

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
JANUARY 27, 2026

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 Reverend Wendell Howse.

The Positive Image recipients for the month of January were Captain Andrew Ratcliff, Captain Austin Ratcliff, Captain Heath Landry, Operator Carlos Izaguirre, and Operator Kalen Hillen. Mayor Dragna read a letter from Fire Chief Cockerham stating that during a recent medical call, these employees had used the newly acquired automatic chest compression device on a female patient with no pulse. After approximately eight minutes, they were able to retrieve a pulse. Because of their dedication and quick response, a life was saved. He thanked them all for their quick response to the emergency and presented them with Positive Image certificates.

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 24-25, 2026 (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 Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Lee Price thanked the City employees for all of their help with the 2025 Christmas on the Lake Cajun Style at Lake End Parkway. He said that the event continued to grow year by year, and the 2025 event was a huge success. He requested permission to hold the Christmas on the Lake Cajun Style 2026 on December 23, 2026, from 4 PM until 8 PM (copy on file). He said it would be the same arrangement as the previous years. A motion to approve the request was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Cindy Marino, with the Krewe of Dionysus, requested permission to hold the annual Irish Italian Heritage parade on March 14, 2026, beginning at 1 PM. A motion to approve the request was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

The minutes of the December 16, 2025 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.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2025.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: January 27, 2026
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended December 31, 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 December 31, 2025. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual operating revenues and transfers in from other funds are \$388,202 more than budget. Operating expenses and transfers to other funds are under

budget \$634,306. The net deficiency of \$561,760 is a favorable variance of \$1,022,508 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund continue to be over budget this month by \$193,756. The operational expenses are over budget by \$2,787,962 with approximately \$1,760,800 of that from Purchased Power Costs. The net deficiency, after transfers, of \$624,829 creates an unfavorable variance again this month as compared to the budget of \$2,151,520.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues remain slightly over budget by \$362,160, with total operating expenses under budget by \$636,684. The net excess, after transfers, of \$458,064 leaves a favorable variance again this month of \$1,022,776.

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

CITY OF MORGAN CITY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT				
Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget				
Period Ended December 31, 2025				
	DECEMBER	DECEMBER		DECEMBER
	2025	2025		2024
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	ACTUAL
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS				
REVENUES				
General Fund	10,499,571	9,642,303	857,268	9,552,139
Recreation Fund	120,663	79,100	41,563	97,541
Library Fund	35,277	4,350	30,927	6,466
Auditorium Fund	408,347	360,173	48,174	407,759
Lake End Park Fund	1,145,075	1,139,800	5,275	1,075,616
Cemetery Fund	116,463	236,400	(119,937)	177,449
State Prisoner Fund	201,972	145,000	56,972	185,519
Total Revenues	12,527,368	11,607,126	920,242	11,502,489
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL				
General Fund	12,071,920	12,361,621	(289,701)	11,414,347
Recreation Fund	495,990	650,870	(154,880)	450,236
Library Fund	144,435	178,556	(34,121)	118,941
Auditorium Fund	601,879	564,521	37,358	631,777
Lake End Park Fund	1,174,581	1,532,940	(358,359)	1,111,013
Cemetery Fund	218,542	248,700	(30,158)	251,002
State Prisoner Fund	633,899	580,366	53,533	639,918
Total Expenses	15,341,246	16,117,574	(776,328)	14,617,234
TRANSFERS				
Transfers from Funds	4,539,155	5,071,195	(532,040)	4,573,191
Transfers to Funds	(2,287,037)	(2,145,015)	(142,022)	(1,172,000)
Net Transfers	2,252,118	2,926,180	(674,062)	3,401,191
Excess(deficiency) net of transfers	(561,760)	(1,584,268)	1,022,508	286,446
UTILITY FUND				
Total Revenues	24,684,350	24,490,594	193,756	22,216,407
Total Expenditures	22,291,688	19,503,726	2,787,962	19,013,075
Net Excess	2,392,662	4,986,868	(2,594,206)	3,203,332
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(3,017,491)	(3,460,177)	442,686	(2,936,993)
Excess net of transfers	(624,829)	1,526,691	(2,151,520)	266,339
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND				
Total Revenues	3,440,990	3,382,280	58,710	3,376,309
Total Expenses	4,406,507	4,643,191	(236,684)	4,387,957
Net Excess	(965,517)	(1,260,911)	295,394	(1,011,648)
Net Transfers/non- operating expenses	1,423,581	696,199	727,382	946,022
Excess net of transfers and non-op	458,064	(564,712)	1,022,776	(65,626)

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 reports. Compliance officer Jimmie Knight said that he had received no response to the letters from the owners of 1330 Oil Tank Alley and said that the property needed to be torn down. A motion to condemn the property was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Knight said the property at 614 Clothilde Street was slowly falling down, and no one was present at the meeting to discuss the demolition. He felt that the house should be torn down. A motion to condemn the house was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Jason Martin and Mr. Jeremy Martin were present to discuss the property located at 7007 Highway 182 E. They stated that they had inherited the property, and they both lived out of town. They requested 60 days to give them time to renovate the property so it could be put up for sale. They said they would make sure the property was safe. Mr. Knight asked that they fix the windows and awning on the side of the property. A motion to give the owners one year to fix up and sell the property at 7007 Highway 182 East was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that he was requesting an emergency condemnation for the swimming pool located at 801 Sacred Heart Drive. He said the house also needed to be condemned, but for the safety of the children at the nearby school and in the neighborhood, he said that they would like to the pool filled with sand immediately. Mrs. Carolyn Fontenot, a neighbor of the property, asked for help in condemning the house as well. She said for years she had watched drug and other illegal activity go on at the house. Mayor Dragna said that the notification letters would be sent out and the proper protocol would be followed to start the condemnation process for the house. A motion for an emergency condemnation of the pool at 801 Sacred Heart Drive was made by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Hymel, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the election of the Mayor Pro Tempore; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-01

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 01-3, the council approved a change to the charter to provide for the annual selection of the mayor pro-tempore by a majority vote of the council, said selection to be made at the first meeting in January of each year; and

WHEREAS, this home rule charter amendment, in an election held on October 12, 2002, was approved by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting in this election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that Ron Bias is hereby selected as Mayor Pro-tempore of the City Council for the year 2026.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna said the auditors needed to be engaged for the 2025 Audit; whereupon, Mrs. Leonard offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-02

WHEREAS, the firm of Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company, LLC submitted an agreement letter for the examination of the financial statements of the City of Morgan City for the year ending December 31, 2025, and

WHEREAS, said agreement letter must be approved by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor,

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, empowered, and directed to execute the letter agreement between the City and Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company, LLC for the purpose of conducting an examination of the City's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2025

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Leonard, Domangue, Bias, Hutchinson, Hymel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The Compliance Questionnaire was the next matter on the agenda; whereupon, Pastor Bias offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-03

WHEREAS, as required by the Legislative Auditor of the State of Louisiana, a Systems Survey and Compliance Questionnaire is to be completed and submitted to the firm of Kolder, Slaven, & Company for the City of Morgan City and

WHEREAS, along with the audit report, the results of this questionnaire must be submitted to the Legislative Auditor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that it hereby approves and adopts the Systems Survey and Compliance Questionnaire as completed and submitted by the Finance Director.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that an architect needed to be engaged to complete the preliminary drawings on the property at 409 Brashear Avenue, the former Shannon Elementary School; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-04

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will need Fire Marshal, Permit Application Package with detailed Final "working drawings" for the building located at 409 Brashear Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Dean Hotard & Associates, Inc., Architect, has submitted a proposal for these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it engage Dean Hotard & Associates, Inc., Architect, of Port Allen, Louisiana, 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.

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 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Amendment number one on the Lake End Parkway Pier – Multiuse Development was the next matter on the agenda. CAO Charlie Solar stated that some of the wording needed to be changed regarding the use of the Architect; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-05

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City entered into a Contract with C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates for Engineering and Associated Services for the Lake End Parkway Pier – Multiuse Development dated October 8, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the City has requested that the Engineer utilize Sam Rue, Architect, LLC, as a consultant for the Project design; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute Amendment No. 1 on the Lake End Parkway Pier – Multiuse Development.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The surplus equipment was the next matter on the agenda; whereupon, Pastor Bias offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-06

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the item shown below are hereby declared surplus and no longer needed:

1. 5 Assorted Backhoe Buckets	Public Works
2. 2002 New Holland Backhoe. Model #: LB110, SN: 31037198	Public Works
3. Concrete Mixer	Public Works
4. Clark Casket Lift SN: 31465	Cemetery

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that said items be sold either by auction, on GovDeal.com, or by receiving bids.

Mr. Domangue 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 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

The next matter on the agenda as the Amending of Section 2-01 of the Home Rule Charter. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The Amending of Section 4-07.1 of the Home Rule Charter first reading was opened. No definitive action was necessary.

The Incurring of debt, and issuing of not exceeding \$3,100,000 Limited Tax Bonds first reading was opened. No definitive action was necessary.

The public hearing for the 2025 Budget Amendment was the next matter on the agenda. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This Ordinance introduced with first reading on October 28, 2025, a second reading on November 18, 2025, a third reading on December 17, 2025, and a fourth reading on January 27, 2026. Published by title on October 31, 2025, November 21, 2025 and December 19, 2025.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 26-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, by Ordinance Number 24-15 dated November 19, 2024, the City Council adopted the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, and

WHEREAS, during the year certain amendments were deemed necessary,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that revenues and other financing sources for 2025 be amended to \$49,806,263 and the expenditures be amended to \$49,492,075 leaving a net excess of \$314,188.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that said net excess be applied to the fund balance of \$37,605,732 leaving a fund balance of \$37,919,920 for the fiscal year ended 2025.

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 9:00 am this 30th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 9th day of February, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor Dragna at 9:00 am February 9, 2026.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: February 18, 2026

The Class "A" Liquor and Beer application for Samantha A. Mincey d/b/a Da Kik, 319 Second Street 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. Domangue and voted unanimously in favor.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor