

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 20, 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; Alderman Troy Catalan; Alderman Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan; Alderman Scott Trahan

Absent: Alderwoman Megan Landry-Lalande

Also present: Nichole Bonin; Shakyla Cormier; Kimberly Guidry; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Chad Rousel; David Hensgens; Germaine Scalisi Lattier; Earl Lattier; Jesse Trahan; John Sonnier; Wayne Theriot
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 April 15, 2026- No public comments

Motion: Schlicher/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to accept the April 15, 2026, minutes as presented and unread. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval-Troy Catalan requested the removal of item 2.b, Petition for Annexation along LA 92 East. No public comment

Motion: Schlicher/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to approve the agenda as amended removing Item 2.b. Yay- All Present

Ricky Lafleur-Lafleur advised Mayor's Court was going well and gave updates on grass compliance issues. Catalan asked about the abandoned motor home on LA 92 West. Nerren advised the tags were too old to locate the owner. Lafleur will submit a compliance letter to the landowner. Arsement asked if owners of structures without utilities could receive letters. Lafleur advised compliance only applied to hazardous structures. Arsement advised of 2 properties with dilapidated structures. Lafleur will obtain photos and send letters to property owners. Discussion was held

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Sonnier introduced an Ordinance Extending and Enlarging the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Maurice and Including an Area known as Claire Bohn, Ferdinand Villien & Edward Villien Property at Etienne Road and a right of way along the North side of Etienne Rd. The annexation document did not include the roadway because all owners of property along at least one side of the roadway must be annexed before the road can be taken in. Arsement advised adoption consideration required a public hearing to be set. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to present an Ordinance Extending and Enlarging the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Maurice and Including an Area known as Claire Bohn, Ferdinand Villien & Edward Villien Property at Etienne Road for a Public Hearing to be held on June 17, 2026, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555. Yay- Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Cottage Cove Phase 2 Construction Plans & DIA Approval- Sonnier recommended approval contingent upon the developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates. Arsement asked if there are plans for another phase and was advised phase III was being considered. Arsement's only concern was not landlocking the neighboring property. The developer advised there are plans to provide access as previously discussed. Schlicher questioned the setbacks and was advised all are to the current Subdivision requirements. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to approve Cottage Cove Phase II Construction Plans & DIA contingent upon the developer addressing comments made by Sellers & Associates. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Catalan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Prairie Cove Phase 3 Final Plat and Construction Improvement Approval- Sonnier recommended approval contingent upon the developer addressing the punch list from Sellers & Associates. Schlicher asked if the subdivision extended to Desoto Rd. and was advised it does not. No public comment

Motion: Catalan/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to approve Prairie Cove Phase 3 Final Plat & Construction Plans contingent upon the developer addressing the punch list from Sellers & Associates. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Catalan, Schlicher; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Elaine Corners Final Plat Approval- Sonnier presented the final plat for Elaine Corners Subdivision and advised there would be 6 lots instead of 5. Arsement advised he has had discussion with the developer to submit larger lot sizes in future developments and is working on minimum lot sizes to be placed in the Subdivision Ordinance. Catalan questioned the design and was advised there is talk about 2-story homes. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to Accept the Revised Preliminary Plat for Elaine Corners. Yay- Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

New 250,000-Gallon Elevated Water Storage Tank-Contract Change Order No. 1- Sonnier presented a contract price increase in the amount of \$14,600 to paint the Patriot and Bulldog logos on the elevated tank instead of the original Town of Maurice logo and advised the project would still be under budget with the increase. Sonnier advised the cost to add the original logo was based on a percentage of the original contract price. Arsement wanted the school logos but thought the increase was high. Council members questioned the budget and discussed the original design. Sonnier advised according to the contractor, the new logo designs would take more time to complete. Arsement asked for thoughts from residents in attendance. Wayne Theriot, Germaine Lattier and John Sonnier wanted the Town of Maurice logo. Jesse Trahan and Wayne Theriot questioned if the Town would see the savings for coming under budget and Theriot questioned the elements of the contracted budget. Sonnier advised the awarded grant funds would be used first so any savings would go directly to the Town's contribution of funding. Jesse Trahan suggested leaving out the word Town and just use Maurice instead. Arsement and Council members thanked residents for comments and suggestions on the logo and name for the new elevated storage tank. Discussion was held. No further public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalon moved, seconded and failed to accept Contract Change Order No. 1 for the New 250,000-Gallon Elevated Water Tank. Nay- Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Chief Nerren, Police Chief-Approval of Adding Another Officer to the PD Staff- Nerren asked to add another full-time officer to his staff. Arsement was in favor of the request for public safety. Schlicher questioned if the budget could handle the addition. Nerren advised any overage would be within the acceptable percentage. If approved, the department would have 7 full-time officers, which is still below the national average. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: S. Trahan/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to add another full-time officer to the Department's staff. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Catalan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Dispatcher Amanda Daigle gave her 2-week resignation. Nerren advised the position was filled and while training, Vermillion Sheriff would assist with calls.

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- April 2026- 10,318,000 gallons of water produced; 9,654,292 gallons of water sold; 663,708 gallons of water Unmetered; 6%. The maintenance crew is working hard to keep up with grass, edging sidewalks, and park maintenance. Meche advised someone reported there was an issue with a clogged toilet in the men's room which was resolved. Catalan asked about the ditch near Kohen Estates. Arsement advised the Town tried to help maintain the area but there was an issue with residents building fences in the 30ft right of way belonging to the Drainage Board. Arsement discussed the issue with homeowners. If a resolution isn't reached, the Drainage Board can remove the fences at the owners' expense. Discussion was held

Mayor Arsement-Pool Variance for 108 Louis Pvt Lane- The owner of the property requested a variance for the rear setback to install a pool 1ft to 3ft from the rear property line. Arsement advised Council members needed to set the variance footage for permitting. Incorrect property lines were given to the owner when the home was purchased. Council members asked about possible issues with a variance and were advised nothing could be built outside the rear property line because the Drainage Board maintains a 30ft right of way. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Catalan/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to approve the pool variance as amended. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Catalan, Schlicher; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Motion: Schlicher/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to amend the request to grant a variance of 3ft from the rear property line specifically for the installation of the proposed pool located at 108 Louis Pvt Lane. Yay- S. Trahan, Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Resolution 26-5A Establishing a Speed Limit of 15 MPH in Residential Subdivision Neighborhood Developments in the Town of Maurice, La 70555- Wayne Theriot asked to be clear in defining 15mph streets and was advised that was addressed in the resolution. Schlicher questioned the resolution since the speed limit was already established. Recently, a developer placed 25mph signs and Chief Nerren advised they needed 15mph signs. Arsement advised resolutions previously recorded in the minutes could not be located and wanted to ensure a document was on record. Discussion was held.

Motion: Schlicher/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to accept Resolution 26-5A Establishing a Speed Limit of 15 MPH in all Residential Subdivision Neighborhood Developments in the Town of Maurice, La 70555. Yay- Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Resolution 26-5 to Accept Monthly Street Lighting Fees in the Utility Right-of-Way Along Louis Pvt Lane, Maurice, La 70555- Arsement advised most of the streetlights are not working. Residents paying for the lights have recently stopped paying for them, causing an interruption in the lighting services. Jesse Trahan and Germaine Lattier advised there have been multiple theft issues and a vehicle wreck because it is so dark. Lattier requested the Town take over the road. Arsement advised the road was originally built for the Town to take over but was unsure why the process wasn't completed. Chief Nerren advised the dark roadway is dangerous for residents living there and for emergency personnel responding to calls in the area. He asked the Council to consider passing the resolution for public safety. Arsement advised office staff researched what needed to be done for the Town to legally accept the lighting and was advised that the Council could pass a resolution to take over the lighting fees if there were public safety issues or emergency response safety issues. This situation included both. Scott Trahan advised he was involved in some of the more recent areas where streetlights were added and paid for by the Town because of safety issues and was in favor of the Town taking over the lights. Schlicher asked if the resolution could be amended to have the Town take over the road. Nick Sonnier advised that an Act of Dedication would need to be drawn up and presented to individual landowners to sign before that consideration could be made. Arsement advised Sonnier could begin the process to take over the road and present the legal paperwork later. Council members agreed to start this process. Arsement advised, he would meet with Entergy to discuss streetlight placement. Discussion was held. No further comments.

Motion: Schlicher/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried accepting Resolution 26-5 to Accept Monthly Street Lighting Fees in the Utility Right-of-Way Along Louis Pvt Lane, Maurice, La 70555. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Catalan; Absent- Landry-Lalande

Sales Tax Report- March 2026 sales tax is \$150,930.56 which decreased 4.6% from last year. Arsement advised despite the reflected decrease, sales tax numbers were still strong and asked residents to continue supporting local businesses or shopping online. He thanked everyone for continuing to support the local community businesses to keep them growing.

Updates- Arsement received calls about the sewer rate increase and has met with several residents to discuss. The Town just replaced a sewer pump which at a cost of \$28,000. Someone wants to buy the home located on the Town's property next to the water tower. He advised Council members, an appraisal was necessary to handle the situation correctly. Specific guidelines for anything valued under \$5,000 and over \$5,000 are required. Once the appraisal is complete Arsement will present the information to Council members. The cost of demolition came in at \$8,000.

Council Concerns- Catalan advised there is an issue with grass growing onto the asphalt at Maurice Park. Meche will take care of the issue. Schlicher asked if the ditch crossover on Vermilion Lane would be replaced. Arsement advised the project was estimated at \$90,000 because of a drainage issue and hopes to include it in the next budget. Schlicher requested an update on the sidewalk project along Hudson Yards and Kohen Estates. Arsement advised he is trying to get grant funding to assist with the estimated 260,000 cost. Sonnier advised he is waiting on the final document donating the servitude for Hudson Yards to the Town. Schlicher advised residents of Hudson Yards like the newly installed stop signs.

Motion: Schlicher/Catalon motioned, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Yay- All Present