

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 10, 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, August 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor: Ted Turner

Presiding: Ted Turner

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

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 Dupar 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 Dauzat 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: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Anita Mayeaux thanked the Town of Simmesport workers for helping with assistance for flood victims. Ms. Mayeaux said the workers and Chief Jacobs worked tirelessly to get supplies and assistance. She also noted that the Church of Christ helped get furniture and appliances to flood victims. 77 people filled out applications with the Church of Christ and Ms. Mayeaux said she was able to contact 68 of those people to assure they still needed these items. She explained that the total assistance is over \$500,000 and the deliveries will not all come at once. Ms. Mayeaux explained that the Simmesport Volunteer Fire Department has agreed to store these items until they can be distributed. Anita said that those who applied for items will be called to schedule a pick-up time from the fire department.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Dupar and seconded by Alderman Dauzat to accept the minutes for the April Council meeting. 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 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	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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 was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

- A. **FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR – Joel Robideaux**
Absent

B. **UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS- Dana Smith**

Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith the two new workers hired were cutting grass. He reported that the Mayor and him (Smith) went to Mansura and got some asphalt mix and patched some potholes. Councilman Dauzat asked if there was any more information on well 2. Mr. Smith said the other companies contacted have not yet responded for a quote. Councilman Dupar asked if the pile of dirt on the side of Brushy St. would be moved. Mr. Smith said that now that the dump trailer was repaired, this would be done.

C. **SEWER DEPARTMENT**

D. **ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING**

A representative from Delta Engineering was not present.

E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No representative from the fire department was present.

F. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Jacobs said they had 150 calls for service including 15 medical calls. He also said the police department collected \$3,976.67 last month in fines. He told the council that the older tickets were still coming in (*these were tickets from the prior chief that were issued but not paid.*) Chief Jacobs said that many of these tickets were people who came to court and received help with the ticket from the judge, but still had to pay court costs.

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G. TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Gwen Barr reported that there was still old debt to be paid. First, there was an outside law firm hired for an older lawsuit against Simmesport. This balance was \$1,455.69 which will be paid out in September. Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority (*where we buy our natural gas from to sell to customers*) is currently owed \$179,960 which goes back to 2022. LMGA has agreed to accept the monthly bill plus \$2,000 per month. Motorola is owed for radios. Sustainability Partners billed us \$109,855.39 in 2025 and in 2026 they billed us \$115,623.69. Ms. Barr and Mayor Turner said the Town of Simmesport received a letter from the Louisiana Attorney General stating that Simmesport was not to pay any more money to Sustainability Partners. Cleco is keeping the franchise fee to pay down the past debt, but Ms. Barr said she does not have a total of how much has been withheld nor how much is still owed as fiscal administrator Robideaux handles that directly. We also owe the Louisiana Department of Health \$64,595.55 for the Safe Drinking Water Act, which is the \$1.00 charge that appears on everyone's bill. Ms. Barr said Mr. Robideaux is handling that issue with the LDH. Ms. Barr said that one person is working full-time in the water department and one person full-time in the sewer department. These two are the only two approved for overtime as they check the pumps and lift stations on the weekends. Also discussed was the valves on the sewer plant that were stuck. These stuck valves are causing sludge to build up in the tanks of the treatment plant. Chief Jacobs asked about the hours of operation of the Town Hall utility staff. MS. Barr stated that lawn mower repairs were increasing at a worrying rate. Ms. Barr informed the Council that the bid for well #2 was \$26,200 to diagnose the problem. She said that was on hold until we can get a grant. Ms. Barr also said we have nearly \$10,000 in fines for the gas system from the Department of Natural Resources. Mayor Turner said he was trying to get that reduced. Ms. Barr said the Simmesport water tower has passed inspection and is in use. Ms. Barr said we are having problems with the tower at the port because of decreased use which is causing the chlorine levels in that tower to be consistently low. Mrs. Tonya Terrell also reported that the SCADA system on the port tower is broken and needs to be replaced and it has not had an inspection or cleaning since it was built. She said LDH recommends cleaning and inspection every 3-5 years. Town Attorney Kirk LaCour insisted that the water tower on the Port of Avoyelles property belongs to the Town of Simmesport. Mr. LaCour said that the paperwork he had and the district attorney had states the tower was jointly-owned or fully owned by the Town of Simmesport. Mr. LaCour claimed that a 2005 response from LDH for a permit to the Louisiana Department of Health by Canada Louisiana USA, Inc. (the company that built Canadaville) for sewer service states they (LDH) had no objection to the project if the Town of Simmesport will "own, operate and maintain the water and sewage facilities." He further contends that, after Canadaville was closed and the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission took over the property, a cooperative agreement was signed wherein Simmesport would operate and maintain the water and sewer improvements financed through a 2010 LCDBG Economic Development grant given to the Port. The actual grant the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission obtained in 2013 to build the tower and 8-inch main lists the Town of Simmesport as the "Secondary Recipient Name". In the April 13, 2026 meeting of the Simmesport Town Council (https://simmesportla.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/aprilregularmeetingminutes04_13_26.pdf, Agenda Item 8) In this meeting he now states that the Town of Simmesport owns and maintains the water tower located on the Port property. Attorney LaCour adamantly stated that the Port Commission owned the tower and could charge the Town of Simmesport rent for the use of it. While Mr. LaCour admits in this meeting that there is no clear evidence or document explicitly stating the Town of Simmesport owns the tower, in this meeting he claims that unless an agreement with the Port Commission could be written out and passed for their (the Port) receipt of free water service from the Town of Simmesport, then the Port Commission could sue the Town for the removal of the tower from their land. Councilman Dauzat said he would talk to the Port Commission about the issue at their next meeting. The entire issue arose from the cut-off of water and sewer services to the Port Commission Office for non-payment. Town Hall staff contends that any customer who does not pay their bill by the cut-off date will have services terminated until the payment is made with the reconnect fee. Mr. LaCour contended there was an agreement in place with the fiscal administrator and the Port Commission that their water would no longer be cut off for non-payment. A decision was made by Mayor Turner to move on with the meeting until the issue could be more clearly resolved.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney LaCour had no issues to bring forth.

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 asked Attorney LaCour where the agreement with the Port Commission was. Mr. LaCour said it was with the Port Commission's attorney, District Attorney Charles Riddle. Alderman Dauzat asked if the agreement could be expedited so that everyone will know how to proceed.
- C. **District 3: Charles Dupar** Alderman Dupar said he had no issues.

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D. District 4: Sherman Bell ABSENT

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 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