

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
MARCH 25, 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, Eriq Blanchard, Steve Domangue, Tim Hymel, and Bonnie Leonard.

Absent: None

Also present were Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Paul Landry, City Attorney.

The invocation was given by Mr. Michael Loupe.

There was no Positive Image recipient for the month of March.

Mr. Caleb Bryan said that the "Da Cajun Burger Cookoff" was a huge success, and he thanked the City for their help. He requested permission to hold "Da Cajun Taco Cookoff" on June 14, 2025, from 11 AM to 4 PM under the US 90 bridge (copy on file). He said that he already had all vendor spaces full and had eleven teams signed up. He was waiting for approval from the council before going ahead with the event planning. A motion to approve the request to hold "Da Cajun Taco Cookoff" was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Bill Goessl, with the St. Mary Detachment Marine Corps League, requested permission to use the area under the bridge for the annual Bayou BBQ Bash on July 25-26, 2025 (copy on file). He said that 150 teams were competing in this BCA-sanctioned event. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Madalyn Hebert was not at the meeting to present her request.

Mr. Lee Price thanked the city officials for all that was done during the Christmas on the Lake Cajun Style event last year and submitted a request to hold it again on December 23, 2025 (copy on file). He said this year he would like to have permission to put the wood out a little earlier. A motion to approve the request was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Jessie Boudreaux, Jr., with Mosquito Control, addressed the Council and told them that if any of his services were needed, he was there to help.

Mrs. Deondre Robinson told the Council that she wanted to start a new Mardi Gras krewe called the Krewe of Boss Goddesses. She said as of now there would only be one float. She requested to hold it on February 14, 2026, at 7 PM using the same route as the one used by the Krewe of Adonis. Mayor Dragna said they would have to meet with the Police Chief because police officers would be needed. He suggested that they meet with one of the other krewes, and possibly ride behind them because then there would already be people on the parade route. A motion to allow the Krewe of Boss Goddesses to ride behind another krewe, and end under the bridge, was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Steve Guarisco addressed the Council regarding the house at 1009 Garden Street that was condemned at the February meeting. He said that the notice went to his PO Box, and he had not received it. It was brought to his attention on Friday. He said that it was in the estate's name, and his brother was in control of that. He had been working with Byron Blakeman to fix it up. There was no access to the house because it was boarded up, and there were no broken windows. He planned to replace the roof and repair the front porch area. He said there were no leaks inside of the structure. Mr. Domangue said that the City had been trying to condemn this property for the last two to three years. Compliance Officer Jimmy Knight said that the earliest letter he could find was in 2022. Mrs. Leonard said that she rode by and thought that dirt also needed to be placed around the foundation of the house. She asked if there was a reason that none of the repairs had been done in the last

two years. Mr. Guarisco said that he did not have the money to do the repairs at that time, and he was trying to work out a deal where he would rent storage space to Mr. Blakeman in exchange for the repairs to the house. Mr. Domangue said that the neighbors should not have to look at that eyesore every day. Compliance Officer Melanie Topham said she had been in touch with Mark Guarisco by email regarding the house. City Attorney Paul Landry said that the estate had five days after the condemnation to respond to the letter. Mayor Dragna advised Mr. Guarisco that no action could be taken at the meeting regarding the house since it was not listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Hettie Carries thanked the Mayor and Council for helping with the noise issues around her house. She said it had been quiet and she could once again sleep in peace.

The minutes of the February 25, 2025, and the March 12, 2025, meetings were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending February 28, 2025.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: March 25, 2025
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended February 28, 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 February 28, 2025. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual total revenues remain under budget by \$21,196. Operating expenses are also under budget by \$93,259. The net loss of \$773,446 is a favorable variance of \$72,063 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund are also under budget by \$120,310. The operational expenses are over budget by \$112,980. The net income, after transfers, of \$629,555 creates an unfavorable variance compared to the budget of \$255,083.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$18,182 over budget, with total operating expenses are under budget by \$43,911. The net income, after transfers, of \$139,645 leaves a favorable variance of \$70,050.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
 Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
 Period Ended February 28, 2025**

	FEBRUARY 2025	FEBRUARY 2025		FEBRUARY 2024
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	ACTUAL
REVENUES				
General Fund	1,331,466	1,353,927	(22,461)	1,377,285
Recreation Fund	22,062	10,421	11,641	15,044
Library Fund	12	500	(488)	1,562
Auditorium Fund	11,859	14,390	(2,531)	24,368
Lake End Park Fund	151,979	159,335	(7,356)	170,263

Cemetery Fund	9,966	33,380	(23,414)	42,336
State Prisoner Fund	34,311	24,190	10,121	18,312
Total Revenues	1,517,378	1,538,574	(21,196)	1,649,170
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL				
General Fund	1,988,534	2,036,936	(48,402)	1,847,941
Recreation Fund	71,129	84,883	(13,754)	79,879
Library Fund	18,417	26,446	(8,029)	14,677
Auditorium Fund	83,456	84,900	(1,444)	73,415
Lake End Park Fund	124,304	179,542	(55,238)	134,459
Cemetery Fund	25,897	22,780	3,117	34,365
State Prisoner Fund	88,594	92,171	(3,577)	112,655
Total Expenses	2,400,331	2,527,658	(127,327)	2,297,391
TRANSFERS				
Transfers from Funds	45,000	45,000	0	150,000
Transfers to Funds	0	0	0	(158,000)
Net Transfers	45,000	45,000	0	(8,000)
Excess(deficiency) net of transfers	(837,953)	(944,084)	106,131	(656,221)
UTILITY FUND				
Total Revenues	3,837,200	3,957,510	(120,310)	4,079,134
Total Expenditures	3,232,796	3,119,816	112,980	3,043,105
Net Excess	604,404	837,694	(233,290)	1,036,029
Net Transfers and non-oper.	25,151	46,944	(21,793)	15,010
Excess net of transfers	629,555	884,638	(255,083)	1,051,039
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND				
Total Revenues	586,912	568,730	18,182	585,217
Total Expenses	659,564	703,475	(43,911)	556,873
Net Excess	(72,652)	(134,745)	62,093	28,344
Net Transfers/non- operating expen	212,297	204,340	7,957	96,000
Excess net of transfers & non-operating	139,645	69,595	70,050	124,344

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

The next matter on the agenda was the condemnation and demolition report. Mr. Jimmy Knight said that the property owner of 1009 Railroad Avenue was present at the meeting. Mrs. Ruth Escort asked if the Mayor and Council could extend her setbacks for one year while she got the money together to build a new house on the property. She had just completed one new house, and once the house was torn down, under city guidelines, she only had six months to rebuild with the existing setbacks. The city would tear down the property and she would pay for that, but was concerned about not being allowed to rebuild on the property. A motion to condemn the house at 1009 Railroad and give Mrs. Escort one year to keep the current setbacks to rebuild on the property was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Greg Schwab, attorney for Vu Phong Khac, property owner of 1205 Clothilde, addressed the council regarding the condemnation of the property that took place at the February meeting. Mr. Schwab said that his client had purchased the property in December of 2023 and repaired the roof at that time. He said in July, during Hurricane Francine, it damaged the roof again. He said Mr. Vu swears he did not know that someone was living in the building. Assistant Fire Chief Pat Haller said the building was unstable and needed to be condemned. Mr. Vu's uncle, Cong Tran, said his nephew did not speak English and he was there to translate for him. He apologized for the lack of understanding on the part of his nephew and said that if, given a short time, he would complete the repairs. Mrs. Leonard asked why this had been going on for several years. She said waiting three years before doing anything with the building does not show any intention of repairing the building. Pastor Bias said the building was in deplorable condition and agreed with Chief Haller that it was

unstable. It was in close proximity to medical and professional buildings and was an eyesore in addition to being unsafe. Mr. Cong said that financially his nephew was not able to complete the repairs at this time but asked for more time to complete the repairs. Mr. Blanchard said if he had seen any improvements made to the building since it was purchased, he would have considered giving him more time, but nothing had been done. Compliance Officer Jimmy Knight said that the original roof permit was issued on July 12, 2022. He said on January 16, 2025, an extension was given to change the deadline for the repairs to be made to June 17, 2025. He said since that time, there had been a report of someone living in the building. Mr. Blanchard asked if an appeal had been filed on the condemnation within the five day window. City Attorney Paul Landry said that no appeal had been filed. Pastor Bias felt if Mr. Vu was allowed time to repair the building, the council would be opening up a can of worms. His opinion was that the Council stand with their vote. Mayor Dragna asked if the owner could tear the property down himself, and Mr. Knight said that it could be done but that it would have to be arranged with their office. No action was taken on the matter.

The next matter on the agenda was the Veteran's Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-15

WHEREAS, La R.S. 29:260-262 provides enabling legislation for LDVA to estimate and recover part of the operations cost of parish Veterans' Services Offices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City desires to support local veterans and improve their access to benefits and services by providing for both the cost to maintain and operate Veterans' Service Offices and space to house such services offices as provided by law, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve this, a cooperative endeavor agreement must be signed.

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 and empowered as signing authority for the City of Morgan City.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mr. Mike Loupe said that the bid tabulation for the Morgan City Street Repairs project had been completed and his recommendation was Gray Construction Corp.; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-16

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the bid of Gray Construction Corp., for furnishing all materials, equipment, etc., for the Morgan City Street Repairs project in the amount of THREE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NINETY-FIVE CENTS (343,455.95) being the least and most responsible bid received, be and the same is hereby accepted and awarded to Gray Construction Corp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute a contract with said Gray Construction Corp. for and on behalf of and in the name of said Municipal Corporation, for furnishing all materials, and equipment for the Morgan City Street Repairs 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.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mr. Charlie Solar said that according to FEMA guidelines, architectural and engineering firms had to be procured in order to provide professional services for the Hurricane Francine repairs. He said a Request for Qualifications had been sent out for the public works facilities, infrastructure, and building projects and the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had recommended four different firms after reviewing the packets; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-18

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Architectural & Engineering Services for the damages caused by Hurricane Francine, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had been retained by the City for assistance in the disaster recovery project; and

WHEREAS, the City sent out a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Engineers and Consultants recommended that the firm of MCA Architects best meets the City's needs in its qualifications for Architectural Services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it engage MCA Architects 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. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-19

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Engineering Services for Wastewater, Sanitary Sewer, and Drainage Services for the damages caused by Hurricane Francine, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had been retained by the City for assistance in the disaster recovery project; and

WHEREAS, the City sent out a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Engineers and Consultants recommended that the firm of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC best meets the City's needs in its qualifications for Engineering Services – Wastewater, Sanitary Sewer, Drainage (Forced & Gravity).

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, LLC 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. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-20

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Engineering Services for Heavy Civil (Site, Dirt, Levee) Services for the damages caused by Hurricane Francine, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had been retained by the City for assistance in the disaster recovery project; and

WHEREAS, the City sent out a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Engineers and Consultants recommended that the firm of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC best meets the City's needs in its qualifications for Engineering Services – Heavy Civil (Site, Dirt, Levee).

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, LLC 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. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Blanchard, Domangue, Hymel, Leonard

NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-21

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Engineering Services for Electrical Transmission & Distribution (Utilities) Services for the damages caused by Hurricane Francine, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had been retained by the City for assistance in the disaster recovery project; and

WHEREAS, the City sent out a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Engineers and Consultants recommended that the firm of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC best meets the City's needs in its qualifications for Engineering Services – Electrical Transmission & Distribution (Utilities) Services.

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, LLC 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. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-22

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Engineering Services for Electrical Damage Assessment for the damages caused by Hurricane Francine, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Royal Engineers and Consultants had been retained by the City for assistance in the disaster recovery project; and

WHEREAS, the City sent out a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Engineers and Consultants recommended that the firm of Red Stick Power best meets the City's needs in its qualifications for Engineering Services – for Electrical Damage Assessment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it engage Red Stick Power 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. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Blanchard, Domangue, Hymel, Leonard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement Change Order number one; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-23

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 in the name

of and on behalf of said municipal corporation, to execute Change Order Number 1 in the amount of + \$1,744.00 and + 7 Contract Days, under Contract Number R:24-32, between the City of Morgan City and LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC, for the Park Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement project.

Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna submitted the name of Keith Kidd for appointment to the Board of Adjustments. A motion to concur in the appointment was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna said that the last thing on the agenda was resolutions of respect for District Attorney Bo Duhe' and Reverend Ezekiel Simmons; whereupon,

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-24
IN MEMORIAM
MARTIN BOFILL DUHÉ**

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken Martin Bofill Duhé from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Duhé was a man of outstanding character, living his life to the fullest and always doing the right thing; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and Poppa; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Catholic High School, University of Southwestern Louisiana, and Tulane Law School; and

WHEREAS, in January 2015, he took office as District Attorney, where he worked tirelessly to bring justice to victims and their families until the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, "Bo" was a member of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, where he served as a member, President, and on the Legislative and Technology committees; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force, Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory, and a Board Member of First National Bank of Jeanerette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Duhé received the Evangeline Area Boy Scout Council Iberia Parish Distinguished Citizen of the Year award in 2015, Chez Hope Peacemaker Award in 2017, and the Virginia Tyler Guillotte Award from the St. Mary Chamber of Commerce in 2019; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Lisa Trahan Duhé, and his three children, Sean Benoit, Dawn Michele Duhé, and Malcolm Bofill Duhé; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Martin Bofill Duhé; 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 Martin Bofill Duhé.

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

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Blanchard, Domangue, Hymel, Leonard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna

Lee Dragna

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington

Debbie Harrington

Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-25

IN MEMORIAM

REVEREND EZEKIEL LEON SIMMONS, JR.

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken Ezekiel Leon Simmons, Jr. from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Simmons was a devoted husband and father; and

WHEREAS, he was he was valedictorian of his 8th Grade Class at Sumpter Williams Elementary and valedictorian of the Sumpter Williams Senior High School class of 1966; and

WHEREAS, he continued his education through Dillard University and the University of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a double major, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting, and Religion & Theology; and

WHEREAS, he furthered his studies at Nicholls State University, Moody Bible College Extension School, Dallas Baptist Extension Seminary, Louisiana Baptist State Convention, and the National Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Revered Simmons worked as an accountant for 25 years, 19 of those in the St. Mary Parish School System, and specialized in teaching accelerated mathematics; and

WHEREAS, he worked with and taught profoundly challenged students at Morgan City Junior High School, and was a member of the National Education Association and the Louisiana Association of Educators; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Simmons served on many boards, including Morgan City Bidy Basketball, Louisiana Sports Association (AAU), St. Mary Community Action Agency, and Clair House; and

WHEREAS, he served as an advisor to several Morgan City Mayors, on President Clinton's Council on Mental Retardation for Louisiana, and was blessed to serve as Pastor of New Zorah Baptist Church from 1989 - 2007; and

WHEREAS, Revered Simmons served as one of the chaplains of Teche Regional Medical Center and the Morgan City Police Department; and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Prince Hall Lodge #116, Louisiana Baptist State Convention, National Baptist Convention, Union 6th District Baptist Missionary Association, and the East St. Mary Ministerial Alliance, where he was ordained and installed as pastor the same night; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1985, the ordination service was conducted by the Union 6th District at Mt. Era Baptist Church of Morgan City, and was moved to Ephesian Baptist Church where he was installed as pastor immediately after the ordination service; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his devoted wife of almost 52 years, Valerie Wilson Simmons, and daughters Shenica L. Simmons and Tegan A. Simmons; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Ezekiel Leon Simmons, Jr.; and

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

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 Reverend Ezekiel Leon Simmons, Jr.

Messrs. Bias, Blanchard, Domangue, Hymel and Leonard seconded the motion.
The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 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