GENERAL MEETING
TOWN OF MAURICE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 21, 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; Alderwoman Megan Landry-Lalande; Alderman Troy Catalon; Alderman Jonathan Schlicher; Alderman Matthew Trahan;

Absent: Alderman Scott Trahan

Also present: Nichole Bonin; Joan Methvin; Kimberly Guidry; Shakyla Cormier; Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor; Chief Guy Nerren; Ricky Lafleur, Legal Advisor; Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates; Wayne Theriot; John Dayries; Chad Roussel; Jacob Desormeaux; Jeff Landry; Chief David Landry; Joey Stelly, Alex Stringer, Jordan Daigle, Tradd Trahan, John Sonnier; Kelly Hardy; Troy Menard

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

Approval of September 16, 2026, General Meeting Minutes- No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to approve September 16, 2026, General Meeting Minutes as submitted and unread. Yay-All Present

Agenda Approval- Catalon requested to amend the agenda to add correction of the August 19, 2026, General Meeting Minutes. No public comment

Motion: Catalon/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to amend and approve the agenda to add the correction of the Minutes from August 19, 2026.

Arsement advised there was an error in the minutes from August 19th that needed correction to reflect on record. No public comment

Motion: Catalon/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Amend the General Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2026, to read Sonnier presented Ordinance 26-8A and update the motion to read M. Trahan/Catalon move, seconded and carried to Adopt Ordinance 26-8A Extending and Enlarging the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Maurice and Including an area known as LA Hwy 92 East and Defining the Entire Boundaries of the Town of Maurice as Changed by the Said Addition. Yay- All Present

David Landry- Fire Chief- Mr. Landry, reported the paid firefighters at the Maurice Volunteer Fire Department have moved to 12 hrs. instead of 8 hrs. per day. He thanked Chief Nerren and Town's Utility Department for all their help with the house fire caused by a lightning strike. The department's call volume has increased and is on track to exceed last year. Arsement questioned how the increased paid firefighter hours would be funded and questioned the re-evaluation of the population increase. Landry advised he pulled funds from the 2% Fire Insurance collections and cut his budget to accommodate the change and Vermilion Parish would consider the population re-evaluation every 2 years. Arsement advised he spoke with Parish Representatives who would consider a yearly evaluation if the Mayor and Council requested it. Schlicher questioned if all funding from due from the Parish was collected and Landry advised it was. Catalon questioned new subdivision population consideration. Landry advised everyone is working together to get accurate population details.

Ricky Lafleur-Introduce for Public Hearing Ordinance 26-11 Amending the Zoning Ordinance- Mr. Lafleur advised Mayor Arsement was interested in amending the Zoning Ordinance and advised a public hearing must be held to introduce an amended ordinance. Arsement informed Council members there is a grandfathering clause that is outdated, especially with the Town's residential growth. Wayne Theriot advised the Zoning Ordinance was created before the growth in residential development really took place and thought some areas should be considered for re-zoning as well. Nick Sonnier suggested adding a clause for all newly annexed properties to be classified as residential until the areas could be further defined. Discussion was held. No further public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Introduce Ordinance 26-11 Amending the Zoning Ordinance for a Public Hearing on November 18, 2026, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Absent- S. Trahan

Arsement asked if there were any updates on the requested opinion from the Attorney General's Office. Lafleur advised he is still waiting on a response.

Nick Sonnier, Sellers & Associates- Villien Subdivision Variance Request from the Requirement to Construct Subsurface Drainage Along W. Etienne- Sonnier presented the variance request to Council members. Arsement clarified the variance would only apply to Etienne Rd and subsurface drainage would still be required in the actual neighborhood. Landry-Lalande asked for Sonnier's opinion. Sonnier advised that it is often difficult to close ditches in areas that were previously designed for open ditch drainage. Arsement thought the Town would have more issues with flooding without the variance approval. Schlicher questioned the direction of water flow in the area. Discussion was held. No public comments

Motion: Catalon/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to approve a Variance Request from the Requirement to Construct Subsurface Drainage Along W. Etienne. Yay- M. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Absent- S. Trahan

Ridgewood Subdivision- Preliminary Plat- Sonnier recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat contingent upon the Developer addressing comments by Sellers & Associates. Council members questioned the number of homes, detention, and the drainage easement consideration. The development consists of 30 residential homes; detention is part of the common areas, and a 30ft drainage easement has been established on the plat. The developer advised they are looking at having Manuel Builders as the contractor. Sonnier advised the Developer still needs approval from the Drainage Board and DOTD before presenting a Final Plat of the location. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/Schlicher moved, seconded and carried to Approve the Preliminary Plat for Ridgewood Subdivision Contingent upon the Developer addressing comments by Sellers & Associates in the letter dated October 21, 2026. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- S. Trahan

Water Tower Project- Change Order, Time Extension- Sonnier presented the Contract Change Order for consideration. Schlicher questioned liquidated damage totals and asked if it was worth going after. Sonnier advised good practice is to not go after liquidated damages money wasn't lost due to added contract time and suggested future bids could be negatively affected by trying to collect dollar amounts if the Town wasn't impacted. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Schlicher/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to approve the Water Tower Contract Change Order# 1 Time Extension. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- S. Trahan

Cottage Cove Phase II- Final Plat and Construction Improvement Approval- Sonnier presented and recommended approval of Cottage Cove Phase II Final Plat and Construction Plans Contingent upon the Developer addressing comments by Sellers & Associates in the letter dated October 21, 2026. Landry-Lalande questioned the number of houses and delay of construction in Phase I. Schlicher questioned the style of future homes. Chad Rousell advised there are 53 homes with several construction variations and the construction of homes in Phase I had slowed down for a brief period but is expected to pick up as demand increases. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to approve Cottage Cove Phase II Final Plat and Construction Plans Contingent upon the Developer addressing comments by Sellers & Associates in the letter dated October 21, 2026. Yay- Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Nay- Landry-Lalande; Absent- S. Trahan

Guy Nerren- Police Chief- Updates- Nerren informed Council members that one of his units was not operational and had to be towed for repair. He also discussed Halloween trick-or treat hours would be from 6pm-8pm on Saturday, October 31st. Landry-Lalande asked for extra safety measures in Rue Village stating the ditches are steep and the narrow roadway doesn't allow much room for vehicles to pass along side families who are participating in trick-or-treating. She advised last year some children were forced off the roadway into the ditch. Nerren advised he could station an officer at the end of the roadway for extra safety. Arsement suggested speaking with residents about potentially closing this roadway and if the majority agree, Chief Nerren can station someone to block the roadway from 6pm-8pm. Schlicher asked for potential help from Chief David Landry and advised he could station one of his part-time employees. Schlicher also questioned if Chief Nerren kept a log on individual vehicle repairs. Nerren advised he doesn't have individual logs but could get a breakdown if needed. Landry-Lalande applauded the National Night Out event held in Maurice Park. Discussion was held.

Richard Meche, Maintenance Supervisor- September 2026- 10,321,000 gallons of water produced; 8,894,624 gallons of water sold; 1,426,376 gallons of water Unmetered; 13%. The percentage is high from filling and flushing the New Water Tower. Meche expects to perform fire hydrant flushing which would affect next month's percentage as well. The smart meters are being installed based on the list of customers who requested them. Schlicher advised the app for his smart meter was working well. Utility Clerk Shakyla Cormier is working with the Town's utility programmers and the meter provider to ensure meters are functioning efficiently. So far everyone agrees that the usage readings and billing are accurate. Smart meters are still available for request. Catalon questioned standing water in the coulee between Hudson yards and Kohen Estates. Meche will check the area to ensure there is not a leak somewhere. Discussion was held

Mayor Neil Arsement- Introduce for Public Hearing to Amend the Occupational License Ordinance- Arsement advised the Town had an attorney review the Occupational License Ordinance and it was determined the Alcohol License and Occupational License Ordinance should be separated which is why he requested the amendment be brought to a public hearing. A clause for the Town to recoup attorney fees when businesses fail to apply and pay license taxes timely will also be added. Discussion was held. No public comment

Motion: Schlicher/Catalon moved, seconded and carried to Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the Occupational License Ordinance for Public Hearing to be held on November 18, 2026, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555. Yay- Schlicher, M. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon; Absent- S. Trahan

Introduction for Public Hearing Maurice Alcohol Beverage Permit Ordinance- Arsement advised a new law is in effect for only the sale of alcoholic beverages containing lower alcohol percentages. The law dictates a flat fee of $75 be charged for businesses selling this type of alcoholic beverage. No public comment

Motion: M. Trahan/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Introduce an Alcohol Beverage permit Ordinance for Public Hearing to be held on November 18, 2026, at 6pm in the Town of Maurice General Meeting Room located at 405 Lastie Avenue, Maurice LA 70555. Yay- M. Trahan, Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher; Absent- S. Trahan

Jeremy Hidalgo advised since the Town moved to Parish Strategy from their previous 3rd party collector, license tax collections more than have doubled. There are a few businesses that are not complying with the Occupational License Tax Laws. Hidalgo thanked Council members for their consideration in amending and implementing these Ordinances.

Resolution 26-10: Act of Abandonment by the Town of Maurice Pursuant to LA R.S. 48:701- Arsement presented the Resolution and requested Council members consider abandoning this road right of way. He advised the Town would not benefit from keeping the road right of way since the location of the New City Hall changed.

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande moved, seconded and carried to Approve Resolution 26-10: Act of Abandonment by the Town of Maurice Pursuant to LA R.S. 48:701. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- S. Trahan

Resolution 26-10A: Authorizing Mayor to Sell Improvement Only at 110 James Street- Arsement advised the appraiser could not determine a no value for the home located at 110 James Street. Because the value is less than $5000, the Town can pass a Resolution to sell the improvement only and choose the dollar amount. Arsement suggested putting a minimum value of $3000 and advertising for bids on the improvement.

Motion: Landry-Lalande/M. Trahan moved, seconded and carried to Approve Resolution 26-10A: Authorizing the Mayor to Sell the Improvement Only located at 110 James Street. Yay- Landry-Lalande, Catalon, Schlicher, M. Trahan; Absent- S. Trahan

Sales Tax Report- August 2026 sales tax is $144,314.86 which decreased 1.2% from last year. Arsement advised collections are still strong and thanked residents for supporting local businesses and shopping online.

Updates- Arsement thanked Schlicher for the pond suggestion at Maurice Park. Residents are excited about being able to fish. Progress is a little slow but moving along. Arsement is Currently working on the pond depth. City Hall is still on track for completion in March or April 2027. The Sewer Plant Expansion funding was awarded to the Town for $6.5 million. The thought is to duplicate the facility that already exists. Arsement is trying to get the design as quickly as possible even though the Town isn't expected to reach the Plant's capacity for several more years. Currently the Town is waiting to hear if funding will be received for road repairs. Catalon asked about the LA Hwy 92 widening project and was advised Meche was figuring out how many lines need to be relocated. The start date was not set.

Council Concerns- Landry-Lalande wished all candidates the best and asked everyone to go vote. Schlicher expressed excitement about the pond. Nerren asked if structures would be placed for the fish. Arsement was open to suggestions by residents who liked to fish.

Motion: Schlicher/Landry-Lalande motioned, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Yay- All Present

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Nichole G Bonin, Assistant Clerk Neil Arsement, Mayor