

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY OF MORGAN CITY  
OCTOBER 25, 2022

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 Herb Stanley.

The Positive Image recipients for the month of October were Haley Autin and Kristopher Price. Mayor Dragna said that Mr. Price was receiving his 15-year pin for the Fire Department, and Ms. Autin was promoted to operator in the Fire Department.

Mr. David Leonard, Jr., with the Fraternal Order of Police requested permission to conduct a boot drive fund raiser at the Hwy 90/ 182 junction on November 4, 2022, from 11 AM to 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Sadie Rankin with Morgan City Main Street addressed the Council regarding street closures during the upcoming Christmas Festival on November 26. She asked that Everett Street from First to Third Streets be shut down during the duration of the Festival. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor. Mrs. Rankin also stated that there would be a lighting ceremony for the Oak trees in Lawrence Park at 6:15 PM. She stated that they had received donations from local businesses to light up five trees. She said each tree cost about \$2,000 to light up and she was looking forward to having even more sponsors for next year.

Mr. Tamporello submitted a request by Mattison Leblanc to close down streets during the upcoming filming of Ada and the Doc (copy on file). The Police Department had already been notified and would help out any way they could. A motion to block off the streets on the dates and times requested was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Pastor Bias said he wanted to mention that October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and he asked that everyone do all they could to prevent Breast Cancer.

The minutes of the September 27, 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. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending September 30, 2022.

---

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

---

**DATE:** October 25, 2022  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Deborah Garber  
**RE:** Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended September 30, 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 September 30, 2022. The following comments are related thereto:

**General and Ancillary Funds:** The actual total revenues continue to come in over budget by \$972,145. Sales taxes in General Fund were over budget by \$454,000, Fines by

\$111,000, and Parkway and Lake End Park by 171,000. Operating expenses are below budget by \$602,400. The net loss, after transfers, of \$1,086,721 is a favorable variance of \$1,549,544 compared to the budget.

**Utility Fund:** Actual revenues are now over budget by \$898,949. The operational expenses are currently over budget by \$1,688,724. The cost of purchased power is \$1,623,000 over budget and natural gas is over by \$130,000. The net loss, after transfers, of \$865,303 creates an unfavorable variance of \$744,068.

**Sanitation and Sewer Fund:** The operating revenues remain under budget by \$72,330, with total operating expenses over budget by \$33,711. The net income, after transfers, of \$489,067 leaves an unfavorable variance this month of \$82,427.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT**  
 Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget  
 Period Ended September 30, 2022

	SEPTEMBER 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022	VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	
<b>GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS</b>			
<b>REVENUES</b>			
General Fund	4,651,922	3,773,250	878,672
Recreation Fund	89,946	52,351	37,595
Library Fund	9,107	10,888	(1,781)
Auditorium Fund	59,452	43,616	15,836
Lake End Park Fund	738,508	567,123	171,385
State Prisoner Fund	157,319	286,881	(129,562)
Total Revenues	5,706,254	4,734,109	972,145
<b>EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL</b>			
General Fund	7,497,365	7,825,339	(327,974)
Recreation Fund	292,318	367,236	(74,918)
Library Fund	59,338	110,531	(51,193)
Auditorium Fund	354,035	360,794	(6,759)
Lake End Park Fund	640,183	732,061	(91,878)
State Prisoner Fund	578,736	628,413	(49,677)
Total Expenses	9,421,975	10,024,374	(602,399)
<b>TRANSFERS</b>			
Transfers from Funds	3,446,000	3,399,000	47,000
Transfers to Funds	(817,000)	(745,000)	(72,000)
Net Transfers	2,629,000	2,654,000	(25,000)
<b>EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS</b>	(1,086,721)	(2,636,265)	1,549,544
<b>UTILITY FUND</b>			
Total			
Revenues	17,945,165	17,046,216	898,949
Total Expenditures	16,266,317	14,577,593	1,688,724
Net			
Excess	1,678,848	2,468,623	(789,775)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(2,544,151)	(2,589,858)	45,707
Excess net of transfers	(865,303)	(121,235)	(744,068)
<b>SANITATION AND SEWER FUND</b>			
Total			
Revenues	2,206,150	2,278,480	(72,330)

Total Expenses	2,684,206	2,650,495	33,711
Net Excess	(478,056)	(372,015)	(106,041)
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	967,123	943,509	23,614
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	489,067	571,494	(82,427)

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

In the matter of the Façade Grant Update, Grant Writer Hannah Roy gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on the grant (copy on file). She stated that there was a 25% match to the business owner and the City paid the 75%. The contractor hired their own labor. In the Weatherization Grant, the City retained Callahan Contractors to do the soft washing and painting of the houses.

The next matter on the agenda was the Police Chief appointment. Mayor Dragna stated that he had met with every candidate who passed the exam, and five of those were from within the Department. He stated that Chad Adams presented the best plan to him on how to move the department forward. It was a hard decision and he appreciated the ideas of all involved. Mr. Stephens said that there was tough competition and thanked all the candidates. A motion to concur in the appointment of Chad Adams as Police Chief was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Hymel stated that there were many viable candidates, and he felt good to have so many on staff at the Department. Pastor Bias thanked Assistant Chief Griffin for stepping up until a permanent Chief was found. Mr. Tamporello and Mr. Domangue also thanked Assistant Chief Griffin for his service as interim Chief. Mr. Adams thanked the Mayor and Councilmen for their support and said that he thought we could have a better department by implementing a few changes. He thanked his family for their support and said he was proud of the members of his department for showing up and doing their best each day.

The next matter on the agenda was the Insurance Committee Recommendations, whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-44

WHEREAS, the City's health insurance policy will expire December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Health Insurance Committee, after reviewing the proposal from A. J.

Gallagher made the following recommendation as follows:

1. Increase specific deductible from \$125,000 to \$150,000.
2. Change Coinsurance to 80% on Silver Plan.

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 to execute the contract between the City and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana, as per the recommendations of the Health Insurance Committee.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

---

Lee Dragna  
Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the Capital Outlay request. Mayor Dragna stated that after talks with our Senator, the State had agreed to complete the resurfacing of Ninth Street if the City put it in their Capital Outlay request. He said the Morgan City Wellness Center had substantial money guaranteed through donations and Mr. Solar had come up with a match in the form of land. The Lake End Park Pier development was in limbo, but he wanted to keep it on the request; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-45

WHEREAS, the Mayor submitted to the council, the following projects for re-submission to the State requesting Capital Outlay funding:

LA Highway 70 Resurfacing & Drainage Repairs	\$TBD
Morgan City Wellness Center	\$17,000,000.00
Morgan City Lake End Park Pier Development	\$10,000,000.00
LA Highway 182 Resurfacing	\$TBD

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it hereby supports the Mayor's request, to the state, for Capital Outlay Funds to complete these projects.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

---

Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Debbie Harrington, Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding. Mayor Dragna stated that they had met with the School Board and they agreed to pay for a resource officer to deal with all schools in the City; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-46

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, is a municipal corporation of the State of Louisiana, ("CITY") represented herein by Lee Dragna, its duly authorized Mayor, and

WHEREAS, THE ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, ("SCHOOL BOARD") a public entity represented herein by Teresa Bagwell, its duly authorized Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the CITY and the SCHOOL BOARD desire to provide additional new School Resource Officers (SROs) to be deployed to work in and around schools as part of an overall plan to address crime and related problems through community policing; and

WHEREAS, the SCHOOL BOARD will, to the extent practical, assist in facilitating all community policing activities conducted by the School Resource Officers, as well as efforts required in performing program evaluation and monitoring activities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that Lee Dragna, Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and sign any documents necessary with the SCHOOL BOARD for the School Resource Officers Program.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the first reading of the 2022 Budget Amendment. No definitive action was necessary.

The public hearing for the Storm Water Model Ordinance was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,



In the matter of the 2023 Budget Ordinance, Mayor Dragna said a budget workshop needed to be held. The budget workshop was set for November 9, 2022 at 3 PM.

Mayor Dragna submitted the name of Kathy Landry for appointment to the Main Street Committee. A motion to concur in the appointment was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

The Class "A" Liquor and Beer application for Edgar I. Plasencia-Perez d/b/a Don Jose's Grill was the next matter on the agenda. A motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

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

---

Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

---

Lee Dragna  
Mayor