

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

The general meeting of the officials of the Town of Maurice was opened by Mayor Neil Arsement at 6:03 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: Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Claire Meche; Shakyla Cormier; Nick Sonnier and Matthew Vincent, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche,
Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Shaun Hearen, Abbeville Meridional; Penelope Lopez, KATC; John Sonnier; Bailey Shivers; Chad Roussel

Motion: Schlicher/Catalon moved, seconded, and carried to enter into the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing for the Purpose of:

An Ordinance to Amend the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024- Lafleur presented the Ordinance
for discussion. No Comments

An Ordinance to Adopt the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025-
Lafleur presented the Ordinance for discussion. No Comments

An Ordinance to Extend and Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Maurice Including an Area Known as Trahan Property (Soop Rd)-
Lafleur presented the Ordinance for discussion. No Comments

**An Ordinance Amending the Building Permit Ordinances to Define and Establish a Permit Fee Schedule, Update Penalties, and Repeal Ordinance
No. 04-07C and No. 74-10A-** Lafleur presented the Ordinance for discussion. No Comments

An Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance to Adjust the Water User Fees- Lafleur presented the Ordinance for discussion. No Comments

An Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance for Water Meter Install Rates- Lafleur presented the Ordinance for discussion. No Comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/S. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to close the Public Hearing and enter the General Meeting.

Approval General Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2024 and Special Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2024

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes of the May 15, 2024 General
Meeting and of the June 5, 2024 Special Meeting as submitted. Yay-All Present

Public comment period on agenda items listed-

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

**Michael Roy- John S. Dowling and Company- An Ordinance to Amend the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending
June 30, 2024-** Mr. Roy discussed budget changes made after inputting May 2024 income and expenses to reflect a more accurate report of financials to
Council Members since his presentation at the June 5, 2024 Special Meeting.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Amend the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning
July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

An Ordinance to Adopt the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025-
Motion: Catalon/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Adopt the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures
for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay-None

**J. Ricky Lafleur- Presented an Ordinance to Extend and Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Maurice Including an Area Known as
Trahan Property (Soop Rd)-** Arsement advised the presented annexation did not include the Charter School. It was discovered that property owners on the
northern side of LA 92 West own to the center of the roadway. He asked Nick Sonnier to check into the possibility of annexing just the right-of-way area along
that stretch of roadway. Schlicher asked if Soop Road was included. Arsement advised Mr. Sonnier is working on Soop Road but it was not included in this
annexation document. Discussion was held

Motion: S. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Extend and Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town
of Maurice Including an Area Known as Trahan Property (Soop Rd). Yay- Schlicher, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Abstained- M. Trahan

**Lafleur Presented an Ordinance Amending the Building Permit Ordinances to Define and Establish a Permit Fee Schedule, Update Penalties, and
Repeal Ordinance No. 04-07C and No. 74-10A-** Lafleur read aloud some of the main points of the Ordinance. Arsement advised added changes to Permits
and Fees are to ensure anyone building submits accurate information and to be more in line with what Vermilion Parish has implemented. Permits previously
not required have also been added for regulatory purposes. Catalon asked about the timeline for when Vermilion Parish moved from using cost of construction
to square footage on residential home building and was advised the change wasn't made that long ago. Discussion was held

Motion: M. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance Amending the Building Permit Ordinances to Define and
Establish a Permit Fee Schedule, Update Penalties, and Repeal Ordinance No. 04-07C and No. 74-10A. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-
Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

Lafleur Presented an Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance to Adjust the Water User Fees- Lafleur went through the rate changes for minimum
water usage to residents and businesses. The change established the same minimum water usage charge for every utility customer being provided water by
the Town of Maurice. If the Ordinance is passed the minimum water usage rate would go to \$21 for all customers. Schlicher agreed everyone should pay the
same flat rate charge but would rather see the price per usage over the minimum increased since increases on fees for permits, water meter installs, and
water rates are being considered. He would also like to see the Town shop around for vendors providing treatment chemicals for competitive prices. Arsement
advised the Utility Fund is not making enough money to put aside for future equipment failure. Discussion was held

Motion: M. Trahan/S. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance to Adjust the Minimum Water
User Fee to \$21 per month. Yay- S. Trahan, Catalon, M. Trahan; Nay- Schlicher, Landry-Lalande

Lafleur Presented an Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance for Water Meter Install Rates- Arsement advised the contractor providing services
for water meter installs, raised costs as of June 1, 2024. He also advised boring costs were not previously being charged to builders and the Town was
bearing the expense of boring costs. Arsement told Council members the suggested changes would capture actual meter and installation expenses and time
spent on processing new meter applications through City Hall and coordinating the area of installs with the Town's maintenance crew. Discussion was held

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Amend the Water Use Ordinance for Water Meter Install
Rates as stated in the Ordinance. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Lafleur Presented a Resolution to Donate Police Vehicles- Maurice Police Department has 2 vehicles they'd like to donate to other police departments.

Both vehicles were included on the Resolution presented. Chief Nerren advised the Town of Erath would like the 2013 Dodge Charger. Lafleur
advised Council members he will revise the Resolution to reflect the make, model, year, and vin number of the vehicle to be donated. The Resolution
authorizes Mayor Arsement to sign the necessary paperwork to donate the vehicle to the Town of Erath. Nerren advised Abbeville City Marshal was interested
in the 2010 Chevy Impala but recently decided to hold off on receiving the vehicle. Discussion was held

Motion: M. Trahan/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to approve a Resolution Authorizing Mayor Arsement to sign necessary documents to donate
a vehicle to Town of Erath. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- None

Mayor Arsement asked if Mr. Lafleur saw the information on the Town's Franchise Agreements. He wanted to discuss the matter with Lafleur under updates.

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Autumn Park Extension Preliminary Plat- Sonnier introduced Matthew Vincent and presented the preliminary plat to
Council members stating the developer requested variances on front, rear, and corner lot setbacks. The new development would be located on the newly
annexed Trahan property. Sonnier recommended Council members approve the Preliminary Plat contingent upon the developer addressing comments made
by Sellers & Associates. Mayor Arsement and Council members discussed concerns with set-back variances reducing front and corner lot set-backs causing
issues with parking in Subdivisions with similar set-backs. The developer asked for clarification on drainage comments made by Sellers & Associates. All
ditches belonging to the Drainage Board must have a 30ft right-of-way. Sonnier discussed variance options when making a motion to accept the Preliminary
Plat. The plat contains 81 lots. Discussion was held

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Catalon moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Preliminary Plat for Autumn Park Extension with a rear set-back variance
from 15ft. to 10ft. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Nay- Schlicher; Abstained- M. Trahan

Schlicher advised he thinks Council members should have future discussions regarding set-backs being presented by developers. Schlicher also asked about
the potential to have the right-of-way along LA 92 East to the Parish line near Milton considered for annexation. He also suggested annexing the right-of-way
along US Hwy 167 to LA Hwy 699, both northbound and southbound lanes. Arsement advised Council members the property owner on the corner of Kirk
Road and LA 92 East was interested in having his property annexed into the Town of Maurice. Nick Sonnier advised only the right-of-way along the roadways
can be considered without property owners submitting a petition for annexation. Lafleur advised a public hearing is only held to consider an ordinance that has
been introduced. Sonnier advised to introduce an ordinance pertaining to enlarging the Town of Maurice boundaries at the July 17, 2024 General meeting and
set a public hearing for the August 21, 2024 General Meeting. Discussion was held

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded, and failed to set a Public Hearing for July 17, 2024 at 6pm in the Municipal Building located at 405
Lastie Ave, Maurice LA 70555 to consider incorporating LA Hwy 92 East to the Parish line and headed South along US Hwy 167 to LA Hwy 699.
Nay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan

Sonnier will talk with the Vermilion Assessor to make sure boundary lines are accurate to avoid an issue like the one presented along LA Hwy 92 West and
help draw up an ordinance to enlarge the boundaries of the Town of Maurice to present next month. Arsement advised if the property owner on the corner of
Kirk Road and LA Hwy 92 East wants to actually pursue incorporation, he'd like to have it considered as soon as possible. Lafleur advised to work on
incorporating the easements along LA 92 East and US Hwy 167 first. Richard Meche asked about maintenance responsibility if easements are incorporated
and was advised the Town would only be responsible if they take over the roadways.

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates- Nerren advised he and Richard Meche cleared more trees from roadways after the last storm. Officer Brooks resigned
the end of May 2024 BBQ dinner sales doubled from the previous year. The new vehicle is in in Town but is waiting on decals. Catalon asked about the
Camera system in Town and was advised the Police Department does plan to continue to participate in the program.

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- May 2024- 8,640,000 gallons of water produced; 7,164,130 gallons of water sold; 1,475,870 gallons of water Unmetered; 17%. Meche advised some of the unmetered water was due to line flushing and a couple leak repairs. Meche anticipated the motor for the well being delivered by the end of the week to replace the damaged one. Another company came in to perform smoke testing again in Vincent Trace. More smoke was used and Meche has a better idea of current sewer issues at residential homes. Some of those being flagged were on the original list. Letters will be reissued to the original list of residents who have not corrected sewer issues, and enforcement will be done after 15 days. Letters will also be issued to residents who appeared on the 2nd list. Catalon asked about the sewer line redirection approved last month. Meche advised the work has been completed and is working well. Scott Trahan asked about lowering the cleanouts on residential homes being built. Arsement and Meche have spoken with contractors on installing sewer cleanouts at ground level. DSLD and homeowners with deep sewer line issues will discuss repairs. Arsement advised Maurice was fortunate to be able to rent a spare motor for the water plant. Griner Drilling only has 2 spare motors for rent. He asked Council members to consider purchasing a spare motor for Maurice to ensure the Town has one available in case of emergencies. The motor would be stored at the Griner Drilling facility and would be strictly for Maurice's use. Arsement also inquired about the cost to drill another well. He was advised it would have to be drilled on another site because there isn't enough room for 2 wells at the plant. Schlicher asked about a separate location for a new water plant. Sonnier advised the whole start-up would be about 5 million dollars. The cost to drill another well would be around 800 thousand dollars. Matthew Trahan advised property near City Hall may be coming up for sale and could be a good location to drill an additional well. Meche advised he has not forgotten about playground equipment but the weather has interfered with plans to install. Discussion was held

Mayor Arsement- State of LA DOTD Maintenance Agreement- Mayor Arsement presented the DOTD yearly maintenance agreement and advised he needed Council approval for him to sign and enter into the agreement. He also stated the Mid-City Mayors are fighting to get the payments increased. Catalon asked if the property along the highway near the bridge on the north side was the Town's responsibility to maintain. Meche said yes but the area is too dangerous for his crew to access. Arsement will try get help with getting the area cleaned out. Scott Sonnier expressed concerns about the big drainage ditch along LA 92 East being considered for incorporation. He advised this ditch would also be very dangerous to maintain and questioned maintenance responsibility. Arsement thought this drainage belonged to the Drainage Board. Discussion was held

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded, and carried to accept the State of LA DOTD Maintenance Agreement and allow Mayor Arsement to sign the document on behalf of the Town of Maurice. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Nay- None

Sales Tax Update- April 2024 sales tax is \$106,195.97 which is up 13% from last year. Arsement asked residents continue supporting local businesses or shop online and thanked everyone for continuing to support the local community businesses.

Updates- Arsement discussed the Town's franchise agreement with Cox advising cox refuses to give any paperwork to verify the gross revenue in Town. He asked Lafleur to reach out to our Cox representative to discuss proof of revenue. Arsement also looked over the intergovernmental agreement with the Task Force. The agreement continues to renew indefinitely unless someone cancels the agreement. The LED resolution is being executed and will be forwarded to begin the process of Maurice participating.

Council Concerns: Landry-Lalande asked about a notice from the Iberia Parish Sheriff and was advised it was sent over to notify municipalities about a group of individuals making threats to Council members and Officials in their area.

Citizen Concerns: None

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:51pm. Yay- All Present

s/Nichole Bonin
Nichole G Bonin, Assistant Clerk

s/Neil Arsement
Neil Arsement, Mayor