

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
AUGUST 27, 2024

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, Bonnie Leonard 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 Tracey Smith.

There was no Positive Image recipient for the month of August, but Mayor Dragna stated that he did want to thank the city workers for all that they do. He said that one of the automatic lawnmowers was recently stolen, and the Police and Recreation Departments tracked it down using GPS technology and recovered the mower. The person was arrested and charged with a felony. He also thanked the Fire Department for assisting Acadian by running medical calls.

Mr. Eriq Blanchard addressed the Mayor and Council to announce his candidacy for City Council, District 5.

Mr. Jean Paul Bourg addressed the Mayor and Council to announce his candidacy for City Council, District 2.

Pastor Bias stated that he had approached the Recreation & Parks Commission requesting permission to name the field at Norman Park "Sumpter Williams Blue Devil Field", home of the mighty devils. He said the Blue Devils was the name of the football team at Sumpter Williams, the African American High School in Morgan City. The Recreation & Parks Commission recommended to the council that the name be changed (copy on file). Pastor Bias made a motion to name the field at Norman Park "Sumpter Williams Blue Devil Field", seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Molly Jo Doiron and Lucy Kincade approached the Council regarding the representation of both High Schools in the City at the Council meetings. Ms. Doiron stated she was a senior at Morgan City High School and Ms. Kincade said she was a junior at Central Catholic High School. They were both recommended to be the representatives for the local youth at the meetings. Mayor Dragna invited them to sit at the front table today and at future meetings.

Mrs. Jessica Dubois with MC Bank and St. Mary Outreach requested the use of the Petting Zoo for their annual Pumpkin Patch event on October 21 – October 25, 2024 (copy on file). A motion to allow the use of the petting zoo was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Colleen Hammonds with the Roots & Ribbons Foundation invited the Mayor and Council to the Puttin on the Pink – 2024 5K race and walk on October 4, 2024, at Morey Park in Patterson.

The Atchafalaya Bit & Bridle Club requested permission to hold a rodeo with alcohol sales at the Arena on September 21, 2024. A motion to allow the rodeo was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Efremzimbalist Randle addressed the Council regarding support for the EBP Community Boxing Program. He stated he was not looking for monetary support, just a place to hold the events that would be held in Morgan City. He said the program was for youth aged 8 to 18. It was designed to keep children busy and out of trouble and to give them a safe outlet to spend time. He said there would be boxing, but the children would also be taught the characteristics of being a good man and woman. It would include cardio

workouts, strength training, and would fall under USA boxing rules. Ms. Kincade stated that she and Ms. Doiron would help with handouts or making their peers aware of the program.

Mr. Clarence Robinson requested permission to hold the 11th Annual Prostate Screening at Skinners Barbershop on September 7, 2024, from 9 AM to 1 PM (copy on file). They asked that Poncio Street be closed, beginning at Railroad Avenue so that Mary Bird Perkins could park their bus. A motion to allow the screening was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Charlie Solar requested permission on behalf of Morgan City Main Street to hold the Boat to Table dinner on the City Wharf on September 28, 2024; Trunk or Treat under the US 90 Bridge on October 26, 2024; and the Christmas Parade and Festival on Saturday, November 30, 2024. He requested for the festival and parade that the perimeter of Lawrence Park and the area in front of City Hall be blocked off. A motion to concur with the requests was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Solar also advised the Council that there would be a Murder Mystery Dinner at the Auditorium on October 19, 2024; the annual lighting of the Shrimp Boat on Thanksgiving night; and a Rockin' around the Christmas Tree event on Friday, November 29, 2024. Mayor Dragna said he wanted to make the Council aware of Vanessa Spinella and all of the work she had been doing for the Main Street Program.

Captain John Schaff requested use of Lawrence Park on October 15, 2024, from 5 PM to 8 PM for the National Night Out Against Crime. He stated there would be games, activities, and giveaways for the children as well as food and live music. A motion to allow the request was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

The Mayor's update was the next matter on the agenda. Mayor Dragna said the sidewalk from Browell Homes to the High School was complete, and a crosswalk was going to be put on Hickory Street near the school. He also mentioned that in the future, the home rule charter would have to be changed to allow for corrections in the regulations for City Council candidates.

The minutes of the July 23, 2024 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending July 31, 2024.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: August 27, 2024
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended July 31, 2024.

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 July 31, 2024. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Revenues are just over budget by \$4,873. In General Fund, sales taxes remain under budget currently by \$46,149. Operating expenses are under budget \$672,383. The net loss of \$1,935,135 is a positive variance of \$677,256 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues are increasingly under budget at \$1,382,241. Electric Purchased Power adjustment revenues alone are under budget \$1,475,000 which is a direct result of the Purchased Power Expense being under budget \$1,177,500. Overall, the utility operational expenses are under budget \$1,498,128. The net income, after transfers, of \$1,374,010 creates a positive variance compared to the budget of only \$180,054.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: There is very little change in this fund from prior months. The operating revenues are \$88,567 over budget, with total operating expenses under budget \$158,206. The net income, after transfers, of \$256,281 leaves another positive variance of \$285,033.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended JULY 31, 2024**

	JULY 2024 ACTUAL	JULY 2024 BUDGET	VARIANCE
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS			
REVENUES			
General Fund	4,389,200	4,446,787	(57,587)
Recreation Fund	83,486	46,371	37,115
Library Fund	5,447	8,202	(2,755)
Auditorium Fund	62,185	56,718	5,467
Lake End Park Fund	650,024	627,391	22,633
Cemetery Fund	130,533	93,455	37,078
State Prisoner Fund	98,698	127,864	(29,166)
Total Revenues	5,190,342	5,185,469	4,873
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	6,749,554	7,161,139	(411,585)
Recreation Fund	302,028	365,459	(63,431)
Library Fund	66,074	96,174	(30,100)
Auditorium Fund	312,275	341,361	(29,086)
Lake End Park Fund	745,109	873,165	(128,056)
Cemetery Fund	166,629	170,798	(4,169)
State Prisoner Fund	393,808	399,764	(5,956)
Total Expenses	8,735,477	9,407,860	(672,383)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	1,610,000	1,610,000	0
Transfers to Funds	0	0	0
Net Transfers	1,610,000	1,610,000	0
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	(1,935,135)	(2,612,391)	677,256
UTILITY FUND			
Total Revenues	12,807,311	14,189,552	(1,382,241)
Total Expenditures	10,125,062	11,623,190	(1,498,128)
Net Excess	2,682,249	2,566,362	115,887
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(1,308,239)	(1,372,406)	64,167
Excess net of transfers	1,374,010	1,193,956	180,054
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total Revenues	1,979,594	1,891,027	88,567
Total Expenses	2,414,927	2,573,133	(158,206)
Net Excess	(435,333)	(682,106)	246,773
Net Transfers/non- operating expenses	691,614	653,354	38,260
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	256,281	(28,752)	285,033

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

Mayor Dragna stated that the Police Department had a surplus police unit, and the City of Jonesville was in dire need of police units; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-31

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City and the City of Jonesville 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 a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN#FABP7BV0AX121139; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesville Police Department is in need of the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria.

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 City of Jonesville for the donation of the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria.

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of August, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the bid tabulation for the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-32

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City received the following Bids on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 for the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement; and

CONTRACTOR		LUMP SUM BID
1.	LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC	\$587,433.00
2.	Co-D Construction of LA, LLC	\$762,954.18
3.	Sealevel Construction, Inc.	\$988,600.00
4.	Preferred Mechanical, LLC	\$1,200,000.00

WHEREAS, the Bids have been checked and tabulated by Pan American Engineers, LLC, with a recommendation of award being made to the low Bidder.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the bid of LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC, of Thibodaux, Louisiana, for furnishing all materials, equipment, etc., for the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement project in the amount of Five Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$587,433.00.00) being the least and most responsible bid received, be and the same is hereby accepted and awarded to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute contracts and change orders with said LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC, for and on behalf of and in the name of said Municipal Corporation, for

furnishing all materials, and equipment for the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement 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.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Domangue, Leonard, Bias, Hymel, Tamporello

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of August, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that Backflow Prevention was state-mandated, and the City needed to engage a consulting firm to accomplish this; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-33

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City needs to achieve its goal of compliance with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) regulations on cross-connection control and backflow prevention; and

WHEREAS, Backflow Prevention Services has submitted a proposal to accomplish this.

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 agreement between the City and Backflow Prevention Services.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Tamporello, Hymel, Bias, Domangue, Leonard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of August, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was changing the November and December Council meeting dates; whereupon;

Mrs. Leonard offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-34

WHEREAS, the November 2024 council meeting falls on November 26, 2024, during Thanksgiving week; and the December 2024 council meeting falls on December 24, 2024, Christmas Eve; and

WHEREAS, children are out of school for the holidays and many families take vacations at this time, and

WHEREAS, from past experience it has been determined to be within the best interest of the city to change this council meeting date.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the November 2024 and the December 2024 council meetings be changed as follows:

November 26, 2024 meeting changed to November 19, 2024

December 24, 2024 meeting changed to December 17, 2024

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of August, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The first reading of the amending Sec 18-41. Dogs and Cats, Definitions Ordinance was opened. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The first reading of the amending of Sec. 18-53. Penalties Ordinance was opened. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The first reading of the addition of Sec. 18-66. Feeding Stray/Feral Cats and Dogs Prohibited was opened. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

Mayor Dragna stated that an appointment needed to be made to the Civil Service Board and encouraged anyone interested to fill out an application and return it to City Hall.

Mr. Charlie Solar advised that pile driving for the New Water Plant was scheduled to

begin at 7 AM the following day and would end at 5 PM each day. The pile driving was projected to last for several weeks.

Mr. Mike Loupe stated that the intersection of General Hodges and General Clark were presently closed and several more closures would take place to allow for the repair of sections of the streets.

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor