

GENERAL MEETING  
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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:** Erica Arceneaux; Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Shakyla Cormier; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Dirk Soileau, Entergy Louisiana; John Sonnier; Jeremy Hidalgo

**Mayor Arsement asked Council members and Chief Nerren to recognize budget to actual financial statements included in their monthly binders**

**Approval of the General Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2025-** No public comments

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to accept the December 17, 2025, minutes and dispense with the reading. Yay-All Present

**Agenda Approval-** No public comments

**Motion:** S. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept the agenda as presented. Yay- All Present

**Mayor Neil Arsement- Appointment of Municipal Clerk-** Arsement asked Council members to consider Erica Arceneaux for the position of Municipal Clerk to take the place of Melanie Denais who retired from the position. No public comments.

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Appoint Erica Arceneaux as Municipal Clerk. Yay- All Present

**Mayor Neil Arsement- Appointment of Tax Collector-** Arsement asked Council members to consider Erica Arceneaux for the position of Tax Collector to take the place of Melanie Denais who retired from the position. No public comments.

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Appoint Erica Arceneaux as Tax Collector. Yay- All Present

**Ricky Lafleur-** Mr. Lafleur, stated that Mayor's Court was going well. Some discussions were held. He had nothing else to report.

**Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates-** Mr. Sonnier advised the materials for the water tower were supposed to be delivered during the week but the parts were coming from North Dakota and the cold weather interfered with the delivery. He also advised dress-up at Maurice Park would begin as soon as the weather permitted. Arsement advised Glenn Lege would continue additional work at Maurice Park once the Council decided on the installation of the ballards. Arsement asked Council members if they would like to see the ballards installed. Further discussion will be held after Council members visit the park to look at the possible placement of the ballards. Discussion was held

**Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates-** Nerren advised the department is still looking for an officer. The last applicant did not pass the psychological test.

**Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor-** December 2025- 9,048,000 gallons of water produced; 8,192,469 gallons of water sold; 855,531 gallons of water Unmetered; 8%. Meche advised the department cleared smaller trees on the new City Hall property. The Drainage Board will assist with clearing the larger trees when the weather improves. The department also hired a new employee, Wesley Sonnier. Meche advised Schlicher the potholes on Hudson Road were filled and the road is on the list for grading to be done by Vermilion Parish. He also advised the maintenance crew was working on Coyote Trail. Arsement asked Meche to get a quote from a couple businesses for a bionic blade.

**Mayor Arsement- Introduction of Ordinances to be Set for Public Hearing:**

**Introducing an Ordinance to Approve Golf Cart Use on Municipal Roads-** Scott Trahan expressed concerns about public safety for residents who are in favor as well as those who are not in favor of using golf carts. He suggested only utilizing or crossing roadways that have a maximum speed of 25 mph and possibly reduce the 35 mph speeds to 25 mph for safety. He also wanted to include the definition of a path. Arsement wanted to reduce all municipal roadways to 15 or 25 mph except for state highway speeds which the Town has no control over. Nerren advised State Laws prevent golf carts from utilizing or crossing state highways. Catalon expressed concerns regarding excessive speeds on East Vincent Street. Arsement felt the proposed ordinance was strict, which was the responsibility of the Council. Those breaking the law falls outside of the control of Council members. Having an ordinance in place allows the Police Department to regulate and enforce the rules set forth. Schlicher agreed with reducing some of the municipal road speeds to better regulate which roads golf carts can travel and cross over and asked to replace slow moving vehicles to read only golf carts. Matthew Trahan suggested maybe isolating roads that can be utilized to the individual subdivisions to see how residents comply before moving to allow all municipal roads to be utilized. If problems arise, a vote can be made by Council members to get rid of the ordinance and not allow golf carts on any roadways. He also suggested reaching out to the individual HOA's to have representatives present for the Public Hearing. Landry-Lalande was in favor of moving things forward with the suggested changes to accommodate the needs of the Town's growing community. Arsement also wanted to include an effective date of May 1, 2026, if approved. Lafleur felt putting safeguards in place by ordinance was necessary for public safety if the Council chooses to move forward. No public comments

**Motion:** Schlicher/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to set a Public Hearing in the Town of Maurice Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555 at 6pm, on February 18, 2026, to present an Ordinance to Approve Golf Cart Use on Municipal Roads.

Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

**Introducing an Ordinance to Adopt Modifications to Existing Sales and Use Tax Ordinance-** Arsement advised the State of Louisiana recently passed a law allowing municipalities to adopt a 0% deduction for the administration portion of sales tax collections. The law also included the collection of sales taxes for digital streaming services such as Netflix, etc. The Town has an ordinance currently allowing a 2% deduction for administration. Most of the municipalities in the parish agreed on a 1% deduction allowance. Arsement wanted to reduce the deduction to 0% but decided in favor of the administration deduction amount of 1% to avoid confusion in municipal reporting to the Vermilion Parish Sales Tax Department. The amounts currently being deducted by individual businesses for administration in the Town was relatively small; however, the cumulative amount from all businesses added up to approximately \$12,000 per year. The proposed ordinance included the administration percentage reduction and collection for digital services. Discussion was held. No public comments

**Motion:** S. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to set a Public Hearing in the Town of Maurice Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555 at 6pm, on February 18, 2026, to present an Ordinance to Adopt Modifications to Existing Sales and Use Tax Ordinance. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None

**Introducing an Ordinance to Modify an Existing Ordinance Establishing the Salary of the Municipal Clerk-** Arsement advised the proposed ordinance included an increase in pay for the Municipal Clerk position. Catalon asked about health insurance and was advised the current ordinance does not include health insurance because former Clerk, Melanie Denais, had opted out of the Town's health policy. Arsement advised since Denais opted out of the Town's health insurance, he decided to wait to present an updated ordinance. Discussion was held. No public comments.

**Motion:** Schlicher/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to set a Public Hearing in the Town of Maurice Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555 at 6pm, on February 18, 2026, to present an Ordinance to Modify an Existing Ordinance Establishing the Salary of the Municipal Clerk. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

**Introducing an Ordinance to Modify the Existing Sewer Use Ordinance to Adjust the Sewer Use Fees-** Arsement advised the audit from LRWA regarding the sewer financials was completed. The audit revealed that after sewer collections and expenses, the Town was putting in \$593,000 from sales tax collections and the Utility Fund to continue operations. Even with the Town putting in \$593,000, the sewer system still lost \$91,000. Because of the loss, the Town would not be eligible to borrow money for repairs or upgrades. Arsement has been working with Nick Sonnier, Representative Hebert, and Governor Landry, and others to get funding for a Sewer expansion Project for the Town. The total cost would be around \$8 million with the Town's share at \$1.6 million. With the sewer system operating in the red, the Town would not be eligible to borrow the local funds if necessary. Arsement proposed an increase to the sewer rate minimum charge for 2,000 gallons by \$9 which would bring the charge to \$21 per month. The proposed increase for every 1,000 gallons over the minimum usage would increase by \$3.34 bringing the total to \$10 per month. This would put the sewer system operating at the minimum amount needed to borrow money for improvements with the Town still putting in \$593,000. Arsement advised the rate increase should be higher than what he's proposing but this conversation with the residents for the necessity of the increase would be very hard. Arsement also wanted to see at least a 2% annual increase to rates to sustain the sewer system maintenance. Catalon thought the increase was necessary after looking at the financials. Scott Trahan asked how long the Town had before having to look at the sewer expansion and was advised the Town has about 5 or 6 years. This is about how long it would take to obtain all the funding which is why he's making the increase proposal now. Arsement didn't want to see a moratorium put in place in the future. Schlicher stated residents are already upset with being charged sewer when watering yards. Sonnier advised a landscape meter could be purchased and it costs the same amount to treat 500 gallons and 1000 gallons. Matthew Trahan advised he lives in the city limits and does not have access to the Town's sewer because money has to be taken from other areas to cover expenses. He hoped older incorporated areas would eventually have access to the Town's system to avoid dealing with the expenses of a septic system. Arsement agreed. No public comments.

**Motion:** S. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to set a Public Hearing in the Town of Maurice Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555 at 6pm, on February 18, 2026, to present an Ordinance to Modify the Existing Sewer Use Ordinance to Adjust the Sewer Use Fees. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay-None

**Introducing a Resolution to Appropriate Funding and Authorize the Mayor to Advertise for Sealed Bids for the Construction of the New Town Hall And Providing for Related Matters-** Arsement advised the resolution was necessary to move forward with the bid process for the New City Hall. The cost without furniture and computers is about \$2.4-\$2.6 million. The Town has \$1.665 million in state funding coming in. Arsement asked for approval to spend \$1,035,000 bringing the estimated budget total to about \$2.7 million. Dirk Soileau of Entergy asked about the location of the New City Hall. Arsement advised The building would be near Rita Street, and he had already been in contact with Entergy's engineers regarding the project. Scott Trahan thanked Arsement for the work being put into moving the project forward. No public comments

**Motion:** Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to Approve a Resolution to Appropriate Funding and Authorize the Mayor to Advertise for Sealed Bids for the Construction of the New Town Hall and Providing for Related Matters. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Nay- None

**Other Matters/Updates-**

**Sales Tax Report-** November 2025 sales tax is \$133,378.06 which increased 28.5% from last year. Arsement asked residents continue supporting local businesses or shop online and thanked everyone for continuing to support the local community businesses and keep them growing.

**Updates-** Arsement advised Maurice Park is still being worked on. The Town's payroll distribution was modified from bi-monthly to bi-weekly. He also introduced Kimberly Guidry as the newest City Hall office clerk. Arsement thanked Nichole Bonin for finding the information on the Town's Cancer Policy which reads the policy is available to all Town employees. Arsement also advised he is waiting to do the annual water increase until after the sewer increase has been decided. If sewer rates increase, he proposed waiting until next year to increase water rates, then the following year to increase both rates.

**Council Concerns:**

**Motion:** Schlicher/Landry-Lalande seconded and carried to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Yay- All Present