

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 15, 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 Matthew 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; Shakyla Cormier; Kimberly Guidry; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Chad Rousell; Shane Henry; John Sonnier

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to enter the Public Hearing. Yay- All Present

Public Hearing for the Purpose of:

Present Ordinance 26-4 to Amend Water Use Ordinance 05-11-A Amending Ordinance 92-2-B Section 2. (a) & (b) and section 4.- Arsement went over the proposed Ordinance. After discussion with office personnel regarding timing of utility bill processing, Arsement suggested Council members look at changing the disconnect date stated in the proposed ordinance from the 15th of the month to 15 days or 15 business days after utility bills have become delinquent. The current adopted ordinance set the disconnect date for 45 days after delinquent. Nichole Bonin advised disconnects set for either 15 business days or 15 days upon delinquency would work with the utility billing system timing. Arsement also advised a date of disconnect was added for 3 days after discovery of a water leak. Catalon asked if a disconnect from leaks would affect hot water tanks and was advised only if drained by the homeowner. Schlicher wanted the disconnect date stated on each bill or disconnect on the 10th of each month. Lafleur, Scott Trahan, Landry-Lalande, and Legal Lafleur didn't agree with stating the disconnect date on each bill suggesting instead the timeframe established by the ordinance be stated. Schlicher also thought the 20% late fee established when the Town had less customers should be reviewed. Scott Trahan asked Nichole Bonin and Shakyla Cormier if business days was enough time to settle past due utility accounts and was advised the timeframe was sufficient. Cormier also stated she would work around whatever timeframe the Council decided to establish. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to close the Public Hearing. Yay- All Present

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 March 18, 2026- No public comments

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

Agenda Approval- Scott Trahan asked to add item 6. Resolution b. Declaration of Festival; Nick Sonnier requested removal of item 3.a. No public comment

Motion: S. Trahan/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to amend the agenda to add item 6. Resolution b. and remove item 3.a.

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

Shane Henry- Mendoza Ford- Fireworks Ordinance Variance- Mr. Henry advised the Fireworks display at Mendoza Ford would be held on June 27, 2026 from 9pm-9:30pm and asked Council members for variance consideration. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: Schlicher/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to grant a variance to the Fireworks Ordinance for June 27, 2026, from 9pm-10pm contingent upon approval from the LA State Fire Marshal and coordination with Maurice Volunteer Fire Department. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None

Ricky Lafleur-Resolution 26-4A Authorizing Mayor to request Attorney General Opinion on the Parish Ad Valorem Tax, Louisiana Constitution Article 6, Section 26(C)- Lafleur explained the Police Jury's interpretation of the amount of tax to be collected by the Parish is not the same interpretation he, Mayor Arsement, and the Legislative Auditor understands with the town's population. Arsement believes the tax for town's citizens should be reduced from 4% to 2% and advised a Resolution must be accepted by the Council to request an Attorney General Opinion. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to accept Resolution 26-4A Authorizing Mayor to request Attorney General Opinion on the Parish Ad Valorem Tax, Louisiana Constitution Article 6, Section 26(C). Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay-None

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Sonnier advised Council members item 3.a was removed due to a technicality in the Louisiana Revised Statute governing Annexation of property owned by a public body. An annexation notice was prepared by Sellers & Associates to present to the Police Jury for consideration.

Vermilion Villas-Construction Plans & DIA- Sonnier presented the Construction Plans and DIA for Vermilion Villas and recommended approval contingent upon the Developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Accept Construction Plans and DIA for Vermilion Villas contingent upon the Developer addressing comments in Sellers & Associates April 15, 2026, letter. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Elaine Corners Revised Preliminary Plat- Sonnier advised the Developer for Elaine Corners Subdivision, wanted to reduce the lot lines to add another lot to the previously approved Plat. Sellers & Associates had no objection to the change. Council members questioned the size of the homes, setbacks, and parking in the proposed change. Arsement advised the town does not enforce a minimum lot size at this time. If Council members want to propose a minimum lot size, an ordinance would need to be presented and passed. Schlicher questioned the acreage of the development and was advised, the .725 acres met the minimum requirement for a waiver of detention according to the town's Subdivision Ordinance.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Accept the Revised Preliminary Plat for Elaine Corners. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None

Sonnier advised the bowl for the Elevated Water Tower is up. Arsement asked about the logos and was informed they would be painted on and the project cost included a basic logo. A more intricate logo may cost additional. Sonnier suggested going into the decision with recommendations. Catalon will get with the schools for suggestions and Sonnier will prepare the necessary Resolutions to proceed and get additional cost details if there are any. Landry-Lalande and Arsement asked Sonnier to get recommendations from other municipalities on lot sizes so an ordinance can be presented.

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Introduction to Increase the Salary of the Chief of Police- Nerren advised Golf Cart Registrations are going well. He and Nichole Bonin have been working together to ensure all items have been checked and fees paid for. A new officer has been hired and is scheduled to take his physical and drug screen. Nerren asked Council members to consider allowing him to hire another officer. He also advised the Family Fun Day went well. Arsement asked about Nerren's concerns with motorized and battery-operated scooters and inquired about state laws and Town Ordinance language in Maurice Park. Nerren advised the Town's Ordinance prohibits motorized vehicles on the grassy areas of Maurice Park and there are regulating state laws on scooters but only for specific types. Suggestions were made to potentially add electric scooters and electric bikes to the Maurice Park Ordinance. Nerren asked for clarification on permission to hire another officer. Arsement asked for the officer hiring to be placed on the May agenda to give Council members time to gather their thoughts on the matter. Nerren will be sending Officer Segura to the Academy in August. Her year with the department is in September.

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- March 2026-8,631,000 gallons of water produced; 7,916,587 gallons of water sold; 714,413 gallons of water Unmetered; 8%. The maintenance crew is working hard to keep up with grass, edging sidewalks, and park maintenance. A repair was made to the timer on faucet in the men's restroom at the park. Matthew Trahan advised of a water leak near the Valero Station. Meche has already addressed the issue. Arsement advised everything looks great and he hasn't had any complaints about grass maintenance performed by the Town. Catalon asked about maintenance to the ditch next to Kohen Estates. Arsement advised that if the Drainage Board is working in other areas, the Town does assist with cleaning the ditch. There is now a problem with homeowners who have built fences too close to the ditch. Arsement is contacting homeowners to either move the fences or maintain the area behind their homes. If maintenance is not performed by the homeowners, the fences would be forcibly removed at the homeowners' expense.

Mayor Arsement-Ordinance 26-4 to Amend Water Use Ordinance 05-11-A Amending Ordinance 92-2-B Section 2. (a) & (b) and section 4.- Arsement opened the floor for motions to make amendments and discuss the ordinance presented in the Public Hearing. No public comments on either motion.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Amend the presented ordinance verbiage in Section 2.b. to read "Services shall be discontinued/disconnected for any account that remains unpaid by fifteenth (15th) business day following the due date" with all other amendments to remain as presented. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Nay- None

Motion: Schlicher/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt Ordinance 26-4 as Amended to Amend Water Use Ordinance 05-11-A An Ordinance amending Ordinance Number: 98-2-B Sections 2. (a) & (b) and Section 4. Water and Sewage Use Ordinance Amendment of the Village of Maurice, Louisiana. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

Resolution 26-4 Authorizing Mayor to Purchase Land Located in the Town of Maurice from the Wynne Family- Arsement reminded Council members authorization was previously granted to get into a contract with the Wynne Family to purchase property near Maurice Park. A Resolution was necessary to finalize the paperwork for the purchase and close on the property. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried accepting Resolution 26-4 Authorizing Mayor Arsement Purchase the Property from the Wynne Family in the amount of \$202,000. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- None

Resolution Declaring Maurice Farmer's Market Days as a Festival in Maurice Park- Arsement advised a Festival Declaration must be made for smaller vendors selling home baked goods and food to not be regulated by LDH. The Resolution contained regulation suggestions made by LDH, community members, and other municipalities that have Farmer's Markets. Food Trucks would still be regulated by LDH and Peddler Permits are still required to be obtained by vendors. Arsement advised that vendors cannot be charged booth fees at Maurice Park, events must remain open to the public, and no one can bring vehicles on the grass. Catalon asked about Food trucks dumping and was advised they must be self-contained and have a commissary for waste disposal. LDH and DEQ still have jurisdiction for illegal waste dumping. Arsement advised organizers that he would shut everything down if he found out they are profiting off the event. The Town Officials all expressed excitement and looked forward to future events. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried accepting Resolution 24-6B Recognizing Maurice Farmer's Market Days as a Festival to be held in Maurice Park, Maurice LA, Parish of Vermilion. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Sales Tax Report- February 2026 sales tax is \$131,744.82 which increased 20.7% from last year. Arsement asked residents to continue supporting local businesses or shopping online and thanked everyone for continuing to support the local community businesses and keep them growing.

Updates- Arsement advised the New City Hall contract was signed. Landry-Lalande suggested doing a groundbreaking event. Arsement advised Vermilion Day is being held at the Capital in May.

Council Concerns- Arsement advised Schlicher the new stop signs for Hudson Yards were in and the damaged one was scheduled to be replaced.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Yay- All Present