

GENERAL MEETING  
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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 Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan; Alderman Scott Trahan

**Absent:** Alderman Troy Catalon

**Also present:** Melanie Denais; Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Erica Arceneaux; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Gene Sellers, Sellers & Associates; Michael Roy, John S Dowling; John Sonnier; Marc Duhon

**Approval General Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2024-** No Council nor public comments were made.

**Motion:** Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of the December 18, 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

**Michael Roy- John S Dowling & Co- Audit Report-** Mr. Roy presented the Town of Maurice Audit Report of Financials for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024, to Council members and went over revenues and expenditures for each of the Town's government funds. He also noted internal control comments which included the need for more accurate Capital Asset logs. Landry-Lalande asked about asset tagging. Arsement advised he is working with Town staff and is actively working on getting all assets tagged. They are also going through asset logs to determine items the Town no longer has. Roy advised Council members to call him with any questions. No public comments were made

**Motion:** Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept The Town of Maurice Audit Report of Financials for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None; Absent- Catalon

**J. Ricky Lafleur-** Lafleur advised Mayor's Court went well and informed Council members the Town received confirmation that the large franchise check payment from Entergy was reissued and is good to deposit. A smaller payment was also received but attorney's working on behalf of the Town wanted answers to questions on language that was on the stub prior to the Town depositing the additional payment. Lafleur also informed Council members that he and Mayor Arsement are working on language changes to the Town of Maurice Grass Ordinance. Discussion was held

**Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Consider Approval and Acceptance of the Gravity Sewer System Constructed by Nunu's Development-** Sonnier recommended approval of Phase 1 of the Nunu's Development construction contingent upon the developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates which includes manholes 1-5. Sonnier also advised Phase 2 may have potential line placement issues and recommended further review and discussion prior to acceptance of project's post construction on drainage and utility tie-ins. Plans for Phase 2 construction were submitted to the Town but the contractor did not send plans to Sellers & Associates for review. Marc Duhon suggested the utility easement placement and roads could be changed since all the property belongs to one owner and stated there are no property lines at this time. Sonnier advised one of the manholes in Phase 2 is very close to the parking lot and a ditch area which could pose future issues with depths of lines, slopes, easements, and where the suggested placement of the road right-of-way was proposed. Scott Trahan asked who would be responsible for the manhole near the proposed roadway if something needed to be repaired or dug up in 5 years. Duhon stated there would be an understanding of responsibility should the manhole be dedicated to the Town. Duhon's focus was to get the Phase 1 construction approved for tie-in to the Town's sewer system. Discussion was held. No public comments were made.

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to accept the Gravity Sewer System Constructed by Nunu's Development in Phase 1 contingent upon an approval letter from Sellers & Associates for the final dress-up. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None; Absent - Catalon

Sonnier advised he and Mayor Arsement went to Baton Rouge and were able to secure the additional Water Sector funds needed for the water line extension on W. Etienne Rd and the elevated water tank on Beau Road. Paperwork has been submitted for the State Bond Commission meeting and once approval is received, the Town can proceed with executed contracts. Discussion was held

Arsement introduced Mr. Gene Sellers of Sellers & Associates to speak to Council members as a fair well to his retirement. Mr. Sellers advised, he and his engineering firm has been serving the Maurice community since the early 1960's and thanked past and present Council members for allowing the firm to be a part of Maurice's growth for that length of time. Arsement added Mr. Sellers was also involved in getting the 4-lane along US Hwy 167 installed. They also helped getting water lines and water from Lafayette Parish throughout Vermilion Parish and from Iberia Parish to Vermilion Parish. Mayor Arsement and Matthew Trahan thanked Mr. Sellers for his contributions to the Maurice community and Vermilion Parish.

**Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates-** Nerren advised Council members he wanted to donate the 2014 Dodge Charger, Unit# 112 to the Erath Police Department so they can use it for parts. Nerren also advised if donated, he would be able to remove the vehicle from Maurice's insurance. Legal Lafleur verified the year of the vehicle. Discussion was held. No public comments were made.

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded, and carried to donate the 2014 Dodge Charger, Unit# 112 to the Erath community. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Schlicher; Nay- None; Absent- Catalon

Nerren thanked Richard Meche for his assistance in helping catch a sub-contractor stealing water from a hydrant in Vincent Trace. A citation was issued for theft of utilities. Arsement will ask for the maximum fine plus restitution for the offense. He also asked Lafleur if a community crime watch notice can be displayed on the Town's Facebook and Website pages. Lafleur requested to review the notice before it is posted. Discussion was held

**Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor-** December 2024- 8,568,000 gallons of water produced; 7,139,356 gallons of water sold; 1,428,644 gallons of water unmetered; 16%. Meche advised several leaks have been repaired and a couple were hard to find because they were going directly into the storm drain. Meche thanked Chief Nerren for his assistance with the theft of utilities. The maintenance crew winterized equipment and pipes to for the freeze. He advised the water well was prepared in case people dripped their water. Arsement advised Council members he and Meche are getting quotes on a man lift. LGAP funds would be used for a portion of the equipment cost. Quotes are coming in between \$33,000 and \$40,000 for a used man lift. Discussion was held.

**Mayor Arsement- Amend Mayor's Salary Ordinance to Include Vehicle Allowance-** Arsement asked Council members to hold a Public Hearing to consider an \$800 per month vehicle allowance for the use of his personal vehicle. The Maintenance Department has been using the 2016 Jeep used by the previous Mayor so Arsement has been using his own vehicle since taking office in 2023. Schlicher expressed concern about adding an additional amount to the salary because future Mayor's elected to office would receive any increase as compensation even if they drove a Town vehicle. Landry-Lalande did not feel the suggested dollar amount was sufficient to cover fuel and maintenance. Nerren advised, in comparison to some other municipalities, the amount asked for was low. Arsement advised he asked for an amount he thought was affordable to the Town. Discussion was held. No public comments were made

**Motion:** M. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded, and carried to have a Public Hearing at the General Meeting to be held on February 19, 2025, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555 to consider Amending the Mayor's Salary to Include an \$800 per month vehicle allowance. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None; Absent- Catalon

**Open CD at Bank of Abbeville-** Arsement asked Council members to consider placing the large franchise check received from Entergy directly into a new CD at Bank of Abbeville. Arsement could not recall the exact amount of the check received. Bank of Abbeville offered 4% interest on a 6-month CD investment which was the best local rate he found. Discussion was held. No public comments were made

**Motion:** Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to invest the large Entergy Franchise check issued to the Town into a new 6-month CD at Bank of Abbeville at 4% interest. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None; Absent- Catalon

**Sales Tax Update-** November 2024 sales tax is \$103,802.26 which is down 6% from last year. Arsement advised he could not pinpoint the reason for the decrease but advised the amount received is still a healthy number. He asked residents continue supporting local businesses or shop online and thanked everyone for continuing to support local community businesses.

**Updates-** Arsement advised the restroom facility site at Maurice Park would be staked out with better weather conditions and hoped for the concrete to be poured before next month's Meeting. He reminded Council members of the \$150,000 grant portion allocated to Maurice Park's drainage improvements. He also advised LUS will begin placing fiber lines in Town along Hwy 167. Areas off the highway will be offered with enough participation. Discussion was held

**Council Concerns:** Landry-Lalande thanked Maurice Fire Department and Sellers & Associates for hosting a fantastic Christmas Social in December.

**Motion:** Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:33pm. Yay- All Present

s/Nichole G. Bonin  
Nichole G Bonin, Assistant Clerk

s/Neil Arsement  
Neil Arsement, Mayor