

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
AUGUST 24, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of Morgan City, Louisiana, met at 6:00 pm (local time) in regular session, this date, in the City Court Building, Highway 182 East, Morgan City, Louisiana.

There were present: Honorable Lee Dragna, Mayor; and Council Members Ron Bias, Steve Domangue, Tim Hymel, Mark Stephens and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: None

Also present were Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Paul Landry, City Attorney.

The invocation was given by Pastor Bias.

There was no Positive Image recipient for the month of August.

State Representative Beryl Amedee gave her after session report to the Council. She said that a pair of constitutional amendments that would change the tax structure would be on the ballot in the fall. These amendments would make taxes flatter and fairer. There was also an amendment by the legislature that would centralize sales tax collections. There would be phased shift of vehicle sales and lease tax revenue to road and bridge projects. A phonics base program would be started in elementary schools. The MJ Foster Opportunity Program would be enacted this year that would be similar to TOPS but would be for adults who seek job training at community and technical colleges. There would also be election system upgrades. She urged the Mayor and Councilmen to call her with any questions they might have.

Harlan Kappel with East Gate BBQ asked the Council for permission to hold an Oktoberfest event on October 9, 2021 from Noon to 8 PM. He stated the event would take place at the parking lot of his business, and would include a beer truck and other vendors. The event would also coincide with the ten-year anniversary of his business. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Hymel and voted unanimously in favor.

Jessy Eues with Buckets Blowout requested permission to hold a Rock the Block event on Labor Day weekend. She said that since they had already booked bands for the weekend before the Festival was canceled, they were trying to recoup some of their money. Councilman Mark Stephens stated that with the cancellation of the festival, he did not think that having an event that weekend would be the right thing with the surge of COVID-19 cases in our area. Councilman Tamporello stated that he sat on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival and that he could not support anything of that nature when the local hospital was already full. The Councilmen suggested that they push the Rock the Block event back until around October, when hopefully the COVID-19 cases would be less. A motion to table the issue was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

Pastor Bias stated that local athlete Vernon Norwood had won both gold and bronze medals in the Olympic Games. He was out not in the country right now, but Pastor Bias asked if the City could acknowledge him. Mr. Hymel stated that Mr. Norwood was unable to make the council meeting for August and would try to attend the September meeting. Mayor Dragna stated that he was currently working out of the Country but would definitely be recognized as soon as he could attend a meeting.

Mayor Dragna stated that a situation had recently arisen with Central Catholic Elementary and High Schools where people were parking in "No Parking" areas. He asked for a motion to expand the agenda to discuss the matter. A motion to expand the agenda was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Pastor Bias and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that the Council needed to give authority to the Police Chief to enforce the "No Parking" areas near Central Catholic. A motion to allow the Police Chief to put up and enforce "No Parking" signs near Central Catholic High School and Central

Catholic Elementary Schools was made Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

The minutes of the July 27, 2021 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending July 31, 2021.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: August 24, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended July 31, 2021.

Attached is a summary that compares our actual revenues and expenses to our operational budget for our major funds subject to budgetary control for the period ending July 31, 2021. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual total revenues continue to be over budget by \$462,327. Majority of that is due to Sales taxes in General Fund being over budget by \$300,920. Operating expenses are below budget by \$460,667. The net loss, after transfers, of \$1,039,476 is a favorable variance of \$922,994 compared to the budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues are increasingly under budget \$1,144,034. The operational expenses are also under budget but only by \$707,050. Approximately \$570,000 of that is due to the cost of purchased power and natural gas. The net loss, after transfers, of \$421,065 creates an unfavorable variance this month of \$389,866.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are slightly under budget by \$1,942, with total operating expenses considerably under budget by \$166,875. The net income, after transfers, of \$470,293 leaves a favorable variance of \$165,871.

Respectfully submitted,
 /S/ Deborah Garber
 Deborah Garber
 Finance Director

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT**

Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
 Period Ended July 31, 2021

	JULY 2021	JULY 2021	
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	3,554,156	3,112,177	441,979
Recreation Fund	81,963	95,020	(13,057)
Library Fund	8,224	8,470	(246)
Auditorium Fund	39,638	47,372	(7,734)
Lake End Park Fund	574,228	466,657	107,571
State Prisoner Fund	202,154	268,340	(66,186)
Total Revenues	4,460,363	3,998,036	462,327
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	6,117,639	6,386,601	(268,962)
Recreation Fund	224,210	361,164	(136,954)
Library Fund	46,434	66,577	(20,143)
Auditorium Fund	283,590	279,777	3,813
Lake End Park Fund	503,099	542,112	(39,013)
State Prisoner Fund	240,200	239,608	592
Total Expenses	7,415,172	7,875,839	(460,667)

TRANSFERS

Transfers from Funds	2,253,333	2,253,333	0
Transfers to Funds	(338,000)	(338,000)	0
Net Transfers	1,915,333	1,915,333	0

EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	(1,039,476)	(1,962,470)	922,994
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UTILITY FUND

Total			
Revenues	11,504,586	12,648,620	(1,144,034)
Total Expenditures	9,931,899	10,638,949	(707,050)
Net			
Excess	1,572,687	2,009,671	(436,984)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(1,993,752)	(2,040,870)	47,118
Excess net of transfers	(421,065)	(31,199)	(389,866)

SANITATION AND SEWER FUND

Total			
Revenues	1,694,783	1,696,725	(1,942)
Total			
Expenses	1,846,897	2,013,772	(166,875)
Net			
Excess	(152,114)	(317,047)	164,933
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	622,407	621,469	938
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	470,293	304,422	165,871

A motion to accept the financial statement was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Pete Lawton, Compliance Officer, asked the Council for the authority to tear down the houses located at 417 Garber Street and 507 ½ Lawrence Street. He stated that he had not been able to contact anyone with ownership of the property at 417 Garber Street. He stated that the owners of 507 ½ Lawrence Street had a demolition permit and suggested that they be given 30 days to see if they would complete the demolition themselves. A motion to condemn the property at 417 Garber Street was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor. A motion to condemn the property at 507 ½ Lawrence Street if no demolition was started after 30 days was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the Lease of a 2022 Freightliner. Mayor Dragna stated that the City grappling truck was in very bad shape and it would cost the City less to lease a brand new one. This would help with clean up of the City; whereupon,

Mr. Tamporello offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-27

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION
OF AN EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH
BANCORPSOUTH EQUIPMENT FINANCE, A DIVISION OF
BANCORPSOUTH BANK FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEASE-
PURCHASING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

WHEREAS, THE City Council, the Governing Body (“Governing Body”) of City of Morgan City, Louisiana (the “Lessee”), acting for an on the behalf of the Lessee hereby finds, determines and adjudicates as follows:

1. The Lessee desires to enter into a Lease-Purchase agreement with the Exhibits attached thereto in substantially the same form as attaches hereto as “Exhibit A” (the “Agreement”) with BancorpSouth Equipment Finance, a division of BancorpSouth Bank (the “Lessor”) for the purpose of presently purchasing the

- equipment as described therein for the total cost specified therein (collectively the "Equipment") and to purchase such other equipment from time to time in the future upon appropriate approval;
2. The Lessee is authorized pursuant to La. R.S. 33:1236 to acquire equipment and furniture by agreement and pay interest thereon under the Agreement, provided that the agreement contains a non-appropriation clause.
 3. It is in the best interest of the residents served by Lessee that the Lessee acquire the Equipment pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement; and
 4. It is necessary for the Lessee to approve and authorize the Agreement.
 5. The Lessee desires to designate the Agreement as a qualified tax-exempt obligation of the Lessee for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1985 (the "Code").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of Morgan City, Louisiana, for and on behalf of the Lessee as follows:

Section 1. The Agreement and Exhibits attached thereto in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "A" by ad between the Lessor and the Lessee is hereby approved and Mayor Lee Dragna (the "Authorized Officer") is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Lessee.

Section 2. The Agreement is being issued in calendar year 2021.

Section 3. Neither any portion of the gross proceeds of the Agreement nor the Equipment identified to the Agreement shall be used (directly or indirectly) in a trade or business carried on by any person other than a governmental unit, except for such use as a member of the general public.

Section 4. No portion of the rental payments identified in the Agreement (a) is secured, directly or indirectly, by property used or to be used in a trade or business carried on by a person other than a governmental unit, except for such use as a member of the general public, or by payments in respect of such property; or (b) is to be derived from payments (whether or not to Lessee) in respect of property or borrowed money used or to be used for a trade or business carried on by any person other than a governmental unit.

Section 5. No portion of the gross proceeds of the Agreement are used (directly or indirectly) to make or finance loans to persons other than governmental units.

Section 6. Lessee Hereby designates the Agreement as a qualified tax-exempt obligation for purposes of Section 265(b) of the Code.

Section 7. In calendar year 2021, Lessee has designated \$_____ of tax-exempt obligations (including the Agreement) as qualified tax-exempt obligations. Including the Agreement herein so designated, Lessee will not designate more than \$10,000,000 of obligations issued during calendar year 2021 as qualified tax-exempt obligations.

Section 8. Lessee reasonably anticipates that the total amount of tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds) to be issued by Lessee during calendar year 2021 will not exceed \$10,000,000.

Section 9. For purposes of this resolution, the amount of Tax-exempt obligations stated as either issued or designated as qualified tax-exempt obligations includes tax-exempt obligations issued by all entities deriving their issuing authority from Lessee or by an entity subject to substantial control by Lessee, as provided in Section 265(b)(3)(E) of the Code.

Section 10. The Authorized Officer is further authorized for and on behalf of the Governing Body and the Lessee to do all things necessary in furtherance of the obligations of the Lessee pursuant to the Agreement, including execution and delivery of all other documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the transactions contemplated thereby in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Tamporello, Domangue, Bias, Hymel, Stephens
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the City had been allocated \$3,972,954.16 from the American Rescue Plan and had received the first half; whereupon,

Pastor Bias offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-28

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$350 billion of the SPRA funding was allotted to assist state, local, tribal, and territory governments in responding to the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City has been allocated ARPA funding in the amount of \$3,972,954.16; such funding to be received in two tranches, approximately one half within 60 days of the plan passage, and the remaining funding approximately 12 months later; and

WHEREAS, the City is expected to receive an initial funding in the amount of \$1,986,447.08, identified a funding allocation of the First Tranche; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the following areas where such funds are to be used, in accordance with the guidelines of the plan:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Library Patio Study Space (tables, chairs, charging ports, concrete, gate) | \$30,000 |
| 2. Business Storefront Grants (26 storefronts, requires 25% match) | \$200,000 |
| 3. Homeowners Weatherization/Preservation Grant | \$250,000 |
| 4. Essential Worker Hazard Pay (\$0.70/hr for Full Time Employees that worked in person during the Pandemic) | \$205,000 |
| 5. 2022 Freightliner Fire Truck | \$350,000 |

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of Morgan City, Louisiana that it does hereby accept the allocation of funds in the amount of \$3,972,954.16 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act; and such funds will be placed in a special revenue fund for the sole purpose of tracking all approved transactional activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Morgan City will adhere to the existing, additional, and amended guidelines as set forth by the federal government in the allocation or distribution of said funds.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Domangue, Hymel, Stephens, Tamporello
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the City had been awarded a Local Transportation Alternatives grant from the DOTD for pedestrian light signals and the State required a twenty percent match; whereupon,

Mr. Stephens offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R:21-29

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$435,423 from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to complete the LA 182 Pedestrian Signal Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that a local match of twenty percent (20%) is required for the project; and

WHEREAS, the City will assume the managing and maintaining of the project as well as any legal liability incurred as a result of the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City that it hereby allocates 20% as the City's match for the LA 182 Pedestrian Signal Improvements Project, said funds to be allocated from the General Fund Fund Balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City that the City of Morgan City will manage and maintain the project and assume any legal liability incurred as a result and that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute any and all paperwork for the LA 182 Pedestrian Signal Improvements Project.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Stephens, Hymel, Bias, Domangue, Tamporello
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Stephens and voted unanimously in favor.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor