

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY**

**REPORT ON FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
ACTIVITIES**

**2009**

Presented by: Mayor Tim Matte

In accordance with the City of Morgan City's Home Rule Charter, specifically Section 3-05 (6), I hereby submit to the City Council and public, a report on the finances and administrative activities of the City. This report is intended to supplement the financial reports and other reports presented at our monthly council meetings.

Revenues

Sales tax collections for 2009 declined sharply when compared to last year's collections. The following table details such collections over the past few years:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
General Fund Sales Taxes	\$3,349,000	\$3,525,000	\$3,501,000	\$3,195,000
Pollution Abatement	\$1,726,000	\$1,823,000	\$1,832,000	\$1,642,000

Property Tax collections for 2009 improved, slightly despite the fact that we rolled back our millage. These increases reflect the additional assessments due to the new construction, business expansions, and new equipment purchases by the business community.

General Fund ad valorem tax collections were as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
City Taxes	\$1,155,000	\$1,248,000	\$1,545,000	\$1,555,000

Employment

Over the past few years, I have reported to you the difficulty we have encountered in filling various positions throughout the City. In January 2009, we had a total of 247 employees on our active rolls. I am happy to report that we have had some success in filling some of the open positions this past year. As of February 23, 2010 we have a total of 269 active employees on our rolls.

We continue to experience shortages in our Fire Department as we currently have five open positions and have three of our employees at the training academy. This situation continues to stress our budgets as we are filling these vacancies at higher overtime rates. The employment rolls of the Police Department have improved; however, we still struggle with hiring and retaining correctional officers.

Hurricane Recovery

We continue to deal with repairs and restoration work throughout all City Departments. One major restoration project we have undertaken is the re-establishment of street lighting served by underground electric circuits. Contractors provided the underground boring and City crews pulled the wire, installed the fixtures, repaired poles, and made the connections to provide this critical lighting.

The attached schedule details the total of the claims filed with FEMA for hurricane restoration work compared to reimbursements received. Of the total obligated, the City has expended approximately \$2.4 million and has received \$1.47 million in reimbursement.

Infrastructure

We were able to complete several infrastructure projects during 2009 including the construction of the paved Auditorium parking lot, installation of the new clarifier at the Water Plant, extension of the City's natural gas service to the Young Industrial Park, construction of the Young Industrial Bridge, construction of the new Planning and Zoning Office as well as initiating the reconstruction of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The City was also able to assist our citizens with tree removal from private property as a result of our participation in the Hurricane recovery program. We have also solicited and put into place a Pre-event Disaster Debris Management contract.

Our participation in the State Revolving Loan program has allowed us to initiate the replacement of a water tower, installation of a replacement water transmission line and the installation of new water meters project.

#### Commercial Activities

Our investment in our infrastructure was met by our local industry as many invested in our community or chose to re-invest through expansions. The following chart details the construction activity over the past five years:

	<u>Permit Fee</u>	<u>Permit Valuation</u>
2005	\$3594.00	\$1,256,693.00
2006	\$34,658.00	\$29,314,663.00
2007	\$53,589.00	\$15,366,291.00
2008	\$113,742.60	\$20,036,687.00
2009	\$58,928.45	\$11,991,245.00

I would like to thank the City Council, our staff and our citizens for their assistance in meeting our obligations. This report is intended to give just a few highlights of our activities. Please feel free to call about any other activities that are not mentioned, but are of a concern.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF MORGAN CITY

Timothy Matte  
Mayor