

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY OF MORGAN CITY  
SEPTEMBER 24, 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 Anthony Baham.

Lieutenant Richard Briscoe was the first positive image recipient for the month of September. Mayor Dragna said that he recently received his 15 year pin with the Morgan City Police Department and thanked him for his 15 years of service to the city.

The second Positive Image recipient for the month of September was Mrs. Jacqueline Pratt Brown. Mayor Dragna stated that he originally presented the award and key to the city to Mrs. Brown at the opening of the Gospel Stage during the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival, but heavy downpours and power outages occurred. He thanked her for her 43 years of service to the Festival as well as her service to the community.

Mr. Courtney Long with the Morgan City Alumni Homecoming Weekend requested permission to close Marguerite Street from Sixth Street to Seventh Street from 4 PM to 6:30 PM to hold a tailgate event on November 8, 2024. Mr. Long advised that he had spoken with the owners of the property, as well as the only business that would be open during those times, and there had been no opposition. A motion to approve the closure was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the Public Hearing for Table 5. Mayor Dragna opened the public hearing. Mr. David Ardoin, attorney for the owners of Table 5, addressed the Mayor & Council and stated he understood that there had been allegations in the past, and he was not sure if the City intended to move forward with the hearing tonight due to the recent Hurricane. Chief Chad Adams stated that he felt it would be fair to everyone that the issue be tabled to allow Mr. Ardoin to receive all information from the Police Department to prepare for a public hearing. Pastor Bias stated that after speaking with Chief Adams, he felt it would be fair to allow their attorney time to review the allegations. City Attorney Paul Landry asked Mr. Ardoin if the issue was tabled, would he waive all other notice requirements. Mr. Ardoin agreed that he would waive all future notice requirements. A motion to table the issue and take it up at the November 19, 2024, City Council meeting was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna said that Mrs. Garber was on her way with the budget, so he wanted to skip that item and take it up later in the meeting.

The minutes of the August 27, 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.

Mayor Dragna stated that he wanted to move the financials to later in the meeting as well.

The next item on the agenda was the MWPP Report; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 24-35

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City is committed to minimizing the amount of infiltration and inflow into the wastewater collection system and its associated impact on the design flow of the wastewater treatment plant, and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City has dedicated adequate budget funds to aggressively pursue location of and repairs to cracked and broken pipes in the wastewater collection system, employing both City and contract resources,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that it hereby informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken by the City of Morgan City, Louisiana.

1. Reviewed the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit Report which is attached to this resolution.
2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, number LA0065986:
  - a. Continued mapping of the wastewater collection system to characterize and document the size, type, and maintenance history of each main;
  - b. Continued systematic surveying and investigation of sections of the collection system to determine the extent and priority of repair efforts; and
  - c. Continued repairing and/or replacement of damaged sections of the collection system.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna  
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna asked that first reading of the budget be moved to the end of the meeting as well.

The public hearing for the three ordinances was opened. Mrs. Jennifer Castalano with Advocate and Rescue for Companion Animals asked the council what their intention was in the passage of these ordinances. She said her organization had ten volunteers who tried to contain animals in the Parish. Mayor Dragna said that stray animals were destroying neighbors property and leaving feces everywhere, which was one of the biggest complaints he received as Mayor. Charlie Solar, CAO, said that the ordinance was to stop people from feeding on public property. He said that the ordinance was modeled after the one recently passed by the Town of Berwick, but added to it to say that anyone working with the City on the trap, neuter and release program would be allowed to feed the strays. Mrs. Carol Means

said that she had been doing the program for 33 years and took them to Spay Nation. She felt if the City could find an empty piece of property for all the cats to be kept on that would solve the problem. Mrs. Hettie Carries asked if the City still had an animal control warden. Mayor Dragna said that they did and if the animals were picked up they would be brought to the pound and would be euthanized. The public hearing was then closed; whereupon

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on August 27, 2024. Published by title on August 30, 2024.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 24-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 18, ANIMALS, ARTICLE II – DOGS AND CATS, SEC. 18-41, DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Section 18-41 of Chapter 18, Animals, Article II is hereby enacted, said section to read as follows:

Chapter 18  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Animals  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Article II – Dogs and Cats  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Sec. 18-41. Definitions  
\*\*\*\*\*

Sec. 18-41. Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Cat* means any feline animal over three months of age.

*Dog* means any canine animal over three months of age.

*Feed or Feeding* means the placing of cat or dog food, or similar food products of consumable materials attractive to cats or dogs, which may result in cats or dogs congregating thereon on a regular basis, placed on the ground, in an obviously intended feeder, or in a feeder at height accessible to cats and dogs.

*Keeper* means any person other than the owner harboring or having in his possession any dog or cat.

*Licensed veterinarian* means a practicing veterinarian who is licensed by the state board of veterinary medicine.

*Owner* means anyone who owns, possesses, keeps, trains, harbors or permits a dog on or about his premises.

*Society* means the state society for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

*Stray* means an unlicensed, domestic or feral cat or dog, running at large and unaccompanied or controlled by an owner.

SECTION TWO

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.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 10:00 am, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
 Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna  
 Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 10:30 am on September 25, 2024.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
 Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: October 2, 2024

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on August 27, 2024. Published by title on August 30, 2024.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 24-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 18, ANIMALS, ARTICLE II – DOGS AND CATS, SEC. 18-53, PENALTIES.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Section 18-53 of Chapter 18, Animals, Article II is hereby enacted, said section to read as follows:

Chapter 18  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Animals  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Article II – Dogs and Cats  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Sec. 18-53. Penalties  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Sec. 18-53. Penalties

Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this article, as enumerated by section below, shall be fined and/or imprisoned in accordance with the following schedule:

|     | Type of Offense   | First Offense | Second Offense | Third Offense                     |
|-----|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) | Failure to license dog  | \$ 25.00      | \$ 50.00       | \$ 100.00                         |
| (2) | Failure to cause the wearing of a dog or cat tag (section 18-45)                        | 10.00         | 20.00          | 30.00                             |
| (3) | Failure to vaccinate a dog or cat (section 18-51)                                       | 25.00         | 50.00          | 100.00, plus 10 days imprisonment |
| (4) | Failure to prevent a dog or cat from running, roaming or being at large (section 18-52) | 25.00         | 50.00          | 100.00, plus 10 days imprisonment |
| (5) | Keeping or permitting to be   | \$100.00      | \$150.00       | \$200.00                          |

|     | kept within the city a wild or vicious animal or dog in violation of this article   | plus 10 days imprisonment | plus 15 days imprisonment | plus 20 days imprisonment |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (6) | Feeding or allowing the feeding of any stray/feral cats and dogs within the corporate limits of the city  | \$50                      | \$100                     | \$200                     |
| (7) | Fourth or subsequent violation of any section: A conviction of a fourth or subsequent violation shall result in a fine not exceeding \$250.00 or by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or both. |                           |                           |                           |

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.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 10:00 am, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
 Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Lee Dragna  
 Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 10:30 am on September, 2024.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
 Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: October 2, 2024

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on August 27, 2024. Published by title on August 30, 2024.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 24-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 18, ANIMALS, ARTICLE II – DOGS AND CATS, SEC. 18-66 PROHIBITION OF FEEDING STRAY/FERAL CATS AND DOGS.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Section 18-66 of Chapter 18, Animals, Article II is hereby enacted, said section to read as follows:

Chapter 18

\*\*\*\*\*

Animals

\*\*\*\*\*

Article II – Dogs and Cats

\*\*\*\*\*

Sec. 18-66. Feeding Stray/Feral Cats and Dogs Prohibited

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Sec. 18-66. Feeding Stray/Feral Cats and Dogs Prohibited

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to feed or allow the feeding of any stray cat or dog at any residential property within the corporate limits of the city.
- (b) No person shall feed or allow the feeding of any stray cat or dog on any public property, business, or commercial area within the corporate limits of the city.
- (c) Exceptions. Persons in an approved partnership with the City of Morgan City, using the Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) procedures.

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.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 10:00 am, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna  
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 10:30 am on September 25, 2024.

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: October 2, 2024

Mayor Dragna stated that an appointment needed to be made to the Civil Service Board at the October meeting and urged anyone interested in in serving on that board to fill out an application at City Hall.

Mayor Dragna read the 2025 Budget Message into record (copy on file).

Mayor Dragna said if anyone had questions about the financial statements, they should contact Mrs. Garber.

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**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**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 AUGUST 31, 2024**

|                                    | <b>AUGUST<br/>2024<br/>ACTUAL</b> | <b>AUGUST<br/>2024<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>VARIANCE</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS</b> |                                   |                                   |                 |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                    |                                   |                                   |                 |
| General Fund                       | 4,905,580                         | 4,937,599                         | (32,019)        |
| Recreation Fund                    | 88,433                            | 48,987                            | 39,446          |
| Library Fund                       | 6,440                             | 10,020                            | (3,580)         |
| Auditorium Fund                    | 66,117                            | 61,666                            | 4,451           |
| Lake End Park Fund                 | 664,444                           | 683,837                           | (19,393)        |
| Cemetery Fund                      | 134,331                           | 106,804                           | 27,527          |
| State Prisoner Fund                | 115,023                           | 146,349                           | (31,326)        |
| Total Revenues                     | 5,731,014                         | 5,742,109                         | (11,095)        |
| <b>EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL</b>        |                                   |                                   |                 |
| General Fund                       | 7,636,697                         | 8,244,095                         | (607,398)       |
| Recreation Fund                    | 334,372                           | 403,794                           | (69,422)        |
| Library Fund                       | 78,046                            | 109,098                           | (31,052)        |
| Auditorium Fund                    | 466,352                           | 482,263                           | (15,911)        |
| Lake End Park Fund                 | 827,314                           | 979,567                           | (152,253)       |
| Cemetery Fund                      | 190,829                           | 195,028                           | (4,199)         |
| State Prisoner Fund                | 438,411                           | 450,181                           | (11,770)        |
| Total Expenses                     | 9,972,021                         | 10,864,026                        | (892,005)       |
| <b>TRANSFERS</b>                   |                                   |                                   |                 |
| Transfers from Funds               | 2,137,500                         | 2,132,500                         | 5,000           |
| Transfers to Funds                 | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0               |
| Net Transfers                      | 2,137,500                         | 2,132,500                         | 5,000           |
| <b>EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS</b>     | (2,103,507)                       | (2,989,417)                       | 885,910         |
| <b>UTILITY FUND</b>                |                                   |                                   |                 |
| Total Revenues                     | 15,098,190                        | 16,560,247                        | (1,462,057)     |

|                             |             |             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Expenditures          | 12,529,439  | 13,969,817  | (1,440,378) |
| Net Excess                  | 2,568,751   | 2,590,430   | (21,679)    |
| Net Transfers and non-oper. | (1,749,325) | (1,819,234) | 69,909      |
| Excess net of transfers     | 819,426     | 771,196     | 48,230      |

**SANITATION AND SEWER FUND**

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Revenues                            | 2,268,821 | 2,065,953 | 202,868   |
| Total Expenses                            | 2,659,959 | 2,914,870 | (254,911) |
| Net Excess                                | (391,138) | (848,917) | 457,779   |
| Net Transfers/non- operating expenses     | 809,071   | 754,686   | 54,385    |
| Excess net of transfers and non-operating | 417,933   | (94,231)  | 512,164   |

The next matter on the agenda was the first reading of the 2025 Budget ordinance. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The budget workshop was set for October 16, 2024, at 4:00 PM in the City Hall Conference Room.

Pastor Bias thanked all City Employees who worked so hard during the storm.

Mayor Dragna asked Mr. Hymel to take over with the proclamation for Vernon “Tootie” Norwood Day. Mr. Hymel said that Vernon Norwood’s mother and brother were at the meeting. He asked if they wanted to say anything. Mr. Travis Gray, Vernon’s brother thanked everyone for showing love and support to Vernon and their family. Mr. Hymel said there would be a meet and greet on September 25, 2024, at the Auditorium for Vernon Norwood. He said the floor was sold out, but spots were still available upstairs; whereupon,

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Vernon “Tootie” Norwood, represented the great state of Louisiana and the City of Morgan City at the 2021 and 2024 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, he attended Morgan City High School, where he began his track and field career in his junior year; and

WHEREAS, he was a multiple time NJCAA national champion for South Plains College; and

WHEREAS, he attended Louisiana State University, where he was a four time NCAA national champion; and

WHEREAS, he competed in the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo, where he won a bronze medal as part of the Mixed 4x400m relay team, and a gold medal as part of the Men’s 4X400m relay team; and

WHEREAS, he competed in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, where he won a silver medal as part of the Mixed 4X400m relay team, having broken the world record in the heats, and a gold medal as part of the Men’s 4X400m relay team.

NOW THEREFORE DO I, Lee Dragna, Mayor of Morgan City, hereby proclaim September 25, 2024, as:

**Vernon “Tootie” Norwood Day**

in and throughout the City of Morgan City in recognition of this outstanding man and his amazing accomplishments.



In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Morgan City to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

/s/ Lee Dragna  
Lee Dragna  
Mayor

Seal

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington  
Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna  
Lee Dragna  
Mayor