

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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September 14, 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, September 14, 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 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

Marsha Strong, representing RISE, told those assembled that the annual Cancer Walk and Health Fair would be held on October 17 at the activity center next to Piggly Wiggly. She asked if the Town could clean up the Cancer Walk route to ensure there was no debris along the route. She said the details are on the RISE Facebook page.

Marsha Strong then addressed the Mayor and Council as a citizen of Simmesport and asked if anything had been done to improve the drainage in the Town since the June flood. She asked where the culvert clear was and if the Town had plans to clean out culverts. Mayor Turner said he did not know where the culvert cleaner was. Alderman Dauzat said the Town was in the process of applying for possible mitigation funds from FEMA to help. Ms Strong said that many people are asking when this issue is going to be addressed. She asked if it were possible to get manpower help from the Sheriff's Office. Police Jury member Jacob Coco told those assembled that they could certainly talk with the Sheriff about help for such a project.

Kerry Coco, speaking for the Simmesport Methodist Church, said the neighbor adjacent to the church has a bad water leak that is flooding the church grounds. Mr. Coco asked if the Town was going to deal with this. Utilities Clerk Tonya Terrell said the leak was known and the situation has escalated to the point where the police has had to accompany the town workers to the site. The meter has been turned off for nonpayment and the customer has

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turned the meter back on. Alderman Bell said that charges should be filed for those customers who steal utilities. Chief Jacobs stated that when a person turns their utilities back on that is a criminal charge of theft of utilities.

Mr. Wesley Elmer addressed the Council and those assembled that he is running for district judge in division B in November. Mr. Elmer has been a practicing attorney for 31 years doing both civil and criminal work. He was the Sheriff's attorney for 8 years and has experience as the Union Bank attorney for 18 years. Being born and raised in Mansura, Mr. Elmer said he would love to represent the people of Avoyelles as district judge in division B. Mr. Elmer said his experience in the legal system is broad in both criminal and civil areas and he feels that experience would make him a good judge. Wesley, said he wants to bring fairness back to the Avoyelles Parish courts and asked that no matter who you support, please go out and vote.

Ms. Anita Mayeaux gave an update on the flood donations. She told the council that they have gotten beds and furniture but no appliances yet. She said that the process is slow because the manufacturers donating the furniture and appliances are sending them in batches and the Church of Christ members have to be present when people who applied come to pick up the items they signed up for.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Gautreaux 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	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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 and the minutes accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Dupar and seconded by Councilman Gautreaux to pay the bills. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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: REVIEW OF BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Alderman Wright said he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda because he wants to know what bank accounts we have and what the current balances are. Town Clerk Gwen Barr gave the Council a list of the bank accounts. Councilman Dupar asked why there were no balances by the names. Ms. Barr said that no one told her about this item and she did not have time to prepare the balances. Ms. Barr did explain what each account was and how money was spent from that account. The Council asked if next meeting they could see the account balances and what was paid from each account.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REVISIT TABLED PROPOSED ORDINANCE 10-2025-02: POLICE OFFICER HIRING PROCEDURES

Police Chief Jacobs said that a process was already in place. He said he would ask the Fiscal Administrator if he could hire a new officer and he would either give approval or not. Alderman Dupar said that these proposed ordinances were brought up last year but were tabled. Town Attorney Kirk

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LaCour said that items that are tabled have to be brought back up at a later meeting. Mr. LaCour said he knew nothing about these ordinances or how the items got on the agenda. Alderman Dupar said he asked for the items to be placed on the agenda, however, a copy of the proposed ordinances was not provided with the Alderman folders. Attorney LaCour said that he did not have a folder and that he could not find a copy of the agenda online. Attorney LaCour said that because of the fiscal administration law, the fiscal administrator is responsible for the hiring and firing of police officers. He said further that the clock and time-keeping procedures were the sole responsibility of the fiscal administrator because that directly affected the fiscal stability of the town. Town Attorney LaCour also stated that the Council could pass any ordinance they want but the fiscal administrator could say we are not going to follow them.

During this time a discussion broke out about the hours of the Town Hall and Maintenance workers. Alderman Bell said in the previous administration the hours were cut and the two departments were off on Fridays. Before the current administration took office, a decision was made to open the office on Fridays until noon.

AGENDA ITEM 12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR – Joel Robideaux

Absent

B. UTILITY DEPARTMENT STREETS- Dana Smith

Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith said one of the lawn mowers were down but two were running and the tractor was available. He said water leaks continue to be a problem. Water leaks on College and S MLK need to be addressed again. Mr. Smith said keeping up with the grass cutting is problematic. Alderman Dupar asked when they were going to spread the dirt on Martin Luther King Rd.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

D. ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING

Marcus Guillory of Delta Engineering addressed the Council about grants the Town of Simmesport applied for. He informed the Council that the town was approved for \$360,000 of Capital Outlay money through the Legislature. Mr. Guillory said that after talking with Mr. Robideaux, they are going to apply to have the match for that grant waived. The project will be on hold until this waiver is decided. The Water Sector projects to replace the sewer lift stations is not going to happen as the State did not fund those programs this year. Marcus also said there are LGAP and CWF grant applications still pending for water well upgrades. Marcus said they also applied for some improvements for the natural gas system, but there is no decision on that grant. Marcus reminded the Town that the next application for Capital Outlay is due in November. He suggested we apply to have the water tower cleaned and painted.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jacob Coco said they received 23 calls last month. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24, 2026 for the new Yellow Bayou substation at 10 AM. He also said the smoke detector program is still ongoing so if anyone needs a free smoke detector, please get in touch with the fire department.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jacobs said they had 313 calls for service, including 13 medical calls. He also said the police department collected \$8,473.50 last month in fines.

G. TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Tonya Terrell reported the utility collections for August totaled \$45,035.53 with \$1,760 collected in reconnect fees and \$700 in permits for service. Since January of 2026, the total collected is \$365,458.83 with \$91,794.95 for the fiscal year 2026-27. Sales tax collections for the month of August were \$40,818.57. This brings the total collected and deposited for August to \$88,314.17.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney LaCour said the Municipal Court will be held on the last Monday of the month. He also asked the Council to pass a resolution to have any ordinances e-mail to him on the date the agenda is published so that he can review the information.

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Mrs. Tonya Terrell informed the Council that the Town Hall will host a haunted house on Friday, October 30. Mrs. Terrell said she has talked with the Principal of Riverside and they will bus the children here for this event. Town Clerk Gwen Barr said this event will be held after noon on Friday so it will not conflict with work hours.

ITEM 11: ALDERMAN REPORTS

- A. District 1: Glenn Gautreaux** Alderman Gautreaux asked about debris removal. Police Jury representative said he is working with the Town to compile a list of those locations that still have flood debris. He also reminded that they will not pick up refrigerators with food in them and all insulation has to be bagged.
- B. District 2: Alvin Dauzat** Alderman Dauzat if Delta Engineering had an estimate on the washouts on College Dr and Mission Dr.
- C. District 3: Charles Dupar** Alderman Dupar said he had no issues.
- D. District 4: Sherman Bell** Alderman Bell had no issues.
- E. District 5: Patrick Wright** Alderman Wright mentioned the main culvert on LA Hwy 1 that goes under the road and wanted to know how we could get in touch with DOTD about this. Councilman Wright also asked about the washouts on College and Mission. Marcus Guillory said also there are possible FEMA funds for this. Alderman Wright asked Mayor Turner if he could call the levee board or DOTD to check on the status of cleaning the culvert under Hwy 1. Mayor Turner said he would call them tomorrow.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

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