicole Bonnette, the police clerk, said that cases were being worked on and patrols have been increased. She said that the roster of officers is now stable and the police department has a good crew working hard to keep the Town safe.

## G. TOWN CLERK

Ms. Gwen Barr said bills were being paid and as we get extra monies in, we are paying off arrears on past bills. Ms. Barr also said that the billing office has worked hard to get a handle on cut-off's and delinquent bills, noting that quite a few people who were cut off opted to enter into a payment agreement.

## H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Kirk LaCour said that the settlement of the MPERS lawsuit relieves a great burden from the Town of Simmesport. He also said there were no other lawsuits pending or filed against the Town. With regards to Magistrate Court, Attorney LaCour said there was good attendance at the last court date. With respect to blighted property, Mr. LaCour stated that Simmesport passed an ordinance addressing blighted property which can go through the police department and through Magistrate's court. Mr. LaCour also said he is aware of the complaints about the ticket prices. He said Simmesport compares with other municipalities and there is no list of mandated fines for specific offenses. He said \$300 is not the minimum fine, but is the Precourt fine for speeding plus \$135 in court cost that is set by the Louisiana Legislature. He also reiterated that police department has no quota system with regards to traffic citations.

## ITEM 12: ALDERMAN REPORTS


- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>A. District 1: Glenn Gautreaux</b> | Councilman Gautreaux had no issues to report.  |
| <b>B. District 2: Alvin Dauzat</b>    | Councilman Dauzat thanked the clerical staff and the maintenance crew for their hard work. |
| <b>C. District 3: Charles Dupar</b>   | Councilman Dupar had no issues to put forth.   |
| <b>D. District 4: Sherman Bell</b>    | Absent   |
| <b>E. District 5: Patrick Wright</b>  | Councilman Wright had no issues to put forth.  |


## ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Dauzat 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  
Mayor

  
Gwen Barr  
Town Clerk