

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
APRIL 22, 2014

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 Frank P. Grizzaffi, III Mayor; and Council Members Ron Bias, Barry Dufrene, James Fontenot, Tim Hymel, and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: None

Also present were Mr. Marcus Folse, Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Gregory Aucoin, City Attorney.

The invocation was given by Reverend Ronnie Cuvillier.

The Positive Image Recipient this month was the Central Catholic Lady Eagles Basketball Team. Mayor Grizzaffi gave a brief overview of their season and stated that they were 2014 District 7-1A Champions.

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that Reverend Bias had informed him that Mr. Kenneth Escort could not make the meeting and would attend next month.

Mrs. Diane Martin submitted a letter to the Council requesting that First Street to the South, just beyond City Hall, to the North at the back of the Everett Street Gallery, and Everett Street to the East before the Morgan City Fire Department driveway and to the West to the back of the United States Post Office be blocked to hold an outside performance "Talented/Gifted: Diversity in Art" exhibition. The street closure would take place on Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 12 PM to 2 PM. Mrs. Martin stated that she had not checked with G & J to see if the street closure would affect them. Mayor Grizzaffi stated that he would speak with G & J. A motion to allow the closure after checking with G & J was made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Hymel and voted unanimously in favor of.

Mr. Greg Aucoin announced his candidacy for Judge of the 16th Judicial District Court. He asked for the support of the Council on November 4, 2014.

The minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Dufrene, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending March 31, 2014.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: April 22, 2014
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended March 31, 2014.

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 March 31, 2014. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual total revenues are over budget by \$103,810. The sales taxes in the General Fund are \$94,800 over budget. Operating expenses are below budget by \$445,428. The net income, after transfers, of \$446,067 creates a favorable variance of \$549,238.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues are over budget by \$996,298, with operational expenses also over budget by \$399,247. This is due to the energy and gas costs being \$783,960 over budget making the electric and gas revenue over budget as well. The net income, after transfers, of \$422,954 creates a favorable variance of \$597,475.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$192,790(\$190,000 sewer) over budget, with total operating expenses under budget by \$112,738. Operating revenues are considerably over budget because the budget does not include the increase in sewer revenues as a result of the increase in rates. The budget was adopted prior to the adoption of the increase in sewer rates. If we had based the sewer revenue budget upon the new rates, sewer revenue would only be approximately \$2,200 over budget instead of \$190,000. The net income, after transfers, of \$448,354 leaves a favorable variance of \$305,530.

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
 Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
 Period Ended March 31, 2014

	March 2014 ACTUAL	March 2014 BUDGET	VARIANCE
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS			
REVENUES			
General Fund	1,823,667	1,713,479	110,188
Recreation Fund	28,717	32,188	(3,471)
Library Fund	3,875	3,804	71
Auditorium Fund	27,549	28,175	(626)
Lake End Park Fund	130,825	133,178	(2,353)
Total Revenues	2,014,633	1,910,823	103,810
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	2,066,135	2,393,509	(327,374)
Recreation Fund	100,532	129,356	(28,824)
Library Fund	27,165	38,658	(11,493)
Auditorium Fund	102,554	127,409	(24,855)
Lake End Park Fund	157,178	210,061	(52,883)
Total Expenses	2,453,564	2,898,992	(445,428)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	1,061,998	1,061,998	0
Transfers to Funds	(177,000)	(177,000)	0
Net Transfers	884,998	884,998	0
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	446,067	(103,171)	549,238
UTILITY FUND			
Total Revenues	5,665,527	4,669,229	996,298
Total Expenditures	4,406,123	4,006,876	399,247
Net Excess	1,259,405	662,353	597,051
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(836,451)	(836,875)	424
Excess net of transfers	422,954	(174,522)	597,475
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total Revenues	698,046	505,256	192,790
Total Expenses	620,569	733,307	(112,738)
Net Excess	77,477	(228,051)	305,528
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	370,877	370,875	2
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	448,354	142,824	305,530

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

Mr. Tamporello stated that the finance committee had met to discuss the purchase of more garbage cans. He stated that an order had just come in but they took a while to come in and we needed to have them on hand, whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 14-15

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the following Finance Committee recommendations be and the same are hereby approved:

1. Allocate funds to the Sanitation Department to purchase additional residential cans.

Mr. Dufrene seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Tamporello, Dufrene, Bias, Fontenot, Hymel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that a location for the Skate Park equipment needed to be chosen. Mr. Fontenot made the motion to place the Skate Park equipment at Complex next to the new ballpark, seconded by Reverend Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that a location for the Fallen Warrior Memorial needed to be decided. Reverend Bias made the motion to place the Fallen Warrior Memorial across from the petting zoo on the Auditorium grounds, seconded by Mr. Dufrene, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that now that the City was handling the mosquito control he thought an update would be appropriate. Mr. Kelly Liner stated that with the help of Mr. Matt Yates and Mr. Herb Jones the mosquito control program was now underway. All equipment had been certified for volume control by the East Baton Rouge Mosquito Control Association. He stated that he and Jean Paul Bourg were now 8a commercial applicators licensed by the State. They were currently checking the traps and the numbers of mosquitos was still low. He stated that they would begin spraying when temperatures got warmer. He stated that other parishes were scheduled to begin around May 1.

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that under the recommendation of the City Attorney, they would move the condemnation of 1821 Dale Street to the end of the agenda.

The next matter on the agenda was the Fair Housing Month resolution, whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 14-16

WHEREAS, the strength of our nation flows from the promise of individual equality and freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, the forty sixth Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month April, is an occasion of all Americans – individually and collectively – to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination, whenever it exists. This law guarantees for each citizen that critical, personal element of freedom of choice-selection of the home; and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana; and implementation of that law requires the positive commitment, involvement and support of all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the department and agencies of the State of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the month of April, 2014 be proclaimed as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

In Morgan City, Louisiana and do hereby encourage all citizens to abide by the letter and spirit of the Fair Housing Law, and ask the citizens of Morgan City to join in reaffirming the obligation and commitment to fair housing opportunities for all.

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Dufrene, Tamporello, Bias, Fontenot, Hymel,
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Grizzaffi stated that the Housing Authority was closing the Joe Ruffin Housing Development and wanted to put a fence across the entire property that would block a City owned street, whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 14-17

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Housing Authority possesses property located at 1409 Railroad Avenue, Morgan City, Louisiana. This property requires fencing and a gated enclosure for liability and safety reasons. The Morgan City Housing Authority's property is situated on the following described property:

That certain tract or parcel of land lying and being situated in the City of Morgan City, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana more particularly described as that certain tract or lot having a front of one and one-half acres on the north side of public road leading Easterly from the Town of Morgan City (Railroad Avenue) by a depth between parallel lines back to a line located one hundred fifty feet (150') Southerly from the South boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 90, and being bounded consequently on the South or Southerly by Railroad Avenue, on the East by property now or formerly owned of Charles Soffard on the West by property now or formerly of W.A. Adams and on the north by the said boundary line located one hundred fifty feet (150') South of and parallel with the Southern boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 90, together with all buildings and improvements thereon situated, rights, ways, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or appertaining.

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City is the owner and maintains a public drive that services the herein described property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Morgan City hereby authorizes the authority to place a fenced barricade across the public drive at 1409 Railroad Avenue, Morgan City, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all First Responders and Emergency Personnel be allowed access across and through any fencing or barricades to the subject property.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES:	Dufrene, Hymel, Bias, Fontenot, Tamporello
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Frank P. Grizzaffi
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the Millage Rates for the 2014 tax year ordinance. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The public hearing on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and Property Transfer with the Port of Morgan City ordinance was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance, whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on March 25, 2014. Published by title on March 28, 2014.

Reverend Bias offered the following ordinance, who moved for its adoption.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 14-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA APPROVING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT, INCLUDING TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that it does hereby approve the adoption of a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District ("District") with regards to the building of a government emergency operations center ("GOEC"), and the improvement of the resiliency of the area within the boundaries of the District and the City; which includes the transfer of the following described property to the District, to wit:

That certain tract or parcel of land fronting seventy-five (75') feet on Louisiana Highway 182 (formerly U.S. Highway 90) and located in Section 12, T16S, R12E, in the City of Morgan City, Louisiana and being more particularly described as Tract "A-B-C-D-A" with the dimensions and boundaries as shown on that Map drawn by George Mikhael, Registered Civil Engineer, dated April 14, 1999, a copy of which is recorded in Book 42-L, page 284, Entry No. 266068 in the Conveyance Records of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, and is made a part hereof by reference thereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Mayor, Frank P. Grizzaffi, III, is hereby authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the City, a Cooperative Agreement with the District substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement presented this day.

Mr. Fontenot seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Bias, Fontenot, Dufrene, Hymel, Tamporello

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Certified and adopted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

Delivered to the Mayor at 9:00 am, this 23rd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 23rd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Frank P. Grizzaffi, III Mayor

-

Received from Mayor Grizzaffi at 9:15 am, this 23rd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: April 28, 2014

The next matter on the agenda was the pre-clearance for Jules M. Roussel d/b/a LaCue, LLC to open a pool hall at the old Leon Kahn department store site. A motion to approve the pre-clearance was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Dufrene, and voted unanimously in favor.

The application for a package beer permit (copy on file) for Rachel Smith d/b/a My Sister's Pantry, 1500 Federal Avenue, was submitted. A motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, and voted unanimously in favor.

In the matter of the condemnation of 1821 Dale Street, Mayor Grizzaffi stated that the property owner had sent a letter today stating that she was going to begin renovations within the next two weeks. Mr. Governale, Director of Planning & Zoning stated that the city had been having problems with the house since 2009. Problems included tall grass, a diseased tree that had fallen, along with structures on the exterior of the house needing to be repaired. He stated that a letter was mailed to the property owner stating that the repairs needed to be made or the home would be condemned. Mr. Aucoin stated that under the City ordinance, the Council would have to accept the deficiencies as outlined by Mr. Governale, including the Fire Department and Health & Hospitals findings (copy on file). The ordinance states that if the deficiencies are not corrected within a minimum of sixty days, the property could be condemned at the owner's expense.

Mr. Dwayne Barbier stated that he lived across the street from the property and it had been like this for at least five years and nothing had been done with the house. He stated that the neighbors thought that the house should either be remodeled and brought up to code or demolished.

A motion to accept the deficiencies of the house located at 1821 Dale Street as stated in the letter from the Planning & Zoning department was made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Dufrene, and voted unanimously in favor.

A motion to inform all owners of the property that they had sixty one days from the date of the letter to bring the house up to code or the City would move forward with the demolition of the house was made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Reverend Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

A motion to condemn the property located at 1821 Dale Street was made by Reverend Bias, seconded by Mr. Dufrene, and voted unanimously in favor.

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Frank P. Grizzaffi, III
Mayor