

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

Mayor: Ted Turner

Presiding: Ted Turner

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

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.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux and seconded by Alderman Dauzat to amend the agenda by including agenda item 8B, Road Improvements. 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 passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Wright to approve the agenda as amended. 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: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kerry Coco asked when the ditches on Garden Dr. will be cleaned and the culverts unstopped. He asked the mayor if the work orders to clean the culverts will be signed. The Mayor said he signed those work orders. Mr. Coco asked when those work orders were going to be acted on. Alderman Bell said the Town bought a culvert cleaner and if it cannot be found that is the responsibility of the Town. Mr. Coco volunteered to repair or help build a culvert cleaner if the former one was lost.

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Mr. Brett Bordelon stated that there was smaller flooding in town with rains before the tropical storm. Mr. Bordelon sad that he believed the elected officials would be better able to get help from parish and state governments than regular citizens.

Ms. Marsha Strong thanked everyone who helped out during and after the tropical storm. She stated there was a failure of leadership from the Mayor. She said that it was the Mayor's responsibility decide what needs to be done on a day-to-day basis. She said she felt there was a lack of organization because of the lack of leadership that was causing projects to not be completed or started. Attorney LaCour told those assembled that it was not the Fiscal Administrator's duty to oversee all day-to-day operations and that as long as a project does not require any expenditure of money, Mr. Robideaux is not involved. Attorney LaCour also re-iterated that under the Lawrason Act, the Town Council members cannot direct any employees of the town in day-to-day operations. Ms. Strong said she is seeing a severe lack of leadership and that the flood highlighted this lack of leadership. Ms. Strong suggested that the Mayor meet periodically with the employees to determine what needs to be done.

Ms. Tiesha Kennedy asked Mayor Turner if he could not hire extra help for the maintenance workers. Alderman Dauzat replied that we lost two workers so two more people should be hired to replace them. Alderman Wright said he hoped to find people with experience to hire.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux said she was proud of how the town came together after the flood and worked to help people. Ms. Gautreaux also said that it was time to stop talking every meeting and not doing anything.

Police Juryman Jacob Coco told those assembled that Avoyelles was working with St. Landry to pick up flood debris. He said this is an ongoing process that will continue for some time.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to accept the minutes for the April 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 7: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Dupar 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.

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AGENDA ITEM 8: USE OF EHRHARDT PARK FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT: BRYANT WASHINGTON

Mr. Bryant Washington, representing the organization B.L.A.K., asked the Council for permission to use Ehrhardt Park on August 2, 2026 for a back-to-school event for the children in Simmesport. Alderman Dauzat commented that RISE had done a back-to-school event in the past. but they are not doing it this year. Mr. Washington said they were holding the event from 2 PM to 5 PM. Councilman Gautreaux asked if they are required to have event insurance. Attorney LaCour said they need to have a liability insurance policy. Alderman Dauzat made the motion to let Mr. Washington and his group use the park if they get liability insurance.

A motion was made by Councilman Dauzat and seconded by Councilman Wright to adopt the resolution introduce Ordinance 05-2026-01, the Budget for Fiscal Year 206-2027. 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 8A: ROAD IMPROVEMNETS

Jacob Coco, Simmesport's Police Jury representative, stated that the jury has just approved its latest round of road overlays. Simmesport projects will include the rest of Simms St and Riverside Dr. from the intersection of Simmes back to Norwood St. Juror Coco asked that while the paver is in town if the Town of Simmesport could repair the culvert on North MLK and W. Brushy St. as well as College Dr. ner the intersection of South MLK Dr. This way the paver can overlay the roads in those spots and make a proper repair. Councilman Dauzat said we could get an estimate of the costs and present it to Fiscal Administrator Robideaux. Jacob also said he was coordinating with Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith to dig out a drainage ditch on Green Acre St. as per last year's intergovernmental agreement with the Police Jury. Attorney LaCour sold Mr. Coco that since the Council wants to repair these roads, the fiscal administrator can approve it quickly if the bids are sent to him.

AGENDA ITEM 9: GABRIEL PERALES; LOW-INTEREST SBA LOANS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Mr. Gabriel Perales with the Public Affairs Office for the Small Business Association told those assembled that the SBA was offering low-interest disaster loans to flood victims. He encouraged anyone who sustained damage to their home should apply online as they could always turn down the loans if they are approved. Mr. Perales said the SBA also offers money to homeowners for flood mitigation. He said homeowners can apply for up to \$500,000 in low-interest loans at 2.875% for up to 30 years. He also said that renters can apply for up to \$100,000 with the same terms. Businesses can qualify for up to \$2 million for lost revenue and damages. Mr. Perales said people can apply online at sba.gov or there will be representatives available at the Ag Center in Mansura to help people apply. Mr. Perales said people need show up with only a valid ID. A question was asked about credit scores and Mr. Perales said that credit scores are not the only criteria used to decide who gets approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANDRE WEBB, AVOYELLES APRISH PORT COMMISSION

Mr. Andre Webb, Simmesport's appointed member to the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission, addressed the Council. Mr. Webb said he heard a rumor about replacing him as a port commissioner (*note: Mr. Webb's term on the Port commission expired July 1, 2026. As per L.A.R.S. 34:1801 the Council must choose who is the voting member of this board to represent the Town of Simmesport.*) Hew informed the Council that he didn't care about titles and if they wanted to replace him, that was fine. Mr. Webb told the Council that he would let the Town of Simmesport know when Port matters affected Simmesport. He then said his reasons for voting against the proposed green ammonia plant was because of a lack of emergency planning, water use and only 25 jobs being offered. Mr. Webb also said that things such as lawn mowers and fertilizer tanks was not the business of Simmesport and that he would inform the Council when they needed to know something. He then said that at their last meeting a person wanted to lease some riverfront property from the Port to start a material yard. He then stated that the Port Commission signed nondisclosure agreements with an undisclosed company because the company feared "bad pub". Mr. Webb did state the company was out of Texas and that the proposed project was very large. He felt that the project would help Simmesport and bring many jobs to the area. Alderman Wright stated that Alderman Dauzat and Mayor Turner wanted

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him to stay on as port commission. Attorney LaCour told those assembled that the representative for Simmesport would have to be reappointed by the Council upon recommendation by the Mayor.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR – Joel Robideaux
Absent

B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS- Dana Smith

Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith said that several water leaks were repaired before the storm. He said grass cutting is a problem right now because of the amount of water still on the ground. Mr. Smith said the water Tower at the port has been having problems maintaining proper chlorine levels. Alderman Dauzat asked about the status of well number 2. Mr. Smith said no one has come out yet. Town Clerk Gwen Barr said the one quote submitted was for over \$26,000 just to put a camera down the well to see what the problem was. Alderman Bell asked about the status of the sewer plant. Ms. Barr said that Cenla Environmental was helping us maintain the sewer plant.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

D. ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING

A representative from Delta Engineering was not present.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cory Mixon , the fire department representative, thanked the Town of Simmesport for all their help and support during the storm. Alderman Dauzat thanked the fire department for their rescue efforts in conjunction with the police department.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jacobs also thanked the fire department. He said that the task would have been nearly impossible without the help of the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department. They helped with 911 calls for medical calls and rescues. He also thanked citizens and the town workers for their efforts in helping flood victims and getting supplies to Simmesport. Cory Mixon said there were over 40 rescue calls that were cleared out quickly thanks to cooperation between the Town and FD.

G. TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Gwen Barr said that for the first time since 2021 the Town has secured auditors and we are preparing for an audit. She stressed that the audits would have to begin with the 21-22 audit and come up to the present. Utility Clerk Tonya Terrell informed the Council that they had been preparing for a Louisiana Department of Health sanitary survey.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney LaCour said court postponed because it fell on the day after the flood. Mr. LaCour also related that there were no lawsuits currently.

ITEM 11: ALDERMAN REPORTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A. District 1: Glenn Gautreaux | Alderman Gautreaux said he had no issues to report. |
| B. District 2: Alvin Dauzat | Alderman Dauzat said he had no issues |
| C. District 3: Charles Dupar | Alderman Dupar said he had no issues. |
| D. District 4: Sherman Bell | Alderman Bell had no issues. |

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E. District 5: Patrick Wright Alderman Wright asked if the Town could spray herbicide on the culvert going under Highway 1 at the intersection of Hwy 1 and Laurel St.

ITEM 12: 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
Mayor

Gwen Barr
Town Clerk