

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY OF MORGAN CITY  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of Morgan City, Louisiana, met at 6:00 pm (local time) in regular session, this date, in the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, 723 Myrtle Street, Morgan City, Louisiana.

There were present: Honorable Lee Dragna, Mayor; and Council Members Ron Bias, Steve Domangue, Tim Hymel, Mark Stephens 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 Revered Tommy Fromenthal.

Mr. Courtney Long and Mrs. Danika Foley Long presented a \$1,000 donation the Morgan City Recreation Department Biddy Basketball Program. Mrs. Long stated a bully ball game had been held at the Jimmie Johnson Basketball Court and she thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their participation. Mr. Long also thanked Erik Lind, G & J and Jason Romero with Pool Do's for their help with the event.

The first Positive Image recipient for the month of September was Olympic medalist Vernon Norwood. Mayor Dragna invited Councilman Hymel to give his introduction. Mr. Hymel stated that Vernon Norwood was transplanted to Morgan City after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and did not take up the sport of Track until his junior year. He graduated from Morgan City High School in 2011 and attended South Plains College where he went on to win the National Junior College Athletic Association title. He then transferred to Louisiana State University where he became only the seventh Athlete to win both NCAA indoor and outdoor titles in the 400 meters. He was forced to sit out the 2016 Olympics due to a hamstring injury, and the 2020 Olympic games were postponed due to COVID. He competed in the Tokyo Olympics and won both gold and bronze medals. Mr. Hymel stated that Mr. Norwood was our "Gold Medalist from Morgan City, Louisiana." He was presented a key to the City and thanked the Mayor, Council, and the entire City for the tremendous support he received.

The second Positive Image recipient was the Clarion Inn. Mayor Dragna stated that after Hurricane Ida, they had diligently worked to house not only evacuees, but linemen, even housing them in their conference rooms on air mattresses. Mrs. Kristy Gant had arranged for their clothes to be washed and made sure that all of their needs were met. Mrs. Gant thanked the Mayor and Council as well as all of her employees and the many volunteers that helped in the effort.

The final Positive Image recipient for the month of September was Grace Eisenmann, owner of The Market by Southern Grace. Councilman Steve Domangue stated that she had created a wonderful neighborhood market that allowed vendors to rent space in her shop to sell their goods. He stated that she held different events that brought the community together and he felt it was a providing a positive service to the City. Mrs. Eisenmann thanked the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Dragna state that he wanted to personally thank Charlie Solar, Denver Chapman, Mike Loupe, Bill Cefalu and their departments as well as all others who worked to help clean up the City and restore power after Hurricane Ida. Pastor Bias stated that they deserved a round of applause.

Raymond "Mac" Wade with the Port of Morgan City gave a brief update to the Mayor and Council on Port operations. He said there were currently three dredges working down the Atchafalaya River. A fourth dredge was scheduled to join them in late December or early January. There were thirty to forty-man crews on each dredge, and this was having a lot of economic impact on our community. The Port would be awarded \$16.3 million in the new October 1, 2021 Presidential budget, which was the highest award ever. There were two dock expansions coming in the near future, the \$5 million East dock project was going to be funded by a DOTD grant with a ten percent match, and the West dock project. This \$15 million project would include the purchase of two lots and would take place in the next

three to four years. There were currently around 70 Coast Guard being housed at the Port building on Young's Road and they would remain there for two to three months.

The minutes of the August 24, 2021 Regular and August 27, 2021 Special 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 August 31, 2021.

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**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**DATE:** September 28, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Deborah Garber  
**RE:** Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended August 31, 2021.

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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 August 31, 2021. The following comments are related thereto:

**General and Ancillary Funds:** Actual total revenues continue to be over budget by \$680,349. Majority of that is due to Sales taxes in General Fund being over budget by \$366,930. Operating expenses are below budget by \$442,358. The net loss, after transfers, of \$1,308,592 is a favorable variance of \$1,122,707 compared to the budget.

**Utility Fund:** The Utility fund is operating very similar to last month. Actual revenues are increasingly under budget \$1,286,004. The operational expenses are also under budget but only by \$549,000. Approximately \$579,000 of that is due to the cost of purchased power and natural gas. The net loss, after transfers, of \$341,336 creates an unfavorable variance this month of \$577,213.

**Sanitation and Sewer Fund:** The operating revenues are slightly over budget this month by \$5,484, with total operating expenses under budget by \$87,114. The net income, after transfers, of \$439,185 leaves a favorable variance of \$93,610.

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, 2021

	AUGUST 2021	AUGUST 2021	
<b>GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
General Fund	3,995,480	3,374,349	621,131
Recreation Fund	83,701	97,628	(13,927)
Library Fund	22,937	9,679	13,258
Auditorium Fund	38,930	51,563	(12,633)
Lake End Park Fund	626,782	504,770	122,012
State Prisoner Fund	257,180	306,672	(49,492)
Total Revenues	5,025,010	4,344,661	680,349
<b>EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL</b>			
General Fund	6,993,383	7,237,114	(243,731)
Recreation Fund	254,309	399,482	(145,173)
Library Fund	56,911	79,748	(22,837)
Auditorium Fund	315,217	317,703	(2,486)
Lake End Park Fund	584,864	613,841	(28,977)

State Prisoner Fund	303,585	302,739	846
Total Expenses	8,508,269	8,950,627	(442,358)
<b>TRANSFERS</b>			
Transfers from Funds	2,566,667	2,566,667	0
Transfers to Funds	(392,000)	(392,000)	0
Net Transfers	2,174,667	2,174,667	0
<b>EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS</b>	<b>(1,308,592)</b>	<b>(2,431,299)</b>	<b>1,122,707</b>
<b>UTILITY FUND</b>			
Total			
Revenues	13,562,978	14,848,982	(1,286,004)
Total Expenditures	11,740,189	12,289,192	(549,003)
Net			
Excess	1,822,789	2,559,790	(737,001)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(2,164,125)	(2,323,913)	159,788
Excess net of transfers	(341,336)	235,877	(577,213)
<b>SANITATION AND SEWER FUND</b>			
Total			
Revenues	1,947,987	1,942,503	5,484
Total			
Expenses	2,181,408	2,268,522	(87,114)
Net			
Excess	(233,421)	(326,019)	92,598
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	630,606	629,594	1,012
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	397,185	303,575	93,610

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

Mr. Gerald Thibodeaux with Kolder, Champagne, Slaven & Co. gave the annual audit report for the City for the year ending December 31, 2020 (copy on file).

The next matter on the agenda was the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report; whereupon,

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

#### RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-30

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.

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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Lee Dragna  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the first project in which American Rescue Plan Act monies would be spent would be a sewer project. An engineer needed to be selected from the Request for Qualifications that were received; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-31

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City is interested in making upgrades to the sewer systems with portions of the American Rescue Plan Act monies; and

WHEREAS, the City has requested qualification statements from interested firms and individuals for Engineering Design, Construction Observation and Project Implementation Services for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); and

WHEREAS, the qualification statements have been reviewed and ranked in accordance with the established Program Criteria.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Pan American Engineers is hereby selected by the City of Morgan City to provide Engineering Design, Construction Observation, and Project Implementation Services for Sewer Rehab Projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute a contract for the above services.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

ABSENT: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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Lee Dragna  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the 2022 Budget Ordinance. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary. Pastor Bias suggested that the Budget Workshop be held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 4 PM in the Conference Room. All councilmen agreed to the date and time.

The Class "B" Beer application for The Cigarette Store d/b/a Smoke 'N Go #415 was the next matter on the agenda. A motion to approve the application was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

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

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Debbie Harrington  
Clerk

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Lee Dragna  
Mayor