

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
DECEMBER 19, 2023

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: Council Members Steve Domangue, Tim Hymel, Mark Stephens and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: Honorable Lee Dragna, Mayor, Councilman Ron Bias.

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Keith Tayloe.

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

Mr. Tamporello stated that employees of Mr. A.J. Cannata were present and he would like to take up the Resolution of Respect under the guest portion of the agenda; whereupon,

Messrs. Domangue, Hymel, Stephens, and Tamporello offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-49
IN MEMORIAM
Anthony "A.J." Joseph Cannata

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken Anthony "A.J." Cannata from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannata was a Morgan City resident and attend Louisiana State University and graduated in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannata was an avid LSU fan and went so far as to say "He bled purple and gold as much as anyone could"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannata was hardworking and in 1995, he and his lifelong friend founded Tanks-A-Lot, Inc. which forever changed the trajectory of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannata was the founder of the Morgan City Oilfield Fishing Rodeo; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife Linda B. Cannata, two sons, and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Cannata; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City hopes that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City through the unanimous adoption of this resolution that the solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that this resolution be inscribed on a separate page of the official proceedings of this meeting; that a copy of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family; and that this meeting adjourn out of respect for the late Anthony "A.J." Joseph Cannata.

Messrs. Domangue, Hymel, Stephens, and Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 19th day of December, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The minutes of the November 28, 2023 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending November 30, 2023.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: December 19, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended November 30, 2023.

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 November 30, 2023. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: The actual total revenues are over budget by \$798,215. A few of the main overages are as follows:

Sales taxes	218,000
Occupational licenses	125,000
Fines	175,000
Lake End Park/Parkway	124,000

Operating expenses are below budget by \$759,277. The net loss of \$3,033,969 is a favorable variance of \$1,430,689 compared to the budget.

Utility Fund: Very similar to last month, revenues are under budget by \$3,485,217 with operating expenses are also under budget \$2,715,894. The cost of purchased power remains considerably under budget \$2,552,039. The net income of \$4,993,910 creates an unfavorable budget variance in the amount of \$333,611 which is a \$300,000 improvement over last month.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: This month's figures almost mirror last month with revenues \$150,366 under budget and operating expenses under budget \$271,023. The net loss of \$489,727 leaves another favorable budget variance of \$115,256.

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

CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended November 30, 2023

NOVEMBER NOVEMBER

GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	2023	2023	VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	
REVENUES			
General Fund	8,566,631	7,980,646	585,985
Recreation Fund	94,133	54,507	39,626
Library Fund	14,468	12,839	1,629
Auditorium Fund	356,183	317,038	39,145
Lake End Park Fund	920,805	797,041	123,764
Cemetery			
Fund	151,961	137,501	14,460
State Prisoner Fund	182,491	188,885	(6,394)
Total Revenues	9,952,220	9,162,071	798,215
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	10,321,284	10,680,111	(358,827)
Recreation Fund	536,784	571,052	(34,268)
Library Fund	87,756	110,650	(22,894)
Auditorium Fund	432,946	464,825	(31,879)
Lake End Park Fund	787,843	973,570	(185,727)
Cemetery			
Fund	223,990	265,433	(41,443)
State Prisoner Fund	595,586	679,825	(84,239)
Total Expenses	12,986,189	13,745,466	(759,277)
Net Excess(Deficit)	(3,033,969)	(4,583,395)	1,557,492
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	3,857,930	3,976,667	(118,737)
Transfers to Funds	0	0	0
Net Transfers	3,857,930	3,976,667	(118,737)
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	823,961	(606,728)	1,430,689
UTILITY FUND			
Total			
Revenues	22,018,128	25,503,345	(3,485,217)
Total Expenditures	17,024,218	19,740,112	(2,715,894)
Net Excess(Deficit)	4,993,910	5,763,233	(769,323)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(2,717,973)	(3,153,685)	435,712
Excess net of transfers	2,275,937	2,609,548	(333,611)
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total			
Revenues	2,887,834	3,038,200	(150,366)
Total			
Expenses	3,377,561	3,648,584	(271,023)
Net Excess(Deficit)	(489,727)	(610,384)	120,657
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	615,167	620,568	(5,401)
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	125,440	10,184	115,256

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

The next matter on the agenda was the Lakeside Street Repairs project; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-50

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the bid of Cleveland J. Billiot, III, for furnishing all materials, equipment, etc., for the

Morgan City Street Repairs 2023, No. 2 project in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS AND THIRTY NINE CENTS (\$233,441.39) being the least and most responsible proposal received, be and the same is hereby accepted and awarded to Cleveland J. Billiot, III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute a contract with said Cleveland Billiot, III. for and on behalf of and in the name of said Municipal Corporation, for furnishing all materials, and equipment for the Morgan City Street Repairs 2023, No. 2 Project, Morgan City, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the contract shall be filed with the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Recorder of Mortgages for the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, for recordation in the mortgage records of said parish, hereby ratifying and confirming his act or acts in the premises.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 19th day of December, 2023.

Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The first reading of the Issuance of \$7,000,000 Taxable Utilities Bonds was opened. No definitive action necessary.

It was decided by the City Attorney that the Amendment of the Home Rule Charter Ordinance adopted in April 2023 would suffice and another ordinance did not need to be passed.

Mr. Tamporello stated that the 2023 Amended Budget would be adopted at the January 2024 meeting to allow for more accurate figures.

The public hearing for the Urban Camping Ordinance was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on November 28, 2023. Published by title on December 6, 2023.

Mr. Domangue offered the following ordinance, who moved for its adoption.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY ENACTING ARTICLE IV. URBAN CAMPING AND ARTICLE V. HOURS OF OPERATION TO CHAPTER 78 – PARKS AND RECREATION, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Chapter 78 of the code of ordinances be enacted as follows:

Chapter 78 – Parks and Recreation
Article IV. Urban Camping

Sec. 78-60. *Definitions.*

For the purposes of this article the following definitions apply:

Camp or camping means the use of public property as a temporary or permanent place of dwelling, lodging or residence, or as a living accommodation at any time. Indications of camping may include, but are not limited to, burning a fire, carrying on cooking activities, storing personal belongings, laying down bedding for sleeping, using tents or temporary structures for shelter, sleeping or storing of personal belongings. Such activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears under the circumstances that the participants are using the area as a living accommodation, no matter how temporary.

Public property means any public school, park, playground, street, sidewalk, right-of-way, highway, alleyway, bike path, transit stop or facility, or land whether improved or unimproved, or attraction, structure, facility, parking lot, or property open for public use.

Sec. 78-61. *Prohibited acts.*

Purpose. The intent of this article is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents, business owners and the public at large within the city, and to assure all public property is readily accessible, clean and sanitary. It is not intended to interfere with otherwise lawful and ordinary uses of public property.

No person shall camp on any public property, unless it is an area specifically authorized for camping or the person possesses a permit allowing camping in the area.

This section does not apply to temporary structures or camps set up by a government agency or relief workers during a disaster or emergency situation.

Nothing in this article shall be construed to criminalize homelessness, target the homeless community, or otherwise criminalize an individual's status rather than conduct.

Sec. 78-62. *Non-exclusivity.*

The provisions of this article are intended to supplement any other provisions of the Code or ordinances of the City or any applicable law or regulation of St. Mary Parish or the State of Louisiana.

Article V. Hours of Operation

Sec. 78-80. *Hours of operation.*

The public parks of the city shall be closed every day from 10:00 o'clock p.m. until 4:00 o'clock a.m. No person, firm, corporation, association or entity shall be authorized to use or be present upon the grounds of a public park during those hours without prior approval of the administration of the city, except for employees and officials of the city, or their designees, who may need to be present on the park grounds during that time in the performance of their official duties, or official duties for the city.

SECTION 2

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional or repealed for any reason, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected hereby. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after its passage within the time prescribed by law.

Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Domangue, Stephens, Hymel, Tamporello

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bias

Certified approved and adopted this 19th day of December, 2023.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 10:00 am, this 21st day of December, 2023.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 21st day of December, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 10:30 am on December 21, 2023.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: December 27, 2023

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor