

GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
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; Alderwoman Megan Landry- Lalande; Alderman Troy Catalon; Alderman Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan; Alderman Scott Trahan
Absent: None
Also present: Melanie Denais; Joan Methvin; Nichole Bonin; Shakyla Cormier; Erica Arceneaux; Matthew Vincent, Sellers & Associates; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; John Sonnier; Chad Roussel; Wayne Theriot; Tommie Landry; Bailey Shivers Jr; Bailey Shivers Sr; Thomas J. Foshee

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

Public Hearing for the Purpose of:
An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 18-12 and Enacting New Ordinance regarding Regulating the Maintenance of Lots & Sidewalks: Remedies; Assessment; Noxious Growths, Grasses, Weeds, and Buffer Zones- Ricky Lafleur presented the new Ordinance and read it out loud. The new Ordinance was streamlined to simplify definitions, increase penalties, and clarify the process to bring landowners into compliance. No public comments

An Ordinance to Amend Occupational License Ordinance- Ricky Lafleur presented the Ordinance and read amendments clarifying the Town's right to cite business owners with a misdemeanor for non-compliance, penalties, and the process for the Town to issue a cease-and-desist order of business operations for non-compliance. Arsement advised the fees collected would increase to 100% of the allowable state rate. The fee for the sale of any alcohol at a business would be an additional \$300 per year and a separate license would be required. Wayne Theriot asked if the Ordinance allows the Town to rescind a license if the business owner has other unpaid debts such as an outstanding utility bill. Arsement advised the ordinance does not contain language to cease business operations for other debts owned to the Town. Lafleur suggested including the right to rescind a business license or cease occupancy of a residence for unpaid utilities in the water and sewerage ordinances. No other comments were made.

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded, and carried to close the Public Hearing and enter the General Meeting. 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 October 15, 2025- No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of October 15, 2025, as submitted and unread. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval- No public comments

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

Ricky Lafleur- An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 18-12 and Enacting New Ordinance regarding Regulating the Maintenance of Lots & Sidewalks: Remedies; Assessment; Noxious Growths, Grasses, Weeds, and Buffer Zones- Lafleur presented the Amended Ordinance for consideration and re-read changes contained in the new ordinance. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 18-12 and Enacting New Ordinance regarding Regulating the Maintenance of Lots & Sidewalks: Remedies; Assessment; Noxious Growths, Grasses, Weeds, and Buffer Zones. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- None

An Ordinance to Amend Occupational License Ordinance- Lafleur presented the Amended Ordinance for consideration and re-read changes contained in the new ordinance. S. Trahan asked about the ordinance number and was advised one would be provided upon adoption. Schlicher questioned the wording in the new ordinance which said amending and replacing instead of just replacing. Catalon asked if the alcohol license was one fee for all businesses selling alcohol and was advised it is a flat \$300 fee for all. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Adopt the Ordinance to Amend and Replace Occupational License Ordinances 07-9A, 08-01C, and 11-6B. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan; Nay- None

Matthew Vincent, Sellers & Associates- Vermilion Villas Preliminary Plat Approval- Mr. Vincent recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat for Vermilion Villas contingent upon the developer addressing minor comments made by Sellers & Associates. Schlicher had questions about the property lines extending into the alley and the cul-de-sac labeled on the Plat. Jeff Foshee advised it is typical for the property lines to extend to the center of the alley and would be maintained by the HOA. He also advised he was willing to work with the Town to address any concerns the Council may have with the design. Discussion was held. No public comment.

Motion: S. Trahan/M. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Preliminary Plat for Vermilion Villas contingent upon the developer addressing minor comments made by Sellers & Associates. Yay- Catalon, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande; Nay- Schlicher

Due Diligence Period Extension for F & S South, LLC Property Purchase- Arsement advised the due diligence period expires on November 20th. Mr. Foshee requested an extension of 5 days added to the 30-day closing date which would be January 7, 2026, but he was hoping to close on the property as soon as possible. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to approve a Due Diligence Period Extension for F & S South, LLC Property Purchase for an additional 5-days moving the deadline to January 7, 2026. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Absent- None

Schlicher questioned the fences and maintenance along the drainage ditch behind Kohen Estates. Arsement advised he will ask residents to maintain the areas behind their homes or fences will have to be moved so the Drainage Board can get equipment in to maintain the area. Schlicher also questioned the easement in Hudson Yards. Arsement is trying to get the easement donated to the Town to move the intended sidewalks for easier maintenance.

Chief Nerren, Police Chief- Updates- Officer Irvin should graduate from the Academy at the end of November 2025. The department received its first ever Canine Officer who was donated and will be trained for tracking lost people, finding illegal substances, and apprehension of suspects. Nerren is looking for a canine insert for the inside of Officer Trahan's police unit and considering naming the new officer, General. Discussion was held

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- October 2025- 9,814,000 gallons of water produced; 8,392,002 gallons of water sold; 1,421,998 gallons of water Unmetered; 14%. There was a break in a 2-inch line after hours that was discovered the following workday. The line has been repaired. The dog waste stations were set up at Maurice Park by the Maintenance Department. The crew has also started taking care of restroom maintenance at Maurice Park. The ditch along Andre Avenue is almost cleaned out in anticipation of heavy rain. Arsement thanked Meche and the maintenance crew for all their hard work around Town. The Maintenance Department is still accepting employment applications. Anyone interested can apply in person at Maurice City Hall.

Mayor Arsement- Adopt Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the State of Louisiana Under Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program- Arsement advised a resolution is done every year to apply for funding. LGAP Funds will be used to help with new electronics and computers for Town employees. Current computers are out of date and cannot receive necessary updates to function properly. Lalande asked how much funding is expected. Arsement advised that will be determined in Legislative Session. No public comments

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded, and carried to Adopt Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the State of Louisiana Under Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program. Yay- M. Trahan, S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Absent- None

Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the Mayor's Salary Ordinance to Include Health Insurance- Arsement Asked for the Council's consideration to amend the Mayor's Salary Ordinance to include health insurance. A public hearing would be necessary. Schlicher asked about other elected and appointed officials that may not qualify for health insurance due to ordinance wording. Arsement advised Council members consider including health insurance for other officials' salary's set by ordinance at their discretion. The Mayor's Salary Ordinance is separate from these other ordinances. Wayne Theriot advised when he was Mayor, full-time employees were eligible for benefits including health allowance and retirement. Some of the other Officials are excluded because they are considered part-time. Landry-Lalande thought the requested addition was fair. Catalon asked if there is monetary compensation for employees who decline coverage and was advised monetary compensation is not an option. Discussion was held. No other public comments

Motion: S. Trahan/M. Trahan moved, seconded, and carried to Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the Mayor's Salary Ordinance to Include Health Insurance and set a Public Hearing for 6pm on December 17, 2025, to be held at the General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue. Yay- S. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- None

Sales Tax Update- September 2025 sales tax is \$161,774.09 which is up 33.4% 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 Town scheduled to host a movie night showing the Polar Express in Maurice Park on November 29th at 5:45pm, where hot chocolate, cotton candy, and popcorn would be served. The contractor began laying asphalt for the parking lot at Maurice Park. Arsement intends to break ground on the dirt work for the New City Hall soon. The Town's Christmas Social will be held at the Maurice Volunteer Fire Department immediately following the General Meeting on December 17, 2025. Residents were encouraged to attend.

Council Concerns: Lalande asked about the J-Turn near Nunu's. Arsement advised everything has been turned over to DOTD for review. DOTD can return and provide comments 3 times before accepting so it is a process. He also advised the conversations with DOTD have been more positive lately. Lalande also inquired if any businesses had reached out to be recognized on the Town's Facebook page. Arsement spoke with a couple business owners, but no one has provided any information to post. Lalande also complimented the Town's Maintenance crew for all their hard work at Maurice Park. Schlicher advised residents are still interested in discussing an ordinance pertaining to golf carts. Catalon asked about the intergovernmental agreement with the parish to help with tree removal on the New City Hall property. Arsement advised the agreement was signed before the meeting.

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:19 pm. Yay- All Present

s/Nichole Bonin
Nichole G Bonin, Assistant Clerk

s/Neil Arsement
Neil Arsement, Mayor