

# 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

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## August 11, 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, August 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Ted Turner

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

Council Members Absent:

Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour

Town Clerk: Gwen Barr

Fiscal Administrator: absent

### 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.

Mayor Turner asked Police Chief Jamshed Fayyaz to introduce his new officers. He first introduced Michael Hullett who was a potential new hire. Chief Fayyaz said he was working as an officer for Cottonport and wanted to work here. Mr. Hullett was asked by Alderman Bell if he was certified to carry a weapon. Chief Fayyaz said he was not at present but the Town was going to get him certified. After a question by Mayor Turner, Mr. Hullett admitted he was not certified while working for Cottonport. Alderman Bell and Alderman Dauzat agreed that he should be qualified before he was hired. Also introduced was Officer Cody Barron who is POST certified and formerly worked in New Roads. Alderman Bell asked why he left and if he had been terminated from New Roads. Mr. Barron said he had a disagreement with the chief there and that he was terminated from New Roads. Chief Fayyaz said that Officer Barron has done a very good job. Alderman Bell asked if he was the officer who shot a woman with a TASER. Chief Fayyaz said he could not talk about that incident. Next, Chief Fayyaz introduced Officer Marcus Bullard and informed the Council that Mr. Bullard has been here for over a year but was not POST Council certified and that budget problems have prevented Simmesport from sending him to an academy. Chief Fayyaz said that officer Daryl Harrison had been here for nearly a year and we have not been able to send him to an academy either for the same reason. Chief Fayyaz said Mr. Harrison had extensive experience as a police officer in California. The chief said he had a few other officers but they could not make the meeting. Chief Fayyaz said that his only two full-time officers were Cody Barrone and Marcus Boullard.

### AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to approve 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.

### AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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	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.

## AGENDA ITEM 6: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Dupar and seconded by Councilman Wright 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

- An unidentified citizen asked if the grass could be cut on Laurel St along the railroad track.
- Danny Lemoine said his water bill was too high. Mr. Lemoine said he believes the meter was defective. Mr. Lemoine said he had been at the house for years and never had a leak.
- Another citizen asked for increased patrols on Clark St. because people are speeding on that road. He also asked if the water leak across the bayou could be fixed.
- Another citizen complained about low water pressure on Moreau St. She asked that the problem be fixed at 202 Moreau St.
- Deidra Mack asked if sidewalks could be put along Martin Luther King south of Highway 1. She also reported a gas leak on Riverside and MLK.

## AGENDA ITEM 8: HOURS FOR EHRHARDT PARK

Alderman Alvin Dauzat proposed hours for Ehrhardt Park to keep the park safe. Mr. Dauzat proposed a sun-up to sun-down time frame. A motion was made by Alderman Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Wright to propose an ordinance to restrict the use of Ehrhardt Park to the hours of sunrise to sundown. During subsequent discussions Town Attorney Kirk LaCour said there may be constitutional issues with restricting the hours on public land. Alderman Dauzat said believed other towns and cities put hours on their parks. Attorney LaCour said that if he were a tax-paying citizen and wanted to walk in the park at 1 AM he felt he should be able to do so. Attorney LaCour said that the Town of Simmesport needs to show a compelling reason to restrict the use of the park. A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Dupar to table the issue until more information could be ascertained about the legalities of closing the park. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X			
Alderman Gautreaux	X			

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Alderman Dauzat	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>
Alderman Dupar	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>
Alderman Wright	<u>          X          </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>	<u>                  </u>

The motion passed and the issue was tabled.

## AGENDA ITEM 9: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Joel Robideaux

Administrator Robideaux said he was working with Attorney LaCour to work on paying back taxes. Mr. Robideaux also said that he is very close to finishing his analysis of income and expenditures so that he could present a meaningful budget. Once the Town had a budget in place, any deviation of 5% or more would require approval of the council. Mr. Robideaux said that once that budget is in place he would like to get back to the habit of showing the Council what the balance is on the delinquent accounts. He told those assembled that, with the exception of Sustainability Partners, all accounts are current and delinquent accounts are being sent money as we get extra. He stated that we are slowly paying the former accounting firm as we get money. One of our main goals to be able to get to a financial position where we can hire an accounting firm to perform the state required audits. Mr. Robideaux said he is still looking at the police department to see if it can become more self-sufficient. He told the Council that the Sheriff's Office was approached about taking over policing of Simmesport. The Sheriff declined. Mr. Robideaux said that technically, if he dissolved the police department, the Sheriff was technically obliged to cover Simmesport, however, with the town being on the edge of the Parish, he was worried about the practicality of the Sheriff taking over.

### B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS

Ms. Gwen Barr told those assembled that the pumps at the sewer lift stations are slowly failing. She said that a pump on Sycamore St. was replaced at a cost of over \$7,300. She also stated that the main left station on Elm St, off Riverside Dr., is in very bad shape but will be replaced next month at a cost of over \$8,000. Each lift station has two pumps and the Town will attempt to replace pumps as we get money. Ms. Barr also noted that because the Town owes the IRS back taxes, it is possible that, should we get a grant, the IRS could confiscate those funds to pay the back taxes. Ms. Barr said that our town attorney, Kirk LaCour, was working with the boring company putting in fiber optic lines to determine a system of payment for utility lines they break. When this agreement is reached, the boring company will be back to finish the job.

### C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

Absent

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

Absent

### E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Eric Rusk, assistant fire chief, said this was a rating year for insurance. As part of this rating system, the fire hydrants need to be tested. Mr. Risk said the fire department is willing to pay for the inspection, but they want to be held harmless if anything should break. Attorney LaCour said he thought the contractor had the agreement worked out, but some form could be reached with the fire department.

### F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Fayazz was absent. Andre Webb asked if there were hours for the police chief. Attorney LaCour said there were no set hours for the police chief. It was also asked if the chief was working another full-time job. Mayor Turner said the Chief told him he quit that full-time job.

### 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 said we still owe the former accountants \$15,000. We owed attorneys \$15,000 but we now owe them \$8,000, so the balances are decreasing.

### H. TOWN ATTORNEY

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Town Attorney Kirk LaCour said there are no new lawsuits at the moment. He also told those assembled that the MPERS lawsuit agreement was submitted in April and that he will seek a formal dismissal of the lawsuit. Mr. LaCour asked that people contact the courts about legal issues and find out all the facts before stating inaccurate facts in a public forum. A citizen asked about the absence of the Chief. Attorney LaCour said the Chief was at a Chief's conference in Baton Rouge. Alderman Bell asserted that every prior Chief had set hours. Attorney LaCour said he has not found any ordinances stating set hours for the Chief. Mr. LaCour said that demanding the Chief be here 24/7 is against federal labor laws.

## ITEM 10: ALDERMAN REPORTS

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

## 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			
Alderman Kennedy	X			
Alderman Turner	X			
Alderman Wright	X			

The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

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Ted Turner  
Mayor

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Gwen Barr  
Town Clerk