TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR TED TURNER

DISTRICT I
GLENN GAUTREAUX

DISTRICT II
ALVIN DAUZAT

DISTRICT III
CHARLES DUPAR

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
PATRICK WRIGHT

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October 12, 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, October 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor: Absent
Presiding: Patrick Wright
Council Members Present: Alvin Dauzat, Charles Dupar, Glenn Gautreaux, Sherman Bell
Council Members Absent:
Town Attorney: Kirk LaCour
Town Clerk: Absent
Fiscal Administrator: present

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 Dauzat and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to amend the agenda to add item 7a, a report by Police Juror Jacob Coco on the new garbage service for the parish. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X			
Alderman Gautreaux	X			
Alderman Dauzat	X			
Alderman Dupar	X			
Alderman Wright				

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Dauzat 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				

The motion was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lance Dauzat appeared on behalf of Mrs. Connie Lemoine asking for approval of the permit to move a trailer into town.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Gautreaux to approve the trailer permit for Mrs. Connie Lemoine. All present voted as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman Bell	X			
Alderman Gautreaux	X			
Alderman Dauzat	X			
Alderman Dupar	X			
Alderman Wright				

The motion was passed.

Mr. Brandon Lambert asked the council for permission to move a trailer on Branch St. He did inform the council that the trailer was older than the 10-year limit stated in Ordinance 05-2018-03 which sets out mobile home regulations. Councilman Dauzat stated that there re cases where a 20 year old trailer looked better than a 5-year-old trailer, but the ordinance makes no exception on the age requirement for the condition of the trailer. Fiscal Administrator Joel Robideaux said the matter was a fiscal one and that he could override the ordinance and allowed Mr. Lamber to move the trailer.

Jennifer Gautreaux, speaking as a representative for R.I.S.E., reminded everyone that that annual Cancer Walk and Health Fair was on Saturday, October 17, 2026. She invited all to come out and asked the Town of Simmesport if they could make one more pass along the Cancer Walk route to do a final cleanup.

Mr. Brandon Perry announced his candidacy for Bunkie City Marshall and urged everyone to go out and vote on November 3, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Dupar and seconded by Alderman Bell 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				

The motion was passed and the minutes accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 7: UPDATE ON SALE OF LAND ON HWY 1 AND ALONG BAYOU de GLAIS

In a previous meeting the council proceeded with the idea of selling the small parcel of land off La Hwy 1 adjacent to 16104 Hwy1 owned by Firmin Foundations, LLC. The medical clinic there expressed interest in buying the 0.2 acres directly next to their land at fair market value. Fiscal Administrator Joel Robideaux said the appraisal had already been completed on that property. Mr. Robideaux said he would get with Town Attorney Kirk LaCour to see if the property next to the clinic could be done as a private land sale. The 7 acres across the levee along S&B Cutoff Rd may be to go up for public bid.

AGENDA ITEM 7A: POLICE JUROR JACOB COCO ON THE NEW PARISH-WIDE GARBAGE CONTRACT

Police Juror Jacob Coco told those assembled that the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury had finalized a new contract for garbage pickup. The new company, Pelican Waste, will begin solid waste disposal and pickup starting January 1, 2027. All residents and small businesses will be issued 1 (one) 96-gallon trash can. Additional cans will be available for purchase from Pelican Waste. The cans issued by the Town of Simmesport will work with the automated dumping system of the trucks, but Pelican Waste will **not** warranty those cans if they break. Mr. Coco said the cans will be scanned at each address and if the person moves inside the parish, the trash can will move with them. Simmesport is still scheduled for pick-up on Wednesdays. The trashcans

are to be placed on the side of the road with the wheels facing away from the street and at least 3 feet away from any obstacles. Distribution of the cans will begin in December, however, do not use those cans until after January 1, 2027. Waste Connections will not pick up Pelican Waste's cans. Boxes will have to be broken down and placed in the can or they will not be picked up. Mr. Coco said that anything not in the trash can will not be picked up.

AGENDA ITEM 8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR – Joel Robideaux

Fiscal Administrator Joel Robideaux told those assembled that he filed his court-mandated report on October 2, 2026. He relayed that the Louisiana Attorney General determined contract Simmesport signed with Sustainability Partners was illegal and the town was to no longer pay them. He also said the flood cost the town approximately $56,000 and we were currently applying to get reimbursed from FEMA on those costs. Further, the US Treasury notified the Town of Simmesport in March it owed approximately $268,000 left over from the COVID money. It was found out that this was due to reports not being filed properly. The Simmesport clerks worked diligently to get this resolved and finally received official notice from Treasury that the matter was closed and we no longer owed the money. He also said the IRS is also asking for some back taxes because some paperwork was not filed. So far the IRS has been given all the documentation they asked for and it is up to them to make a determination.

Mr. Robideaux said that not only did Simmesport owe over a million dollars, it was not generating enough revenue to sustain itself. Since undergoing fiscal administration, we have made cuts and raised rates on water and gas. He told those assembled that we also made deals with Cleco and Louisiana Municipal Gas Association to pay extra to reduce the debt to them. Also, the Legislative Auditor wants the Town of Simmesport to catch up on its annual audits. The 21-22 and 22-23 audits have been started but those two alone will cost nearly $40,000. The audit company will not go any further until that is paid. The insurance bill is over $14,000 just for the buildings and vehicles. Mr. Robideaux was try to highlight the fact that broken equipment and road repairs are further down the priority list and will have to be put aside until more money comes in.

State law requires that the budget be amended when the spending is off 5%. Mr. Robideaux said that the current budget will be amended. He also stated that the police department is still a significant drain on the budget, but Mr. Robideaux said he is working with the chief on the revenue side to get revenue. Mr. Robideaux also said he created a weekly spreadsheet to keep track of the budget on a weekly basis. This will also allow Town Clerk Gwen Barr to show the Council the cash flow and show them which bills are due and what we can pay from week to week so that we can make payroll.

A citizen asked Mr. Robideaux what was his forecast for the Town in paying all the back bills. Mr. Robideaux told everyone that if the Town can pay down most of the larger delinquent bills (Cleco, IRS, DHH, or LMGA) it might be possible that it could come out of fiscal administration. However, that would be a decision of the court based on a recommendation of the Legislative Auditor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and State Treasurer's Office. Mr. Robideaux agreed that it will be 3 to 5 years before we see significant reduction in the larger outstanding bills unless some large revenue source comes into town. Mr. Robideaux stated that the courts have mandated that before towns come out of fiscal administration, the court would have to be assured the Town government can manage itself fiscally.

During the course of discussion a citizen suggested that the Town of Simmesport turn Yellow Bayou Park over to the Chamber of Commerce to manage.

B. UTILIITY DEPARTMENT STREETS- Dana Smith

Maintenance Supervisor Dana Smith said they had been cutting grass and repairing water leaks. He reported that the bush hog was in the shop to be repaired. He also said that they were preparing to read gas meters. He also stated that drainage mitigation was beign looked at this winter since the grass was not growing.

C. SEWER DEPARTMENT

D. ENGINEERS: DELTA ENGINEERING

Marcus Guillory or Delta Engineering addressed the Council and told them that Louisiana Capital Outlay projects are due in November. Mr. Guillory suggested this year's project should be a complete rehabilitation of the water town on Highway 1. However, it was up to the Council to decide what project should be applied for. Mr. Guillory said such a project would cost between $800,000 and $1,000,000. It was brought

up that we received $20,000 through CWEF and $4,300 from the LGAP program. Marcus also said that the reason we did not get the water sector grant is because the State did not fund the water sector program this year.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cody Jackson said the new fire station on Yellow Bayou will have a grand opening on October 24, 20206 at 10 AM. On October 22, the visit for the insurance rating is to take place. There were 12 calls, 5 fires and 3 medical calls in month of September.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cody Jackson also gave the report for Chief Jacobs and reported they had 257 calls for service and 6 arrests. He also said the police department collected $8,377.00 last month in fines.

G. TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Tonya Terrell reported the utility collections for September totaled $39,522.11 with $1,958.02 in online payments for a total of $41,480.13. $1,116 was collected in reconnect fees and $1380 in permits for service. Since January of 2026, the total collected is $406,938.96 with $133,275.08 for the fiscal year 2026-27.

H. TOWN ATTORNEY

Magistrate reported that court was normal and will be held on the last Monday of the month. From the Town side, there were no new lawsuits.

ITEM 11: ALDERMAN REPORTS

A.	**District 1: Glenn Gautreaux**	Alderman Gautreaux had no issues.
B.	**District 2: Alvin Dauzat**	Alderman Dauzat said that he and Alderman Gautreaux were cooking fries for the Halloween event.
C.	**District 3: Charles Dupar**	Alderman Dupar said he had no issues.
D.	**District 4: Sherman Bell**	Alderman Bell asked if some filler material could be placed to repair a hole on College Dr. He also reported a water leak on Lincoln St. Police Juror Jacob Coco said that the cost for repaving the culvert on MLK and Norwood was over $14,000. Mr. Robideaux asked if that could be split up.
E.	**District 5: Patrick Wright**	

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Dauzat 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				

The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

Ted Turner
Mayor

Gwen Barr
Town Clerk