

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, December 18, 2024

The general meeting of the officials of the Town of Maurice was opened by Mayor Neil Arsement at 6:00 p.m.
at the Maurice Municipal Building, 405 Lastie Ave., Maurice, Louisiana

Mayor Arsement led the assembly in Prayer and Alderman Jonathan Schlicher led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of officers

Present: Mayor Neil Arsement; Alderwoman Megan Landry-Lalande; Alderman Troy Catalon; Alderman Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan; Alderman Scott Trahan

Absent: None

Also present: Melanie Denais; Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Shakyla Cormier; Erica Arceneaux; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; John Sonnier; Warren Rost; Ronnie Methvin; David Landry, Fire Chief; Beckette Arceneaux; Sahni Brailey; Stephain Cormier; Shawn Bonin; David Trahan; Sindy Meche; Gary Villien; Olivia Habits, Sellers & Associates; Chad Roussel

Approval General Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024- No Council nor public comments were made.

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2024, General Meeting as presented and unread. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval- No Council nor public comments were made

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept the Agenda as presented. Yay- All Present

J. Ricky Lafleur- Lafleur advised Mayor's Court is going well and informed Council members he was copied in correspondence between the Town and Entergy. Attorneys for the Town are trying to get a reissuance of the original franchise payment from Entergy and lists from both sides have created a list of active customer locations to compare numbers. Arsement advised the list of active accounts created by Entergy and the Town do not match and the Town's maintenance crew had been working on logging each active electric meter in Town to submit for review. Updates will be given as things progress.

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Engineering Agreement for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements- Sonnier presented the Engineering Agreement with Sellers & Associates for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements regarding the Water Sector Program. Arsement advised certain items gain the Town points for grant awards and having an executed Engineering Agreement in place is one of those items. Having additional points helps in the Town obtaining access to more grant funding and Arsement wants to be proactive. Discussion was held. No public comments were made.

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded, and carried to accept the Engineering Agreement with Sellers & Associates for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Autumn Park Extension Construction Plans and DIA Approval- Sonnier recommended approval of Autumn Park Extension Construction Plans and Drainage Impact Analysis contingent upon the developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates. Catalon questioned who would be financially responsible for the installation of a sewer force main and water line. He was advised the developer is responsible for any upgrade costs. Chad Roussel questioned the location of the tie-ins for utility service connections on behalf of the developer. Sonnier advised the additional footage of service line was necessary for the subdivision development. No further public comments were made.

Motion: M. Trahan/S. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Autumn Park Extension Construction Plans and DIA contingent upon the developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None

Delta Regional Authority Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and Submit Documents Pertaining to DRA Grant and Commit Local Funds- Sonnier advised a resolution pertaining to the Delta Regional Authority was necessary to continue the process in receiving funding. He also introduced Olivia Habits of Sellers & Associates to Council members as the person who handles grants. No Council nor public comments were made

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Delta Regional Authority Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute, Submit Documents Pertaining to DRA Grant and Commit Local Funds. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Nay-None

DOA/OC Water Sector Program-Water Line Extension Along West Etienne and Beau Road-Consider Construction Contract Award- Sonnier advised the lowest responsive bid of \$266,420, given by Southern Constructors, was \$40,000 overbudget and would need approval and additional funding from the Water Sector Program. Arsement explained there was one lower bid submitted, but due to a technicality in their paperwork, the bid had to be rejected. Sonnier advised Sellers & Associates will request additional funding from the Water Sector Program in January. No public comments were made

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded, and carried to award the DOA/OC Water Sector Program-Water Line Extension Along West Etienne and Beau Road Construction Contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Southern Constructors, LLC in the amount of \$266,420 contingent upon approval and additional funding from the Water Sector Program. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

DOA/OC Water Sector Program-Elevated Water Storage Tank-Consider Construction Contract Award- Sonnier advised the lowest responsive bid was submitted by Maguire Iron, Inc. in the amount of \$1,793,000 and recommended the award of this contract contingent upon approval and additional funding from the Water Sector Program. Catalon asked if mechanics to control flow & distribution of water were included in the bid and was advised everything for the tank to be operational was included in the total bid. Discussion was held. No public comments were made.

Motion: Schlicher/S. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to award the DOA/OC Water Sector Program-Elevated Water Storage Tank Construction Contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Maguire Iron, Inc. in the amount of \$1,793,000 contingent upon approval and additional funding from the Water Sector Program. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates- Nerren advised Council members Officer Geans is doing well and Officer Irvin is scheduled to begin the Academy on January 6th and will be out through April. The officer previously out on medical leave recently resigned. Nerren advised things have been quiet around Town during the holiday season. Catalon asked about traffic back-ups along US Hwy 167 and LA Hwy 92. Nerren advised DOTD must install new sensors and Arsement hoped the installation would occur in 2025. Catalon asked if the livestock issue discussed last month was resolved. Nerren advised the owner appeared in court and will get rid of the animals. Restitution was calculated and fines were set by the Magistrate. Landry-Lalande asked if the camera system in Town was operational and was advised the system is up and running. Discussion was held

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- November 2024- 8,836,000 gallons of water produced; 7,344,239 gallons of water sold; 1,491,761 gallons of water unmetered; 16%. Meche advised several leaks had been repaired and another recently discovered leak would be repaired soon. Meche's department also recently used the Jetter to clean out culverts which accounts for some of November's high unmetered percentage. The new truck is in operation and is working well. Catalon asked about the truck that had oil pressure issues. Meche advised it was still running fine despite the oil pressure gauge not working. Maintenance workers regularly check the temperature gauge and know to stop running the truck if overheating happens to occur. Meche also advised the 2016 Jeep involved in the hit and run accident was recently repaired. Discussion was held

Mayor Arsement- Rita St. Property- Farmer Buyout- Mayor Arsement advised the paperwork for the New City Hall property was completed so the Town now officially owns it. Arsement approached the owner of the cane on the new property and the owner agreed to sell the remaining acreage of cane for \$2,000 which covers the next 2 years of cane harvesting. Clerk Melanie Denais asked if a Resolution was needed. Legal Lafleur advised just a motion by the Council to accept the \$2,000 cane, buy-out would be sufficient. Landry-Lalande asked if the owner of the of the farmland could be named to reflect if a motion was made. Discussion was held. No public comments were made.

Motion: M. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded, and carried to accept the \$2,000 proposal to buy-out Mr. Charlie Steen's remaining years of cane planting and harvesting on the new City Hall property. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Sales Tax Update- October 2024 sales tax is \$310,501.57 which is up 241.8% from last year. Arsement advised there was a large one-time payment included asked residents continue supporting local businesses or shop online and thanked everyone for continuing to support local community businesses.

Updates- Arsement advised he had no updates

Council Concerns: Landry-Lalande wished everyone Merry Christmas and extended an invitation to the Christmas Social immediately following the meeting.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 6:44pm. Yay- All Present