

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, September 17, 2025
The General Meeting of the Officials of the Town of Maurice was opened by Mayor Neil Arsement at 6:05 p.m.
at the Maurice Municipal Building, 405 Lastie Ave., Maurice, Louisiana

Mayor Arsement led the assembly in Prayer and Alderman Trot Catalan led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of officers

Present: Mayor Neil Arsement; Alderman Troy Catalan; Alderman Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan

Absent: Alderwoman Megan Landry-Lalande; Alderman Scott Trahan

Also present: Melanie Denais; Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Shakyla Cormier; Erica Arceneaux; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; John Sonnier; Tommy Byler, VP&B; Wayne Theriot; Jeff Foshee; Bailey Shivers

Mayor Arsement asked Council members and Chief Nerren to recognize budget to actual financial statements included in their monthly binders

Approval General Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025- No Council nor public comments

Motion: Schlicher/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of August 20, 2025, as presented and unread. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval- Matthew Trahan asked to add item 5-a-1. Discuss Intergovernmental Agreement with the Drainage Board. No public comment

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

Tommy Byler- Vermilion Parish School Board Millage Renewal- Byler passed out information and discussed the proposed millage renewal set to be on the ballot, November 15, 2025. Early voting begins on November 1, 2025, and goes through November 8, 2025. Byler reported no changes to the proposed millage renewal which has been collected since 1996, providing Vermilion Parish Schools and its students with necessary funding for transportation, curriculum and instruction, roofing and air conditioning. The millage can only be used for very specific operating purposes and generates between 2.5 million and 3.5 million dollars. VP&B cut 9 million dollars from its current budget and depends on the millage collection for sustaining operations. Byler assured Council members there is no wasteful spending of the millage tax collection since it is designated for very specific purposes. The millage generates 1 dollar for every 1 thousand dollars of property taxed with the first 75 thousand dollars exempt. Byler stated the parish has a bus driver shortage but not a bus fleet problem. Items paid with millage dollars include 210 buses which display an M on them, and all purchased since 2020 have air-conditioning. Other items paid with millage dollars include new roofs and air conditioning for all schools and 35 to 40 percent of the current curriculum and instruction which includes yearly subscriptions for computers. Millage dollars free up other money in the General fund to pay for school safety such as fencing and placement of SRO Officers on all campuses and crucial educational programs. Wayne Theriot asked how often the millage is renewed and was advised it renews every 10 years.

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- J-BADT Preliminary Plat Approval- Sonnier advised this item would be discussed later after further review.

F&S Development Subdivision Waiver Request- Sonnier presented a site plan and variance request letter for the proposed development. There are 21 proposed units. Each unit would be on its own lot for possible purchase in the future. The Developer requested a variance from the Subdivision Ordinance alley requirements and from all setbacks, front, rear, and side, for all individual lots. Sonnier advised the Town's Subdivision Ordinance was not designed for this specific type of development. Arsement wanted to investigate revising the ordinance in the future to better accommodate this type of development. Catalan asked about the potential for vehicles having trouble getting in and out of the private alley and if each unit would have 1 or 2 car garages. Arsement advised there should be enough room for 2 cars to pass through and the alley dead ends. Jeff Foshee advised individual units are likely to be single car garages which are set back off the alley way. Schlicher questioned the number of bedrooms and space for parking. Foshee advised he is looking at 3-bedroom units but could potentially have some 1- and 2-bedroom units as well. Schlicher asked about access to a fire hydrant. Arsement advised there will be access to a fire hydrant. Nerren asked if the units will be 1 or 2 stories and was advised these are 1 story. Superintendent

Byler asked about the walking distance for children, potentially riding buses to school. Arsement advised the distance would be closer than Maple Leaf Apartments. The plan is also to have 24 parking spaces including handicap spaces. Discussion was held. No other public comments

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalan moved, seconded, and carried to approve the F&S Development variance requests as recommended by Sellers & Associates in the letter dated September 17, 2025. Yay- Catalan, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- Landry-Lalande, S. Trahan

Updates- Sonier advised the Water Tower Project was 20% complete on allotted time and 50% of the dollar value was complete. The tower is still being fabricated for installation but the foundation was completed. A preconstruction conference with Glenn Lege Construction regarding the Maurice Park Drainage is scheduled for September 19th at City Hall. Discussion was held

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates- Officer Irvin is doing well at the Academy and is about halfway through. A new officer was hired but is not post certified. She started on September 16th. The Homecoming Parade will be held on September 25th. Nerren met with the Noth Vermilion High School Principal regarding float regulations and safety concerns. Additional officers have been lined up to work. Students from the school will help clean up Friday morning following the parade. Vermilion Sheriff will also have inmates assist with clean-up but will not be near students. Barricades will be placed for safety. Arsement asked Richard Meche cut low hanging limbs near Cecil Picard Elementary before the parade. The department is still short of a full-time officer and 1 part-time officer hasn't recently been working. Nerren is accepting applications for employment. Discussion was held

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- August 2025- 9,165,000 gallons of water produced; 8,351,838 gallons of water sold; 813,162 gallons of water Unmetered; 8%. The Maintenance Crew has been edging sidewalks and painting curbs along LA Hwy 167. The electrical conduit at Maurice Park is scheduled for installation this week. New playground equipment is being installed and should be completed soon. Meche will help with placing barricades for the parade. Catalan asked about bags at Maurice Park for residents to clean up after their pets. Meche advised he would get information about bag stations to install. Discussion was held

Mayor Arsement- Discuss Intergovernmental Agreement with Drainage Board – Arsement advised the Drainage Board asked for the Town to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with them for work performed within the Town. Schlicher asked if the agreement was complete. Arsement advised the agreement was not completed due to Legal Ricky Lafleur not being available. Arsement advised the agreement would be generic and not specific to one project. Schlicher has gotten complaints about the ditch behind Kohen Estates. Arsement advised, some residents have built their fences too close to the drainage ditch which does not allow equipment to pass for maintenance. Arsement is in discussion with the Drainage Board to help with this area. He will also ask residents to start maintaining the area or fences will possibly need to be moved. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: M. Trahan/Catalan moved, seconded, and carried Authorizing Mayor Arsement to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Drainage Board. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, Catalan; Absent- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande

Sales Tax Update- July 2025 sales tax is \$127,167.78 which is up 18.9% 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- The bathrooms at Maurice Park are progressing and hoping to open soon. Nerren asked about the parking lot and Arsement advised that will be discussed at the upcoming pre-construction conference on September 19th.

Council Concerns: Catalan advised the Charter School uses Maurice Park as a staging for their bus pickup and asked that the school be notified about the upcoming parking lot construction that other arrangements be made for children to be picked up for school. He asked that parents and children be given plenty of notice and even suggested maybe the location could be moved to the Nunu's location for a short time.

Motion: Schlicher/Catalan moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Yay- All Present

Nichole Bonin
Nichole G Bonin, Assistant Clerk

Neil Arsement
Neil Arsement, Mayor