

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
MARCH 28, 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, Tim Hymel, Mark Stephens and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: Steve Domangue

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Tracy Smith.

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

Mr. Bill Goessl with St. Mary Detachment Marine Corps League submitted a request to hold the annual Bayou BBQ Bash on July 26 & 27, 2027 under the US 90 Bridge (copy on file). A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Brett Hernandez with Ochsner St. Mary submitted a request to hold the Roux Rumble Gumbo Cookoff to benefit the Louisiana Alzheimer's Association on November 16, 2024, in Lawrence Park (copy on file). A motion to approve the cookoff was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna said that Mrs. Tracey Hernandez wanted to withdraw her request to address the Council.

Mr. Timmy Quebedeaux with ABBC requested permission to hold a rodeo on April 20, 2024, from 4:00 PM to Midnight. A motion to approve the request was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Vanessa Spinella with Morgan City Main Street requested permission to hold a Rockin' the Dock event on Friday evenings in April from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. She requested that Front Street be closed from Shannon Hardware to The Frame Shop, and Freret Street from Front Street to First Street from 4:30 PM to 10:30 PM. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Lucy Kincaid, a fifteen-year-old sophomore at Central Catholic High School, addressed the Council regarding youth representation in St. Mary Parish. She proposed that a non-voting high school member be added to the City Council to give the youth an involvement in the civic process. Mayor Dragna asked what the process would be for picking the representative. She said that the state of New Hampshire had a similar program, and the schools held an election to determine the representative. She said since there were only two high schools in Morgan City, it should be relatively easy to find a candidate. Pastor Bias suggested that since it was a non-voting member, why not just elect one from each school. Ms. Kincaid said the terms would be for one year, and it would be open to all grades of high school. City Attorney Paul Landry said that he would investigate the legality of it but did not see any problem with the program. It was suggested that Ms. Kincaid speak to her principal and see if they had any suggestions on how to implement the program. Recreation Director Dwayne Barbier said that he felt it would be a great idea to put a youth committee together to involve them with the recreation programs.

Mrs. Sunshine Griffin, Railroad Avenue resident, addressed the Council regarding the state of several properties in and around her neighborhood. She stated that there were four abandoned houses on Mount Street alone. She said the houses were literally falling and nothing was being done about it. She said drug traffic had picked up and they saw many more strangers in the neighborhood lately. Mayor Dragna stated that the last code enforcement person had retired and a new employee began about a month ago. He said it would take some time to get the new person fully up to speed on all properties in the city. He said she has really taken on the job and has been working with various homeowners to start

cleaning up their properties. Pastor Bias said he fully agreed with Mrs. Griffin and felt that some situations just continued to drag on. Something needed to be done as soon as possible to address the dilapidated houses and buildings in her neighborhood. Police Chief Chad Adams said that a new program similar to Project NOLA was in process to install cameras in different areas of the city that would eventually become city wide. He said the ultimate goal before his retirement was to have someone watching the cameras 24 hours a day so they would not have to wait for a call to respond to suspicious activities. Mrs. Griffin also said there was a problem in her neighborhood with trash along the streets. Mayor Dragna said there was a trash pickup day scheduled for April 20 and encouraged all citizens to join in the effort.

The minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending February 29, 2024.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: March 26, 2024
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended February 29, 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 February 29, 2024. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual total revenues are now slightly over by \$31,258. In General Fund, sales taxes are under budget by \$37,924. Operating expenses are under budget by \$60,191. The net loss of \$620,600 is a favorable variance of \$91,449 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund are now over budget by \$308,384. The operational expenses are under budget by \$351,126. The net income, after transfers, of \$1,058,053 creates a favorable variance compared to the budget of \$650,056.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$42,405 over budget, with total operating expenses under budget by \$25,839. The net income, after transfers, of \$125,564 leaves another favorable variance of \$76,222.

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 29, 2024

GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	JANUARY 2024 ACTUAL	JANUARY 2024 BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	1,435,732	1,432,607	3,125
Recreation Fund	15,044	6,668	8,376
Library Fund	2,562	2,438	124
Auditorium Fund	24,368	14,759	9,609
Lake End Park Fund	170,263	160,239	10,024
Cemetery Fund	42,336	26,710	15,626

State Prisoner Fund	18,312	35,209	(16,897)
Total Revenues	1,647,969	1,616,711	31,258
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	1,869,119	1,913,945	(44,826)
Recreation Fund	79,878	79,982	(104)
Library Fund	14,677	26,224	(11,547)
Auditorium Fund	73,416	82,883	(9,467)
Lake End Park Fund	134,459	172,834	(38,375)
Cemetery Fund	34,365	34,989	(624)
State Prisoner Fund	112,655	67,903	44,752
Total Expenses	2,318,569	2,378,760	(60,191)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	50,000	50,000	0
Transfers to Funds	0	0	0
Net Transfers	50,000	50,000	0
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	<u>(620,600)</u>	<u>(712,049)</u>	<u>91,449</u>
UTILITY FUND			
Total Revenues	4,079,134	3,770,750	308,384
Total Expenditures	3,036,091	3,387,217	(351,126)
Net Excess	1,043,043	383,533	659,510
Net Transfers and non-oper.	15,010	24,464	(9,454)
Excess net of transfers	<u>1,058,053</u>	<u>407,997</u>	<u>650,056</u>
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total Revenues	573,900	531,495	42,405
Total Expenses	655,654	681,493	(25,839)
Net Excess	(81,754)	(149,998)	68,244
Net Transfers/non- operating expenses	207,318	199,340	7,978
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	<u>125,564</u>	<u>49,342</u>	<u>76,222</u>

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 finance committee recommendations; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24 - 08

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 \$13,000 from Capital Additions & Contingency to purchase spray unit for Gator for Mosquito Control.
2. Allocate up to \$20,000 from General Fund fund balance to purchase new server for the Police Department.

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

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

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna said that the month of April was Fair Housing Month and a resolution needed to be adopted; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-09

WHEREAS the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended, states that "...no person shall be subjected to discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin in the sale, rental, or advertising of dwellings, in the provision of brokerage services, or in the availability of residential real estate-related transaction including lenders, builders and homeowners insurance companies..." and

WHEREAS the State of Louisiana passed the Louisiana Equal Housing Opportunity Act which allows the Louisiana Attorney General's Office to enforce fair housing laws, and

WHEREAS the City of Morgan City desires to promote Fair Housing practices throughout the community and in particular regard to those programs providing housing assistance to area residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the month of April, 2024 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. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

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

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The first reading of the St. Mary Levee District servitude ordinance was the next matter on the agenda. No definitive action was necessary.

The public hearing for the Amending of Section 110-68 Ordinance was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on February 27, 2024. Published by title on March 1, 2024.

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY AMENDING CHAPTER 110, UTILITIES, ARTICLE III, GAS SERVICE, BY ADDING THERETO SECTION 110-68 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CITY'S RIGHT TO TURN OFF GAS.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Chapter 110, Utilities, Article III, Gas service, be amended by adding thereto, Section 110-68 to provide for the City's right to turn off gas.

CHAPTER 110 – UTILITIES

Article III – Gas Service

Section 110-68 – City's right to turn off gas; conditions specified

The chief administrative officer or proper officer of the city may stop the supply of gas for nonpayment of bills, in case of emergency, for repairs or for extensions. Neither the city council nor the city shall be liable for damages from turning off gas or for any insufficient supply of gas. At the direction of the gas supervisor, the City can lock out meters and turn off gas for any non-permitted connection.

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. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 26th day of March, 2024.

Delivered to Mayor at 2:45 pm, this 28th day of March, 2024

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Approved this 28th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

Received from Mayor at 3:00 pm on March 28, 2024.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Published: April 5, 2024

Mayor Dragna submitted the names of Lea Hebert for reappointment to the Cemetery Committee, Kelly Marcantel for reappointment to the Main Street Committee, Frank Judycki for reappointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and Larry Hartman for reappointment to the Recreation & Parks Commission. He also submitted the name of Donald Nicholas for appointment to the Housing Authority Board; James Bennett, Jr., Jessica Burgess and Don Donham, Jr. for appointment to the Hotel Motel Corridor Economic Development District Committee; Noah Osburn for appointment to the Historic District; Glenn Thibodaux for appointment to the Board of Adjustments; James Lee Davis for appointment to the Recreation & Parks Commission; and Heidi Guidry for appointment to the Main Street Committee. A motion to concur in the appointments was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

The Class "A" Liquor and Beer application for _ was the next matter on the agenda. A motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor