

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
SEPTEMBER 26, 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 Pastor Bias.

Mr. Robert Allain, III, candidate for Senate District 21, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mr. James Bennett, candidate for St. Mary Parish Council District 7, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mrs. Angelina Brocato, candidate for Parish Council District 10 At-Large, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mr. Jim Harvey, candidate for President in the 2024 election, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mr. Tim LeBlanc, candidate for St. Mary Parish President, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mr. Reginald Weary, candidate for St. Mary Parish Council, District 10, asked for the support of the Mayor and Council for the upcoming election.

Mr. Hymel stated that Leon Gisclair had contacted him and asked to be pushed back to the October meeting.

Kristal Hebert with the ARC of St. Mary gave a brief update on operations. She stated that they were the only licensed day program for adults with developmental disabilities in St. Mary Parish, but they continued to struggle with funding. Mayor Dragna asked that she make up some sort of flyer that he could distribute to local businesses to help get more funding for ARC.

Mr. Pat Haller with the Morgan City Firefighters Association requested permission to hold their annual 5K run on October 21, 2023. A motion to allow the run was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that Kolin Leonard had submitted a request to hold the second annual Mama G's Swamp Pop Fest on May 4, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that Don Jose's Grill had submitted a request to hold the First Responders Appreciation Day on October 28, 2023, From 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM in their parking lot (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Lee Price addressed the Council regarding a request to hold Christmas Eve bonfires on Lake End Parkway similar to the ones that are held in Lutchter (copy on file). He stated that it could start as a small event and grow each year. Mr. Tamporello stated that the Fire Department needed to give their input. Mayor Dragna stated that the Police and Fire Departments needed to have input into the bonfires and it could be revisited at the October meeting.

Mr. David Dolci, a local shrimper, stated that there were a few issues at the wharf that he would like to see resolved. He handed out copies of the wharf rules and by-laws (copy on file). He highlighted the current violations in the by-laws. Mr. Kermit Duck asked City Attorney Paul Landry if the contract for the wharf was enforceable. Mr. Landry said he was just seeing the rules for the first time and would need to look into it. He stated that there was currently a rule that said you had to live in a 15 mile radius in order to be able to sell seafood at the City Wharf. Mayor Dragna stated that it was his understanding that there had been a permit issued erroneously. Mr. Pete Lawton, wharf manager, said that he had accidentally issued one permit to a person who lived in Houma. He stated the person came in late but paid for a full year and his permit would not be renewed next year. Mayor Dragna stated that he had spoken with Charlie Solar about putting more pilings near the grass area to be able to accommodate some smaller boats as well.

Mrs. Precious Matthews and her family requested permission to use the area under the bridge near Federal Avenue on Greenwood Street on November 18, 2023 at 11:00 AM to share meals with the community. A motion to allow the community feeding event was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Timmy Quebedeaux with the Atchafalaya Bit & Bridle Club requested permission to hold a rodeo on October 7, 2023 at the arena. He said that the money they were making on the rodeos was allowing much needed upgrades to the arena. He stated that this rodeo had been held in Houma in the past, but the recent hurricane had messed up their arena. A motion to allow the request was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the Mayor's Update. Mayor Dragna stated that he had received two letters in the mail commending Firemen and Police Officers for their work at a recent medical emergency. He read the letters into record (copy on file). The police officers were Officer Richard Doan and Sergeant Matthew Strickland. Fire Department employees were Captain Heath Landry, Captain Kyle Price, Captain Kristopher Price, Operator Justin Rogers, Operator Stanley Crochet and Operator Hallie Autin. He thanked them for their quick and knowledgeable response that saved a life. Pastor Bias stated that Dwayne Barbier and the Recreation Department had been putting a new playground in at Willie Evans Park and he wanted to personally thank them for their hard work. Mayor Dragna stated that the LA 70 project being done by the State had run into several issues and was taking longer than expected. He said the blacktop was expected to be put down on Monday and it should be opened back up soon. He stated that he had just left the Football Opening Ceremony and there were 7 football teams and lots of cheerleaders since the age for participation had been lowered. He thanked the Recreation Department for their work.

The minutes of the August 22, 2023 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.

Mayor Dragna submitted the following financial statement for the period ending August 31, 2023.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: September 26, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended August 31, 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 August 31, 2023. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: These funds continue to do well in comparison to the budget. I have included the Cemetery Fund this month and will continue to do so in the future. The actual total revenues are over budget by \$820,819. A few of the main overages are as follows:

Sales taxes	231,000
Fines	170,000
Lake End Park/Parkway	134,000

Operating expenses are below budget by \$491,530. The net loss of \$3,496,272 is a favorable variance of \$1,393,797 compared to the budget.

Utility Fund: We are really seeing the effects of the timing difference in billing this time of year in addition to the revenue being lower than expected. Revenues are currently under budget by \$3,075,847 mainly due to electrical revenues. However, the operational expenses are also under budget \$1,745,867 with the cost of purchased power under budget \$1,711,450. The net income of \$3,092,339 creates an unfavorable budget variance in the amount of \$1,171,323.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$128,106 under budget, with total operating expenses under budget by \$127,000. The net loss of \$496,714 leaves another slightly unfavorable budget variance of \$5,428.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT**

Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended August 31, 2023

	AUGUST 2023	AUGUST 2023	
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	5,172,692	4,574,121	598,571
Recreation Fund	83,841	46,888	36,953
Library Fund	8,299	9,341	(1,042)
Auditorium Fund	70,008	38,160	31,848
Lake End Park Fund	697,865	563,828	134,037
Cemetery Fund	126,507	100,004	26,503
State Prisoner Fund	131,892	137,943	(6,051)
Total Revenues	6,032,705	5,232,338	820,819
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	7,544,927	7,785,888	(240,961)
Recreation Fund	444,700	442,051	2,649
Library Fund	53,115	81,245	(28,130)
Auditorium Fund	318,785	333,410	(14,625)
Lake End Park Fund	560,652	699,881	(139,229)
Cemetery Fund	158,504	192,210	(33,706)
State Prisoner Fund	448,294	485,822	(37,528)
Total Expenses	9,528,977	10,020,507	(491,530)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	2,593,567	2,491,667	101,900
Transfers to Funds	0	0	0
Net Transfers	2,593,567	2,491,667	101,900
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	(902,705)	(2,296,502)	1,393,797
UTILITY FUND			
Total Revenues	15,805,855	18,881,702	(3,075,847)
Total Expenditures	12,713,516	14,459,383	(1,745,867)
Net Excess	3,092,339	4,422,319	(1,329,980)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(2,126,996)	(2,285,653)	158,657
Excess net of transfers	965,343	2,136,666	(1,171,323)

SANITATION AND SEWER FUND

Total Revenues	2,074,336	2,202,442	(128,106)
Total Expenses	2,571,050	2,698,050	(127,000)
Net Excess	(496,714)	(495,608)	(1,106)
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	778,531	782,853	(4,322)
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	281,817	287,245	(5,428)

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 Condemnation and Demolition reports. Mr. Pete Lawton stated that the house at 521 Aucoin Street was a two-story structure in bad shape. He had sent all legal notifications to the owner and had not received any response. There was one car in the driveway that needed to be moved to complete the demolition. A motion to approve the demolition and removal of the vehicle was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Lawton said the property at 2420 Pecan Street was a trailer that a large tree had fallen onto during a recent storm. All proper notification had been made. A motion to approve the demolition of 2420 Pecan Street was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Pat Gordon with South Central Planning & Development gave a redistricting update. He said that Josh Manning had previously given the Mayor and Council an update and gave some alternative reapportionment plans. He presented a current map along with three alternative maps (copy on file). He stated that District 3 was currently 52% minority, while alternative 1 was 53% minority, alternative 2 was 50.9% minority, and alternative 3 was 52.6% minority. He stated that alternative 1 had the least change from the current maps. He said he would get them digital copies of the maps and would have Josh Manning at the October Council meeting and would like to see them move forward with one of the plans because the next election would be July 1, 2024.

The next matter on the agenda was the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-38

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City is committed to minimizing the amount of infiltration and inflow into the wastewater collection system and its associated impact on the design flow of the wastewater treatment plant, and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City has dedicated adequate budget funds to aggressively pursue location of and repairs to cracked and broken pipes in the wastewater collection system, employing both City and contract resources,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that it hereby informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken by the City of Morgan City, Louisiana.

1. Reviewed the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit Report which is attached to this resolution.

2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, number LA0065986:
 - a. Continued mapping of the wastewater collection system to characterize and document the size, type, and maintenance history of each main;
 - b. Continued systematic surveying and investigation of sections of the collection system to determine the extent and priority of repair efforts; and
 - c. Continued repairing and/or replacement of damaged sections of the collection system.

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of September, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
 Lee Dragna
 Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
 Debbie Harrington
 Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the Police Department had some surplus equipment whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-39

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the item shown below are hereby declared surplus and no longer needed:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Vertex Standard repeater VHF #6K3700278 | Police Department |
| 2. Telewave Inc Duplex Filters | Police Department |
| 3. 8 Canisters (4 receiving, 4 transmitting) | Police Department |
| 4. Duplexer | Police Department |
| 5. Transmitter 155.5200 MHZ | Police Department |
| 6. Receiver | Police Department |
| 7. 154-7700 MHZ Model 2-2 | Police Department |
| 8. TPRD-1588 | Police Department |
| 9. Spare Tire and Rim from Crown Victoria | Police Department |
| 10. 3 Center Consoles | Police Department |
| 11. 2 Partitions | Police Department |
| 12. 2 Push Bumpers | Police Department |
| 13. 2 Window Bars for Rear Doors | Police Department |
| 14. 2 Handheld Radar Units | Police Department |
| 15. 4 Portable Radios | Police Department |
| 16. 2 Arlo Cameras, #51B39C74A0286, #51B3927HA0314 | Police Department |
| 17. Sony MVC-FD75 Camera #1224400 | Police Department |
| 18. Sony EVO-220 Camera #108759 | Police Department |
| 19. Nikon D50 Digital Camera #2065746 | Police Department |
| 20. Nikon D50 Digital Camera #2150683 | Police Department |
| 21. Nikon D50 Digital Camera #2080424 | Police Department |
| 22. Nikon D50 Digital Camera #2150683 | Police Department |

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|--|-------------------|
| 23. Sony GV-200 Camera #27196 | Police Department |
| 24. Sony CCD-TRV67 Camera #33349 | Police Department |
| 25. RCA Scene Select AE Camera #NT14159254 | Police Department |
| 26. Sony MVC-FD75 Camera #1289740 | Police Department |
| 27. Minolta 400Si Camera #95605492 | Police Department |
| 28. Sony CCD-TRV37 Camera #219968 | Police Department |
| 29. Minolta 400Si Camera #96608743 | Police Department |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that said items be sold either by auction, on GovDeal.com, or by receiving bids.

Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of September, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
 Lee Dragna
 Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
 Debbie Harrington
 Clerk

Chief Chad Adams stated that the new Baldwin Police Chief Anthony Gibson had very little equipment to run the department. Chief Adams wanted to donate the usable radar units and handheld radios to the department; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 23-40

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City and the Town of Baldwin are governmental entities authorized to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements pursuant to La. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 20 and Art. VII, Sec. 14 (c); and

WHEREAS, the City has declared two hand held radar units and four portable radios surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Baldwin Police Department is in need of the hand held radars and portable radios.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement between the City of Morgan City and the Town of Baldwin for the donation of hand held radars and portable radios.

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 26th day of September, 2023.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the 2024 Budget Ordinance. Mayor Dragna read his Budget Message into record (copy on file).

The first reading for the 2024 Budget was the next matter on the agenda. No definitive action was necessary.

Mayor Dragna stated that the sign ordinance was the next matter on the agenda. No action would be taken because the City Attorney, Paul Landry, wanted to make some changes.

Mayor Dragna submitted the names of Elisabeth Chaisson and Michelle Broussard for reappointment to the Archives Committee; Kendra Thomas and Andy Reed for reappointment to the Board of Adjustments; Elizabeth Bennette and Micah Allen for reappointment to the Convention, Tourism and Culter Committee; Neal Mayon, Angela Reynaud, Rhonda Dennis, Bryce Merril, Michelle Broussard and Greig Chauvin for reappointment to the Historic District; Ila Hardee for reappointment to the Library Committee; Alexis McIntyre and Janine Blanco for reappointment to the Main Street Committee; Darlene Castay for reappointment to the Morgan City Development District; Diane Martin and Sylvia Whiting for reappointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission; and Colleen Hammonds, LaSonja Prince and Christy Deshotel for reappointment to the Recreation & Parks Commission. A motion to concur in the appointments was made by Mr. Tamporello, 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 Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor