

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, March 18, 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 Scott Trahan 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; Kimberly Guidry; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Anthony Koppie; Jeremy Hidalgo; Keith Breaux; John Sonnier; Chad Abell

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 February 18, 2026- No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to accept the February 18, 2026, minutes and dispense with the reading. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval- Matthew Trahan- add Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance Senator Bill Cassidy and remove item 5.c No public comments

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

Mike Roy, John S Dowling- Present Fiscal Year Audit- Mr. Roy went over the highlights of the General, 75 Sales Tax, and 89 Sales Tax Governmental Funds and the Utility Fund from the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Audit, which included revenues, expenses, capital assets, etc. Roy stated fund balances had greatly increased throughout the governmental funds. Mr. Roy recognized the General Fund balance included ARPA Funds and Entergy payments. The Town's Utility Fund expenditures exceeded the revenue collected. Internal control issues included inadequate segregation of duties and improperly tagged assets. Arsement advised the Town is actively working on both issues. The audit showed the Town operated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Roy asked Council members to review the report and contact him with any questions or concerns. Discussion was held

Jeremy Hidalgo- Parish Strategy Group- Updates on Occupational Licenses- Mr. Hidalgo discussed the implementation process for introducing Parish Strategy to current business owners. He gave Council members a spreadsheet showing collection numbers since his company took over the Occupational License tax and advised he is currently doing a pre-audit on 24 businesses whose gross receipts appeared to be underreported and plans to have site visits to 27 businesses who have not responded to initial communications. Collection efforts are going well and have increased from the previous year. Matthew Trahan thanked Hidalgo for the fair treatment of business owners throughout the Town. Discussion was held.

Khoa Le- AQ Studios- Present City Hall Bids & Recommendations to Award- Chad Abell spoke on behalf of AQ Studios and recommended the New City Hall project be awarded to L.K. Breaux, the lowest responsive bidder at \$1,923,000. The bid was under the allocated budget. The original bid packets will be turned into City Hall for the project file. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to award the New City Hall project to L.K. Breaux at \$1,923,000 Contingent Upon Concurrence from Facility Planning & Control. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None

Ricky Lafleur- Mr. Lafleur, stated that Mayor's Court was going well. The issue with the abandoned vehicle in Victoria Manor was taken care of. Lafleur will discuss a non-profit business that was exempt from the Occupational License Tax with Mr. Hidalgo. Arsement asked Lafleur to check into filing a public record request to obtain documents from Vermilion Parish. The discovery process is still going on with Entergy. Discussion was held.

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Resolution Pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant (January 2025- December 2025)- Sonnier presented the audit report which showed no exceedances of legal limits throughout the year. Maurice's North WWTP is in good shape. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Accept the Resolution Pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant (January 2025-December 2025). Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Resolution Pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant (January 2025-December 2025)- Sonnier presented the audit report which showed no exceedances of legal limits throughout the year. Maurice's South WWTP is in good shape. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Accept the Resolution Pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant (January 2025-December 2025). Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None

Petition for Annexation: Claire Bohn, Ferdinand Villien, & Edward Villien Property- Sonnier received a signed petition for property annexation from the property owners and prepared a plat for Council consideration. The property is currently undeveloped. Arsement was in favor of the annexation because the Town would potentially gain residential water customers which generates income to help alleviate the strain on Maurice's infrastructure. Sonnier also advised a letter of no objection from the parish was necessary since the Town would only take in the right-of-way and not the paved portion of the road leading up to that point. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to accept the Petition for Annexation: Claire Bohn, Ferdinand Villien, & Edward Villien Property contingent upon a letter of no objection from Vermilion Parish regarding the right-of-way. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the Honorable Bill Cassidy, U.S. Senator FY 2027 Congressional Direct Spending Request-

Sonnier advised there are grant funds available from Cassidy's Congressional Direct Spending. Arsement wanted Sellers and Associates to submit the resolution on behalf of the Town to offset some of the cost of the sewer plant expansion as a back-up plan in case state funding doesn't come through. The request would be for 8 million dollars. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: S. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to accept the Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the Honorable Bill Cassidy, U.S. Senator FY 2027 Congressional Direct Spending Request. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

Sonnier advised the legs on the elevated water tower are up and the contractor is working on the bowl. Progress is going well.

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Introduction to Increase the Salary of the Chief of Police- Nerren asked Council members to consider introducing an ordinance to amend the Police Chief Salary. Nerren asked for a \$5,200 yearly increase to his current salary. Nerren's salary was more than the current established Ordinance due to cost-of-living increases received over the last few years. Landry-Lalande and Matthew Trahan asked about workload changes, and accomplishments over the last few years and areas that need improvement within the department. Nerren advised he gets calls to assist officers all hours of the day and night and he felt the department has moved in a positive direction during his time in office over the last 7 ½ years. Schlicher and Scott Trahan asked about Chief of Police salaries from other municipalities. Nerren did not have information from other municipalities to present. Council members did not feel enough information was presented to justify an increase at this time. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Catalon/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and failed to Introduce an Ordinance Amending and Increasing the Salary of the Chief of Police. Yay- None; Nay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan

Updates- Family Fun Day- Nerren advised the annual Family Fun Day was scheduled for March 28th at Maurice Park.

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- January 2026- 9,703,000 gallons of water produced; 8,701,064 gallons of water sold; 1,001,936 gallons of water Unmetered; 10%. The crew will do grass maintenance at Maurice Park before the Family Fun Day. Maintenance crew is mowing around Town. Meche was asked about the orientation and placement of the logo for the elevated water tank. Arsement asked for Council consideration regarding placing the current logo or other ideas for a different design. Arsement asked Catalon to discuss the logo and placement with Council members. Discussion was held.

Mayor Arsement- Introduce to Amend the Water Use Ordinance- Arsement asked Council members to consider reducing the time allowed before Town Utility services are disconnected for non-payment. He wanted to possibly set the date for the 1st day of the month following the bill due date. Council members had concerns about the estimated 10 day disconnect being too strict for those that may have conflicting payroll dates or emergency situations. The tentative change would be for the 15th of the month following the bill's due date. Extensive discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Catalon/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance to Reduce the Utility Disconnect date and Set a Public Hearing for April 15, 2026, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Authorize Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Wynn Family to Purchase Property on Lafayette Street next to Maurice Park- Arsement advised the agreed upon price for the 8 acres of property next to Maurice Park is \$202,000. Arsement suggested using Gerald Dartez to handle the paperwork. The new property would give the Town some flexibility on amenities that can be added. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried Authorizing Mayor Arsement to Enter into a Contract with the Wynn Family to Purchase 8 acres of Property on Lafayette Street next to Maurice Park Yay- M. Trahan, Catalon, S. Trahan, Schlicher, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None

Sales Tax Report- January 2026 sales tax is \$137,286.21 which increased 16.8% from last year. Arsement asked residents continue supporting local businesses or shopping online and thanked everyone for continuing to support the local community businesses and keep them growing.

Updates- City Hall will start as soon as possible. Concrete crews will finish walkways at Maurice Park, and the small hill should open soon. Arsement is working on getting pavilion details soon.

Council Concerns- Landry-Lalande had concerns about the height of the larger hill at Maurice Park. Arsement advised the height can be adjusted if necessary once the pavilion is installed. She also thought rebranding the Maurice logo should be considered. Arsement asked Landr-Lalande and Catalon to have discussion and present something as soon as possible. Matthew Trahan will send out an email regarding the placement of the bollards. Schlicher clarified Roberts Rules for discussion of agenda items and motions. Catalon asked about sidewalks along Andre Avenue. Estimates came back high but Arsement is still working on getting funding and moving forward with installation. Discussion was held

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Yay- All Present