

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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October 10, 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, October 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Ted Turner

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

Council Members Absent: **Sherman Bell**

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.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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	

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

The motion was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Eric Rusk, representing the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department, distributed the results of the fire hydrant testing. He said the hydrants were marked and of the 150 hydrants, only 27 had no flow. He also said this testing did not diagnose why these hydrants were not functional. This would for the Town to do since they own the meters. He also said they had 9 fired and 9 medical calls during September. He also asked that the Fire Department be allocated 2 more trash cans since they let their dumpster go.
- A citizen asked permission of the Council to use the senior center for a gender reveal party from 3 PM to 6 PM. The Council agreed to the use of the building.
- Councilman Wright wanted a trash can to be placed at the basketball courts at the port. The Council agreed.
- A citizen asked about a fatality where a citizen was hit by a train. The citizen said the report from the former chief was that the person was killed by the train, but the citizen said he contacted the railroad and they know nothing about it. He wanted to know what the outcome of the investigation was.
- Shayne Whitmore asked when the fiscal administrator was going to present a budget, something that has not happened in two years. Town Clerk Gwen Barr said they were working diligently to present a budget for the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8: FIRMIN FAMILY CLINIC DESIRE TO BUY TOWN OF SIMMESPOT PROPERTY

The Firmin Family Clinic approached the Town Council seeking a notice of intent to buy a small piece of Town of Simmesport property that is directly adjacent to their clinic. The property is approximately 0.2 acres on Louisiana Hwy 1 adjacent to and west of 16104 HWY 1. Clerk Gwen Barr said the property would have to be appraised. Attorney LaCour said the property would not have to go up for bid as long as it is sold for fair market value. The fiscal administrator would then determine if the appraisal meets fair market value.

A motion was made by Alderman Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Wright for the Town of Simmesport to proceed with the steps necessary for The Firmin Family Clinic to buy the stated piece of land from 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	_____	_____	_____

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AGANDA ITEM 9: BARRY LEMOINE: LITTER ABATEMENT CONTRAECT WITH THE AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY

Barry Lemoine, the litter enforce agent for the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, addressed the Council about contracting him to enforce litter laws in the city limits of Simmesport. Because Simmesport is a town, he would need an intergovernmental agreement between the Police Jury and the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury for him to enforce litter laws in the city limit. He stated that an Avoyelles Parish Litter Court was formed using a justice of the peace in Hessmer to hold hearings/trials. Attorney Kirk LaCour stated that Simmesport has its own litter ordinances. Attorney LaCour said that Parish ordinances do not apply inside the city limits of Simmesport. The intergovernmental agreement would essentially adopt the Parish ordinances here in Simmesport. All fines and court costs would then go to the court in Hessmer and into a Parish fund. Attorney LaCour said they when a litter ticket is written within the city limits of Simmesport we already are obligated to send money to a litter abatement program. A citizen asked how would we get the blighted property the Police Jury owns in town cleaned up.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ORDINANCE 10-2025-02: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM HIRING STANDARDS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

An ordinance was introduced by Alderman Wright would establish minimum standards for hiring police officers. However, Attorney LaCour stated *“They (the Council) can pass any ordinance they want, none of it has legal authority over what he (the fiscal administrator) decides.”* Mr. Lacour further stated that *“these ordinances directly attempt to circumvent the authorities of the court-appointed fiscal administrator”*. Alderman Dauzat asked if the Town of Simmesport were to be sued, would the Mayor and Council be liable if the fiscal administrator made decisions causing the lawsuit. Attorney LaCour stated that the Mayor and Council had qualified immunity as long as they made competent decisions. Mr. LaCour further stated that the fiscal administrator has the authority to say the Town no longer exists. A citizen stated that the dissolution of the Town of Simmesport would require a vote of the citizens. Attorney LaCour said the Legislature could dissolve a town. Once again, Attorney LaCour informed the Council that any ordinance they attempted to pass that would violate Louisiana Title 39:1352 which states that any ordinance that seeks to control or dictate personnel, hire, fire, set standards for hiring and firing personnel would circumvent the fiscal administrator’s authority.

A motion was made by Alderman Wright and seconded by Alderman Dauzat to table all proposed ordinances (Ordinance 10-2025-02, 10-2025-03, 10-2025-04). 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 carried and the ordinance proposals were tabled.

AGENDA ITEM 13: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Joel Robideaux – absent

B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS

Mr. Dana Smith reported that the grass is dying back. He reported the water leak at the Y-Not Stop was repaired. He explained that when repairing leaks, the 811 system must be notified and the businesses with underground lines must be given at least 5 business days to come and mark their utility lines.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dana Smith told the Council that new sewer pumps were being installed at the sewer plant. These were the pumps that moved the treated water to the Atchafalaya River. Mr. Smith said the Town consulted with Delta Engineering and determined what type of pumps were needed.

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A citizen asked if the proposal that Delta Engineering is working on for the water leaks was available to the public. Ms. Gwen Barr informed her that the document was still in draft form and would be available when it was finalized. A discussion broke out about who was running the police department. Attorney LaCour said that the Mayor was over the police department and Mrs. Nicole Bonnette was handling the day-to-day administrative work.

D. ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING

Not Present

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Not Present

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Not Present

G. TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Tonya Terrell explained that last month was the first month cut-off's were done in the same month. The initial cut-off list contained 177 people. Door hangers were placed on the doors of the people on the list. People began to come in and pay until the list was only 58 people by the time cut-off day came. The delinquent amount was reduced from over \$45,000 down to just over \$5,000. Mrs. Terrell also showed that consistently enforcing the cut-off list has led to an average increase in monthly revenues of over \$6,000 compared to last year (2024). Town Clerk Gwen Barr also stated that the Town has given Delta Engineering the authority to apply for monies under the State's Capital Improvement program. Police Juror Jacob Coco asked when the town was going to dig out the ditches along Green Acres St. Juror Coco said an agreement was made to have the Police Jury hot patch roads in Simmespport in exchange for digging out those ditches. He stated the hot patching has been completed but the ditches have not and this was the hold-up on installing the culvert along Martin Luther King near West Brushy St.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

The Town Attorney has nothing to present

ITEM 12: ALDERMAN REPORTS

- A. District 1: Glenn Gautreaux** Councilman Gautreaux had no issues to report.
- B. District 2: Alvin Dauzat** Councilman Dauzat has no issues.
- C. District 3: Charles Dupar** Councilman Dupar had no issues to put forth.
- D. District 4: Sherman Bell** Councilman Bell had no issues to put forth.
- E. District 5: Patrick Wright** Councilman Wright had no issues to put forth.

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ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

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

Gwen Barr
Town Clerk