



PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DERIDDER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 AT 5:30 O’CLOCK P.M.

The Council of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana met in Regular Session at its meeting place, the Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 200 South Jefferson Street, DeRidder, Louisiana on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 o’clock p.m. President Randy Larken called the meeting to order, led the Invocation and Councilmember Monte’ Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. The roll was called by the Clerk as follows: Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember John Marcello, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken. All Councilmembers were present representing a quorum. Also present were Glenna Luther, Council Clerk; Shane Williams, City Attorney; and Michael Harris, Mayor.

5. Visitors’ Docket. Judith Scudiero addressed the Council with public comments regarding the poor conditions of properties in her neighborhood. Tommy Edwards provided an update to the Council on the CASA program.

6. Amendments to Agenda. President Larken asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to postpone the public hearing on Item 13.B.1 because the City is still waiting on a response from the Louisiana Department of Transportation. Councilmember Marcello made a motion to amend the agenda to postpone the public hearing on 13.B.1 until Monday, March 23, 2026 and Councilmember Hooper offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

- YEAS: Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
- NAYS: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Agenda was amended to remove Item 13.B.1., public hearing, to be postponed until March 23, 2026 at 5:30 o’clock p.m.

7. Adoption of Minutes. President Larken announced that the February 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes have been distributed and there being no corrections, the minutes were approved by the Council.

10. Ratification of Appointments.

Councilmember Reynolds made the motion to ratify the appointment of Nathaniel Brown to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Councilmember Marcello offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

- YEAS: Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
- NAYS: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been approved, the appointment of Nathaniel Brown to the Planning & Zoning Commission was ratified by the Council with his term beginning April 13, 2026 and ending April 13, 2031.



13. ORDINANCES

A. Introductions.

- 1. AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE MILLAGE RATES FOR POLICE AND FIRE OPERATIONS AND GENERAL ALIMONY; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Reynolds made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Godfrey offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for a public meeting in Regular Session on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

- 2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER, THROUGH ITS MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TEXTMYGOV FOR A MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Godfrey made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Labue offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for a public hearing in Regular Session on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

The Agenda having been amended to postpone Item 13.B.1, President Larken moved to Item 13.B.2.

13. ORDINANCES

B. Public Hearings.

- 2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CONTERRA NETWORKS FOR TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing, there were no public comments and Andre Shanks answered questions from the Council. Councilmember Marcello made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Woods offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:



YEAS: Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
 NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: None.
 ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. O-2026-9; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. NO. O-2026-9
 CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CONTERRA NETWORKS FOR TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of DeRidder (“City”) requires reliable, high-speed internet and telephone services to support municipal operations and public services; and

WHEREAS, City desires to enter into a contract with Conterra Networks constituting Exhibit “A” hereto and has determined that the quote for said telephone and internet service best fits City’s needs and is the lowest proposal submitted to the City by an acceptable proposer:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of DeRidder, authorizes the City of DeRidder, through its Mayor, to enter into a contract with Conterra Networks as set forth and in accordance with the terms and conditions, and for the consideration, set forth in Exhibit “A” hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of March, 2026 by the City Council of the City of DeRidder in Regular Session duly convened in Council Chambers in DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

- 3. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE II, LIVESTOCK., SEC. 3-20. SWINE., SEC. 3-21. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH LIVESTOCK MAY BE KEPT WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS., SEC. 3-22. STAKING OUT IN PUBLIC AREAS., SEC. 3-23, HITCHING TO TREES, SHRUBS, ETC., ON PUBLIC PROPERTY., AND SEC. 3-24. LIVESTOCK AT LARGE – GENERALLY.; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing, the Council heard public comments and Lt. Buckley answered questions from the Council, Councilmember Marcello made a motion to postpone the public hearing indefinitely and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:



YEAS: Councilmember John Marcello and Councilmember Danny Reynolds.
NAYS: Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion failed and Councilmember Woods made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented and Councilmember Hooper offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. O-2026-10; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-10
CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE II, LIVESTOCK., SEC. 3-20. SWINE., SEC. 3-21. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH LIVESTOCK MAY BE KEPT WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS., SEC. 3-22. STAKING OUT IN PUBLIC AREAS., SEC. 3-23, HITCHING TO TREES, SHRUBS, ETC., ON PUBLIC PROPERTY., AND SEC. 3-24. LIVESTOCK AT LARGE – GENERALLY.; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana (“City”) governs animals and fowl within the City limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, City recognizes that there is a need from time to time to update codes pertaining to livestock, including animals and fowl, to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City finds it appropriate to amend Chapter 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE II, LIVESTOCK, as follows:

Sec. 3-20. Livestock.

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or maintain any livestock; including cattle, horses, ass, mules, donkeys, sheep, goats or any other such livestock, within the corporate limits of the city.

Sec. 3-21. Swine.

It shall be unlawful to keep any swine in the city.

Sec. 3-22. Staking out in public areas.

It shall be unlawful for any person in charge of any horse, ass, mule, cattle, goat, sheep or any other livestock to stake such livestock out or cause such livestock to be staked.

Sec. 3-23. Hitching to trees, shrubs, etc., on public property.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hitch a horse, ass, mule, or other animal to any tree, bush or shrub standing on any sidewalk or in any school yard or other public ground.

Sec. 3-24. Livestock at large – Generally.



It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any cattle, horse, mule, ass, hog, goat, sheep or other livestock, to allow any such animal to run or be at large upon the streets, sidewalks, parks, or on any unenclosed lots within the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City’s Code of Ordinances for the City be and the same is amended to include the above stated amendments.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all other paragraphs, subsections, subparagraphs, clauses, phrases and words of Chapter 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, of the City’s Code of Ordinances, not specifically amended by this Ordinance, are to remain the same.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of March, 2026 in regular session duly convened by the City Council in Council Chambers in DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

- 4. **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMI LLC DOING BUSINESS AS AQUATIC MANAGEMENT INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGING THE SWIMMING POOL LOCATED IN WEST PARK FOR RECREATION OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND AREA, INCLUDING THE YOUTH, FROM MAY 23, 2026 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2026; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing, there were no public comments and Holly Buxton answered questions from the Council. Councilmember Hooper made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Godfrey offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. O-2026-11; Charter Series, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-11
CHARTER SERIES

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMI LLC DOING BUSINESS AS AQUATIC MANAGEMENT INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGING THE SWIMMING POOL LOCATED IN WEST PARK FOR RECREATION OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND AREA, INCLUDING THE YOUTH, FROM



MAY 23, 2026 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2026; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of DeRidder (“City”) owns the premises commonly referred to as West Park in DeRidder, which said park includes a swimming pool facility with access off of Park Road; and

WHEREAS, City provides recreation for its residents, including its youth; and

WHEREAS, AMI LLC is a Nevada limited liability company in good standing and doing business as Aquatic Management Inc. who provides aquatic facility management; and

WHEREAS, AMI LLC d/b/a as Aquatic Management Inc. proposes to enter into an Aquatic Management Agreement (“Agreement”) with the City for use of the swimming pool, and associated building, grounds and equipment pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth therein as stated in Exhibit “A”, which is attached hereto and made a part of hereof, all while holding harmless and indemnifying the City as to potential damages and losses due to injuries and property losses thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby declares that it is in the best interest of the City to enter into an Agreement with said AMI LLC d/b/a Aquatic Management Inc. pursuant to the said Agreement so as to provide aquatic facility management to the City’s West Park Pool from May 23, 2026 through September 7, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of DeRidder authorizes the City, through its Mayor, to enter into an Agreement constituting Exhibit “A” hereof to provide aquatic facility management to the City’s West Park Pool from May 23, 2026 through September 7, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of March, 2026 by the City Council of the City of DeRidder in regular session duly convened in Council Chambers in DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

5. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF DERIDDER, LOUISIANA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025.

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing, there were no public comments and Holly Buxton answered questions from Councilmember Reynolds. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Woods offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.

NAYS: None.



ABSENT: None.
 ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. O-2026-12; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-12
 CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF DERIDDER, LOUISIANA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025.

SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council sitting in regular session duly convened that the operating budget of revenues and expenditures of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana for fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 as follows, to-wit:

IN DOLLARS

GENERAL FUND REVENUES:

City Taxes	\$1,785,100
Licenses/Permits	636,100
Intergovernmental/Grants	2,380,900
Fees/Charges	342,900
Interest/Rent/Dividends	283,700
Miscellaneous	430,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>5,361,700</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$11,220,400

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Administration Department	\$1,811,900
Police Department	4,245,900
Fire Department	2,573,900
Transportation Department	265,300
Recreation Department	1,409,500
Other Financing Uses	<u>585,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$10,891,500

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY)

Revenues over Expenditures align="right">\$328,900

Beginning Fund Balance align="right">\$1,112,000

Ending Fund Balance align="right">\$1,440,900

SALES TAX FUND REVENUES:

Sales Tax Collections	\$9,350,000
Interest/Dividends	127,500
Intergovernmental/Grants	118,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>67,600</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,668,300

SALES TAX EXPENDITURES:

Sales Tax Administration Department align="right">\$2,379,300



Street Department	2,384,000
Other Financing Uses	<u>5,390,600</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$10,153,900

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY)	
Expenditures over Revenues	\$(485,600)
FUND BALANCE – BEGINNING	\$3,649,000
FUND BALANCE – ENDING	\$3,163,400

UTILITY FUND REVENUES:

Sewer Fees & Taps	\$1,285,600
Penalties	72,700
Water Sales, Taps & Service Fees	2,580,400
State Testing Fees	49,400
Intergovernmental/Grants	425,000
Miscellaneous Income	104,100
Interest/Dividends	<u>57,500</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,574,700

UTILITIES FUND EXPENSES:

Utility Administration Department	\$1,017,900
Utility Maintenance Department	2,420,600
Wastewater Treatment Plant Department	1,083,200
Water Plant Department	825,300
Other Financing Uses	<u>41,200</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,388,200

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY)	
Expenses over Revenues	\$(813,500)

FUND BALANCE – BEGINNING	\$9,377,700
FUND BALANCE – ENDING	\$8,564,200

SECTION 2: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the budget revenues and expenditures for the said fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, prepared and submitted by the Director of Finance, under the supervision of the Mayor, shall be adopted as set for the hereinabove.

SECTION 3: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective October 1, 2025.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of March 2026, by the City Council of the City of DeRidder in regular session duly convened, in Council Chambers at DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN L. LUTHER
 CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
 PRESIDENT

Reports. Holly Buxton reported on the City’s scheduled events. Mayor Harris reported on the status of the Dog Pound and the Mayor’s Youth Council. Councilmember Labue thanked Lt. Buckley for his work on the livestock ordinance. President Larken thanked Councilmember Woods for sponsoring the livestock ordinance. Councilmember Woods acknowledged Women’s History Month. Councilmember Marcello reported on his constituents’ frustration with Waste



Connections. President Larken reported he also receives complaints concerning Waste Connections. Councilmember Hooper reported on his experience with the Mayor's Youth Council. President Larken congratulated the Pitkin, Simpson, Merryville and Rosepine Girls' Basketball teams for winning the state championships. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 o'clock p.m.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL