

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
DECEMBER 16, 2025

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, Thomas Hutchinson, Jr., Tim Hymel, and Bonnie Leonard.

Absent: None

Also present was Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer.

The invocation was given by Pastor Bias.

The Positive Image recipient for the month of December was Kristopher Price. Mayor Dragna stated that he had recently been promoted to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. He thanked Assistant Chief Price for his service and presented him with a certificate.

Mr. Matt Dragna with the Heroes Way Commission addressed the Mayor and Council requesting permission to install a sign on existing street signs to honor those who have given their best and often died for their country. He said a commission had been created and was in the process of finalizing the process of nominating, ratifying, and voting on the Veterans. He requested that the first street be co-named on July 4, 2026, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Thereafter, Veteran’s Day, November 11, would be the annual sign installation date. A motion to approve the Heroes Way street sign project was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Clarence Robinson with the Morgan City Housing Authority presented a check for PILOT payments for the years 2024-2025. He also presented the Mayor and Council with the 2025 Progress Report for the Housing Authority (copy on file).

Pastor Bias said that Mrs. Alma Williams recently turned 101 years old. He had presented her with a positive image award at her birthday party, and she greatly appreciated it.

In the matter of the Mayor’s update, Mayor Dragna wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The minutes of the November 17, 2025 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.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending November 30, 2025.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
DATE:	December 16, 2025
TO:	Mayor and Council
FROM:	Deborah Garber
RE:	Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended November 30, 2025.

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 November 30, 2025. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual operating revenues and transfers in are \$566,456 more than budget. Operating expenses and transfers to other funds are also over budget \$136,679. The net excess of \$97,969 is a favorable variance of \$414,262 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund are back to being over budget this month by \$260,346. The operational expenses(LEPA and Natural Gas are estimated) are over budget by \$2,692,779 with approximately \$1,740,000 of that from Purchased Power Costs. The net deficiency, after transfers, of \$565,780 creates an unfavorable variance again this month as compared to the budget of \$2,245,200.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues remain slightly over budget by \$63,428, with total operating expenses under budget by \$12,955. The net excess, after transfers, of \$417,653 leaves a favorable variance again this month of \$297,170.

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

CITY OF MORGAN CITY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget Period Ended November 30, 2025							
				NOVEMBER 2025 ACTUAL	NOVEMBER 2025 BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOVEMBER 2024 ACTUAL
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS							
REVENUES							
General Fund				9,739,941	9,177,319	562,622	8,770,954
Recreation Fund				110,082	75,385	34,697	97,463
Library Fund				4,721	4,100	621	6,460
Auditorium Fund				403,302	354,784	48,518	364,756
Lake End Park Fund				1,036,745	1,055,859	(19,114)	950,643
Cemetery Fund				110,354	216,702	(106,348)	172,025
State Prisoner Fund				178,379	132,919	45,460	167,931
Total Revenues				11,583,524	11,017,068	566,456	10,530,232
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL							
General Fund				11,202,318	10,935,137	267,181	10,466,566
Recreation Fund				460,092	597,352	(137,260)	425,302
Library Fund				135,679	159,576	(23,897)	107,828
Auditorium Fund				563,760	476,557	87,203	598,403
Lake End Park Fund				1,081,662	1,283,120	(201,458)	1,049,027
Cemetery Fund				212,489	240,704	(28,215)	240,057
State Prisoner Fund				587,198	535,237	51,961	603,044
Total Expenses				14,243,198	14,227,683	15,515	13,490,227
TRANSFERS							
Transfers from Funds				4,319,983	4,140,357	179,626	4,324,500
Transfers to Funds				(1,562,340)	(1,246,035)	(316,305)	(970,385)
Net Transfers				2,757,643	2,894,322	(136,679)	3,354,115
Excess(deficiency) net of transfers				97,969	(316,293)	414,262	394,120
UTILITY FUND							
Total Revenues				22,860,895	22,600,549	260,346	20,757,171
Total Expenditures				20,419,689	17,726,910	2,692,779	17,051,733
Net Excess				2,441,206	4,873,639	(2,432,433)	3,705,438
Net Transfers and non-oper.				(3,006,986)	(3,194,219)	187,233	(2,951,036)
Excess net of transfers				(565,780)	1,679,420	(2,245,200)	754,402
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND							
Total Revenues				3,164,353	3,100,925	63,428	3,124,348
Total Expenses				4,065,397	4,078,352	(12,955)	4,008,601
Net Excess				(901,044)	(977,427)	76,383	(884,253)
Net Transfers/non- operating expe				1,318,697	1,097,910	220,787	929,152
Excess net of transfers and non-c				417,653	120,483	297,170	44,899

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

The next matter on the agenda was the liquor permit revocation for Las Brisas, LLC. Police Chief Chad Adams said that during recent search warrants drug residue and paraphernalia were found in the establishment and presented the Mayor and Council with a police report (copy on file). He recommended that the liquor license be permanently revoked. Mayor Dragna said that a letter had been sent to notify the license holder of the hearing, but it was returned as undeliverable. A motion to permanently revoke the liquor license for Las Brisas, LLC was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. C. E. Bourg addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the condemnation and demolition of 307 Lawrence Street. He represented one of the seven owners of the property, and was requesting 60 days to get all of the owners together and come up with a plan for the property. A motion to allow 60 days before the property was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the Authorization of the Mayor's Signature for Engineering on the Citywide Sewer Rehabilitation Project; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-66

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will be undertaking a Citywide Sewer Rehabilitation Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has a master services agreement with the firm of C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the firm of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C. meets the City's needs of Consulting Engineers for the Citywide Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it engage C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C. to perform the necessary services to implement this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute any and all documents in connection with this project.

Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Leonard, Hutchinson, Bias, Domangue, Hymel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington

Clerk

Ms. Vanessa Spinella presented the Mayor and Council with a proposed rate increase for rental of the Municipal Auditorium (copy on file). She said that she had checked with other venues in the area and felt that the proposed prices were in line with other venues; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-67

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City owns and operates the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, which is utilized for public, private, civic, cultural, and community events; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with operating, maintaining, staffing, utilities, insurance, and ongoing improvements of the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium have increased over time; and

WHEREAS, the current rental rates no longer sufficiently offset the operational and maintenance expenses incurred by the City; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to adjust the rental rates in order to ensure the continued availability, safety, and upkeep of the facility for public use.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that the rental rates for use of the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium shall be increased as follows:

Ballroom Rental	\$550.00	Ballroom & Kitchen Package	\$770.00
Concourse Rental (East or West)	\$300.00	East Concourse & Kitchen Package	\$520.00
Theater Rental	\$350.00	Entire Facility Rental	\$1,200.00
Meeting Rooms	\$150.00	Decorating Day 8 AM – 4 PM	\$200.00
Deposit (Ballroom, Theater, Entire)	\$500.00	Decorating Day 8 AM – 9 PM	\$300.00
Deposit (E or W Concourse, Meeting Rms)	\$200.00	Concession Rights	\$250.00
Additional Prep Time, Per Hour	\$45.00	Ice	\$25.00
Additional Time after 12 AM, Per Hour	\$200.00		
All rentals end at Midnight.			

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revised rental rates shall become effective on January 1, 2026, and shall apply to all reservations made on or after that date, regardless of the event date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authorized City staff are hereby empowered to implement and administer the revised rental rates, updates applicable policies, contracts, and fee schedules, and take any actions necessary to carry out the intent of the resolution.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:
AYES: Hutchinson, Leonard, Bias, Domangue, Hymel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 17th of December, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The public hearing for the Mosquito Abatement Ordinance was the next matter on the agenda. Mr. Jean Paul Bourg, 700 Third Street, said that he did not think the numbers justified a seventy-five percent increase for mosquito abatement. Mayor Dragna presented Mr. Bourg with the invoices for the chemicals purchased, and showed the price of chemicals had doubled; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on November 18, 2025. Published by title on November 21, 2025.

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA TO AMEND AND REENACT ARTICLE V, MOSQUITO ABATEMENT, SECTION 50-131 TO PROVIDE FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City that Article V, Section 50-131 of the Code of Ordinances is amended and reenacted, said section to read as follows:

ARTICLE V – MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

Section 50-131

(1) In order to seek to control and abate mosquitoes and encephalitis or diseases carried by them, and in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Morgan City, the City shall conduct a comprehensive mosquito abatement program encompassing the whole of the City of Morgan City. This program shall be conducted for the abatement, control, and study of mosquito and other arthropods of public health importance, and provide for all activities incidental thereto.

(2) The cost and expenses of the mosquito abatement program shall be funded by a service charge not to exceed four dollars \$4.00 per month for each and every residential, business, commercial and industrial utility customer of the City unless changed by ordinance. The assessment shall be effective upon passage of this ordinance and shall be added to the monthly utility bill of every residential, business, commercial and industrial utility customer and shall be collected by the utility department. In accordance with the Louisiana law, failure to pay the mosquito abatement assessment shall result in a termination and cutoff of the water service.

(3) Any business, governmental entity, commercial or industrial utility customer within the City which receives service through a master meter shall be charged in accordance with the number of residents housed and receiving service off the master meter, provided that the business, governmental entity, commercial or industrial utility customers master meter services one hundred or more residents.

(4) The director of finance shall maintain mosquito abatement program accounts separate and apart from other City program accounts to provide an accounting for revenues and expenditures.

(5) The City of Morgan City shall provide mosquito abatement services or utilize the professional services of a mosquito abatement contractor. The City abatement program and/or abatement contractor through the mayor and council shall provide for a mosquito abatement program which considers the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Morgan City and is within the cost of the amount of funds generated and held within the mosquito abatement program account.

(6) This program for comprehensive mosquito abatement shall include some form of the spraying of pesticides as selected and approved by the mayor and council and recommended by the company or persons providing

professional abatement services. If the City provides its own abatement program install and use products approved for use by the United States Government.

SECTION 2

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional or repealed for any reason, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected hereby. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after its passage within the time prescribed by law.

Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 9:00 am, this 17th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Approved this 17th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

Received from Mayor at 9:30 pm on December, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Published: December 19, 2025

Mayor Dragna advised that Mrs. Garber wanted the 2025 Budget Amendment ordinance to be adopted at the January 2026 Council Meeting so the numbers would be more accurate.

The final matter on the agenda was the Resolution of Respect for Mr. Dale Hugh Hayes, Sr.; whereupon,

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-68
IN MEMORIAM
DALE HUGH HAYES, SR.

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken Dale Hugh Hayes, Sr. from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Dale was born on October 10, 1930, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, grew up in Morgan City, attended Sacred Heart Academy, and graduated from Holy Cross High School in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, after one year of college, he enlisted in Company “B” of the National Guard, and later enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Dale attended Officer Candidate School, served for 24 years, and rose to the grade of Lt. Colonel. Dale held high-level Executive and Command positions in Europe, the Far East, Vietnam, and the Pentagon; and

WHEREAS, he served overseas for nine years and fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Among his many decorations were the Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars for Valor, and eighteen other awards and decorations; and

WHEREAS, Dale retired from the U.S. Army to attend Law School at 42 years of age. He had a B.A. Degree from Nicholls State University and a Juris Doctor Degree from Loyola University. He was a practicing attorney in Morgan City for 43 years, serving as City Attorney for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his wonderful memory his sons, Thomas P. Hayes and Dale H. Hayes, Jr., his eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Dale Hugh Hayes, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City hope that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Morgan City, through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that this resolution be inscribed on a separate page of the official proceedings of this meeting; that a copy of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family; and that this meeting adjourn out of respect for the late Dale Hugh Hayes.

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, Leonard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor