

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREUX

DISTRICT II
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT III
CHARLES DUPAR

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL



ALDERMAN AT LARGE
PATRICK WRIGHT

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April 13, 2026 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 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor: Ted Turner
Presiding: Ted Turner
Council Members Present: Patrick Wright, Alvin Dauzat, Charles Dupar, Sherman Bell, Glenn Gautreaux
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 Pro Tempore Patrick Wright 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 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 Alderman Dupar and seconded by Alderman Dauzat 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 Wright 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: ADOPT MILLAGE RATES FOR 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Dauzat and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux to adopt the resolution to keep the millage rates at 4.98 mills for 2026. 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 8: USE OF PORT OF AVOYELLES WATER TOWER

The Port of Avoyelles has their water shut off on March 25, 2026 for lack of payment. They subsequently paid for the bill and the reconnect fee. On Friday, March 27, 2026, Attorney Kirl LaCour came to the Simmesport Town Hall and informed the utility department that he had reached an agreement with the Port Commission where the Town of Simmesport would give the Port free water and sewer service in return for a yearly rental fee for the use of their water tower. According to the Louisiana Constitution article VII, § 14(A), *“Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, the finds, credit property, or things of value of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private.”* While an agreement can be signed between two public entities for an exchange of services, that exchange must be of equal value. Mrs. Tonya Terrell, the Town of Simmesport Utilities Billing Clerk, related that a representative of the Port Commission called the Town hall after they were cut off and were very rude in threatening the Town with cutting off the Tower. Attorney Kirk LaCour related that the Port Commission wanted to charge \$1,500 per month, retroactive to January 1, 2026, for us to rent the tower. Attorney LaCour said he discussed the issue with the fiscal administrator and worked out the agreement. Attorney LaCour contends that the use of the Tower by the Town of Simmesport without an agreement is a violation of the Constitution because they are giving away a resource. It was also noted during conversations that the Port of Avoyelles water tower has been shared with the Town of Simmesport since 2016 with no problems or demand of an agreement until the Port missed its payment in March. Further, this was the first time the Port of Avoyelles failed to pay its bill. Attorney LaCour stated that the state of Louisiana, through the Port Commission, owns the water tower, and, through the Town of Simmesport, the State of Louisiana owns the water we pump out of the ground. Councilman Wright asked if there was an agreement in place from when the Tower was built. Attorney stated he could not find one. Administrator Robideaux suggested we get an intergovernmental agreement signed for a tear until we can get our tower back in service.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DECISION ON REPAIRS ON TOWN TRUCK

One of the Town utility trucks has been sitting at the mechanic shop for some months and needs roughly \$2,500 in engine repairs. Maintenance Supervisor said they have 2 trucks working; a 2017 and a 2004 model. The truck in the shop needing repairs is a 2017 model. Administrator Robideaux said he would get back to the issue after he gets prices on insuring a third vehicle and after he can get an idea about how much we could collect on selling the unused vehicles.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

A. Joel Robideaux

Mr. Robideaux said that there was progress on stabilizing the finances in that bills are getting paid monthly. However, this does not reflect the money owed to Sustainability Partners, which is over \$20,000 per month. Mr. Robideaux said that sooner or later this debt will have to be addressed. He did say that the Attorney General's office is currently in a legal battle with Sustainability Partners but no one knows yet how that will play out. We also owe the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority roughly \$170,000. Mr. Robideaux said he is looking at assessing a flat fee to gas customers dedicated to addressing the debt owed and it seems LGMA would be amenable to something along those lines. He also said that the Town has gotten to the point where he feels comfortable enough to print a budget and track it against real-world receipts and expenses. This would lead us to making and passing an actual budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Robideaux said the budget will be introduced by resolution in the May meeting and would be voted on in June after setting a public hearing. He also reported that Cleco has agreed to take our franchise check and put the balance towards what we owe in arrears. He also said that Cleco has agreed to come to the Town Hall and work with us on cost saving measures to lower our monthly bills. Mr Robideaux also reported that the auditors, Faulk & Winkler, had been paid what they were owed so that we can move forward on the first audit we have had since 2021. Alderman Wright asked about the property the doctor's office wanted to buy. Attorney LaCour said they never reached out to him. Alderman Wright also asked about the seven acres the Town owns on Bayou DeGlais. Administrator Robideaux told those assembled that he would be cautious in selling land because the laws regarding the sale of municipal property are very strict. The property would have to be appraised and maybe surveyed and he would have to be sure the cost of evaluating and appraising the land is lower than what the Town would make off the sale.

B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS- Dana Smith

Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith said the grass has begun to grow so the crew has been keeping up with that. He said a larger gas meter was installed in Hamburg for a Generac generator installation. Alderman Dupar asked if the culvert on N Martin Luther King drive could be cleaned out as dirt from the installation has begun to migrate back inside the culvert.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

D. ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING

A representative was not present.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jacob Coco reminded everyone that the fire department lunch will be on May 3. He also cautioned that although there was no burn ban in effect, there was a wind advisory and urged citizens to be careful when burning.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

There were a total of 156 calls for service for a total of 60 violations.

G. TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Gwen Barr said she is preparing for the audit and also moving forward with the budget. In March we collected \$45,712.59 while the online payments totaled \$2,013.55 for a grand total of March utility collections of \$47,726.14. With sales taxes, property taxes, occupational licenses, with the utility payments for a total collection of \$90,808.99 for the month of March. Tonya Terrell also informed the council grant opportunities offered through LITA Corp. She also informed them that she scheduled a smoke test on our sewer system through LRWA. It is a service provided to us free because we are members of LRWA. Tonya also informed the council that LRWA holds management training for elected officials and this gives us 5 extra points on our water grade. Mrs. Terrell also said the town maintenance crew will attempt to repair the leak on Brushy Bayou.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney LaCour had nothing further to report.

ITEM 8: ALDERMAN REPORTS

- A. **District 1: Glenn Gautreaux** Alderman Gautreaux said he had no issues to report.
- B. **District 2: Alvin Dautz** Alderman Dautz said the Sheriff's wood-cutting crew was coming to cut up the fallen trees at the Yellow Bayou Park. He also announced that RISE was having a town-wide clean-up day on Saturday.

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- C. **District 3: Charles Dupar** Alderman Dupar said he had no issues.
- D. **District 4: Sherman Bell** Alderman Bell said something needs to be done about the beaver dams near College Dr. He also said he contacted DOTD about the water leak on Hwy 105. Chris Boyd said we needed to apply for a permit from DOTD before the work is done.
- E. **District 5: Patrick Wright** Alderman Wright said we can get rid of the beavers if we get rid of the water.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENT

- Citizen Cody Coco asked if the Town of Simmesport would pick up tree limbs if the property owners put them on the right-away. Mr. Coco said the Avoyelles Parish barn will not allow him to dump there. Police Juror Jacob Coco said that the Town can pick the limbs up and take them to the parish landfill in Mansura.
- Another citizen said his mother's water bill was extremely high given that no one lives in the house. Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith said neighbors called and said the yard was flooding. The meter was cut off and locked. The Town of Simmesport offered a payment plan for the elevated bill. It was also brought out that whenever a meter is cut off it should be locked,

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

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

Ted Turner
Mayor

Gwen Barr
Town Clerk