

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
JANUARY 24, 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: 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 Reverend Ronnie Foret.

Mrs. Cindy Marino with the Krewe of Dionysus requested permission to hold the annual Irish Italian Parade on March 18, 2023 (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

The Positive Image recipient for the month of January was Officer Clayton Lapoint and the Police Department's new K-9 Millow. Police Chief Chad Adams stated that Mr. Lapoint had undergone over 120 hours of training with the dog. Millow was a 3 year old Dutch Shepherd who was trained in narcotics detection, criminal apprehension, tracking and area searches. The dog cost \$17,500 and was purchased with a donation from a local business.

Captain John Schaff submitted a request to hold a Fraternal Order of Police boot drive on February 10, 2023 (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

The application by the Kiwanis Club of East St. Mary to hold the annual Porch Fest event on April 22, 2023 was submitted (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

The minutes of the December 20, 2022 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 December 31, 2022.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: January 24, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended December 31, 2022.

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 December 31, 2022. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: The actual total revenues ended the year over budget by \$1,203,575. Sales taxes in General Fund were over budget by \$564,254, Fines by \$102,000, and Parkway and Lake End Park by 187,000. Operating expenses in these funds came in below budget by \$725,408. The net income, after transfers, of \$952,312 is a favorable variance of \$1,957,173 as compared to the original 2022 budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues are over budget by \$1,782,623. The operational expenses are also over budget by \$1,966,213. The purchased power cost is \$1,899,000 over budget and natural gas is over by \$345,500. The net loss, after transfers, of \$664,591 creates an unfavorable variance of \$254,874.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues remain under budget by \$32,828, with total operating expenses over budget by \$22,825 The net income, after transfers, of \$543,816 leaves a favorable variance this month of \$536,725.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT**

Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended December 31, 2022

	DECEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2022	
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	8,035,355	6,921,703	1,113,652
Recreation Fund	97,827	61,900	35,927
Library Fund	16,120	14,515	1,605
Auditorium Fund	358,658	330,748	27,910
Lake End Park Fund	939,041	752,360	186,681
State Prisoner Fund	220,300	382,500	(162,200)
Total Revenues	9,667,301	8,463,726	1,203,575
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	9,984,952	10,387,283	(402,331)
Recreation Fund	409,680	459,773	(50,093)
Library Fund	85,766	146,241	(60,475)
Auditorium Fund	498,721	483,155	15,566
Lake End Park Fund	815,486	991,766	(176,280)
State Prisoner Fund	794,518	846,313	(51,795)
Total Expenses	12,589,123	13,314,531	(725,408)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	5,294,284	5,044,500	249,784
Transfers to Funds	(1,420,150)	(1,198,556)	(221,594)
Net Transfers	3,874,134	3,845,944	28,190
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	952,312	(1,004,861)	1,957,173
UTILITY FUND			
Total			
Revenues	23,769,417	21,986,794	1,782,623
Total Expenditures	20,890,386	18,924,173	1,966,213
Net			
Excess	2,879,031	3,062,621	(183,590)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(3,543,622)	(3,472,338)	(71,284)
Excess net of transfers	(664,591)	(409,717)	(254,874)
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total			
Revenues	2,990,222	3,023,050	(32,828)
Total			
Expenses	3,553,954	3,531,129	22,825
Net			
Excess	(563,732)	(508,079)	(55,653)
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	1,107,548	515,170	592,378
Excess net of transfers			

and non-operating 543,816 7,091 536,725

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

The next matter on the agenda was the annual election of Mayor Pro Tempore; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-01

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 01-3, the council approved a change to the charter to provide for the annual selection of the mayor pro-tempore by a majority vote of the council, said selection to be made at the first meeting in January of each year, and

WHEREAS, this home rule charter amendment, in an election held on October 12, 2002, was approved by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting in this election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that Mr. Tamporello is hereby selected as Mayor Pro-tempore of the City Council for the year 2023.

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The resolution to call for a special election for a sales tax was the next matter on the agenda; whereupon,

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Hymel and seconded by Mr. Domangue:

RESOLUTION R: 23-02

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan City Council (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana (the "City"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 29 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the City on **SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

SALES TAX PROPOSITION

Shall the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana (the "City"), be authorized to levy a sales and use tax of 1/2% (the "Tax") in accordance with Louisiana law (an estimated \$1,300,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), in perpetuity, beginning July 1, 2023, with the net proceeds of the Tax to be dedicated and used for the purpose of supporting the Fire and Police Departments of the City by providing funds for salary increases above current base pay and paying the costs of training new personnel of the Fire and Police Departments of the City?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the City once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Mayor is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the City Court Building, 7261 Hwy. 182 East, Morgan City, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts set forth in the aforesaid Notice of Special Election are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the City will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the City is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Mayor and/or Clerk of the City are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Mary Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Mary Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided and, in the event said election carries, for further consent and authority to levy and collect the sales

and use tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 24th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Mayor

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Morgan City Council (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana (the "City"), on January 24, 2023, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the City on **SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the City qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

SALES TAX PROPOSITION

Shall the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana (the "City"), be authorized to levy a sales and use tax of 1/2% (the "Tax") in accordance with Louisiana law (an estimated \$1,300,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), in perpetuity, beginning July 1, 2023, with the net proceeds of the Tax to be dedicated and used for the purpose of supporting the Fire and Police Departments of the City by providing funds for salary increases above current base pay and paying the costs of training new personnel of the Fire and Police Departments of the City?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts, which polls will open at six o'clock (6:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, to wit:

PRECINCTS

- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42(PART)
- 43(PART)

The polling places for the precincts set forth above are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$20,000.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5, Chapter 6-A and Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns

thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the City Court Building, 7261 Hwy. 182 East, Morgan City, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the City are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Morgan City, Louisiana, on this, the 24th day of January, 2023.

ATTEST:

/s/ Lee Dragna
Mayor

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the auditors needed to be engaged for the 2022 audit; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-03

WHEREAS, the firm of Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company, LLC submitted an agreement letter for the examination of the financial statements of the City of Morgan City for the year ending December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, said agreement letter must be approved by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute the letter agreement between the City and Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company, LLC for the purpose of conducting an examination of the City's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that a cooperative endeavor agreement needed to be signed in connection with the Keep America Beautiful grant; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-04

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City has received \$5,000 from Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc. for the landscaping around various signs in the City; and

WHEREAS, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement must be signed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Morgan City and Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc.

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna said he wanted to jump back up to the Mayor's Update. He stated that equipment was on order to refurbish two playgrounds. Mr. Solar had received an email stating that the equipment was on back order until August, and he wanted the Council to be aware.

The public hearing for the 2022 Amended Budget was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This Ordinance introduced with first reading on October 25, 2022, a second reading on November 15, 2022, a third reading on December 20, 2022, and a fourth reading on January 24, 2023. Published by title on October 28, 2022, November 23, 2022, and December 23, 2022.

Mr. Hymel offered the following Ordinance, who moved for its adoption.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

WHEREAS, by Ordinance Number 21-10 dated November 16, 2021, the City Council adopted the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, during the year certain amendments were deemed necessary,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that revenues and other financing sources for 2022 be amended to \$43,078,665 and the expenditures be amended to \$42,987,649 leaving a net deficiency of \$91,016.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that said net income be applied to the fund balance of \$24,255,535 leaving a fund balance of \$24,346,551 for the fiscal year ended 2022.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 24th day of January, 2023.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 3:30 pm this 25th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 25th day of January, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor Dragna at 3:45 pm on January 25, 2023.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: February 1, 2023

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor