

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
MARCH 24, 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 were Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Paul Landry, City Attorney.

The invocation was given by Reverend Marty Harden.

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

Kelli Cantu with Chez Hope invited the mayor and council to the “Do your thing with a Wing” fundraiser on May 2, 2026, in downtown Franklin. She said they were accepting registrations for cooking teams. Food would be served to the public at 11 AM, and the judging would begin at 11:30 AM. All proceeds would benefit Chez Hope.

Mr. Bryce Merrill, with the Oilfield Diver’s Monument, said that the 3rd annual Oilfield Divers Rally Weekend would be held April 24-26, 2026. There would be a welcome reception on Friday night, a ceremony at the monument on Saturday morning, and a crawfish boil at Lake End Park on Saturday afternoon. He said that all information could be found on the website and Facebook.

Mr. Merrill said that The Gathright House, located near the petting zoo, was one of the oldest houses in Morgan City, and funds were being raised to complete the restoration of the house. He said the house was listed on the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, and they were planning to hold an invitation-only fundraising event on May 21, 2026.

Taylor Robinson with Hearts of Hope stated that April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. They requested permission to hold a “Take Back the Night” event at Lawrence Park on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 5 PM to 6:30 PM (copy on file). A motion to allow the Take Back the Night event was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and voted unanimously in favor.

Vanessa Spinella with Morgan City Main Street requested permission to hold Sunset with a View events on April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29, 2026, beginning at 6 PM on the Front Street wharf. She said there would be live music and light refreshments during the event. She also requested permission to hold Rockin’ the Dock concerts on April 10, April 17, April 24, and May 1, 2026, from 6 PM to 9 PM on Front Street. A motion to approve both events was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor. Ms. Spinella also advised that the Operation Beautification City cleanup would be held on April 18, 2026, beginning at 8 AM at the Municipal Auditorium.

Councilman Thomas Hutchinson, Jr. informed the council as well as the public that the St. Mary Men’s Fellowship would be holding a “Plate Your Best” cookoff on May 16, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Municipal Auditorium. The event was open to the public, and a large turnout of cooking teams from all over the state was expected. At 2:00 PM, there would be a Men’s program, for faith-based fellowship, and there would be an off-site candle pouring event for the women. He urged everyone to come out and take part in the event.

Mayor Dragna said that Mrs. Wilson had called and said she would not be able to attend the meeting, but he would be signing a proclamation declaring April as Autism Awareness Month.

Barry Walker addressed the council regarding the frequent use of electric bikes in our community. He said that both the children and adults using them were not following the rules of the road, and if nothing was done, someone would be seriously injured or killed. He

urged the city officials to enact some laws or do something to bring attention to this. Mayor Dragna said he would have the Police Department get some information out to the public about electric bicycle safety.

The minutes of the February 28, 2026 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 February 28, 2026.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: March 24, 2026
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, 2026.

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, 2026. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Revenues are currently over budget by \$64,966. Operating expenses are under budget by \$393,227. The net loss of \$640,232 is a positive variance of \$458,193 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund are also over budget \$233,738 with operational expenses also running over budget by \$161,545. The net income, after transfers, of \$1,072,434, creates a positive variance compared to the budget of \$46,165.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$19,826 over budget, with total operating expenses under budget by \$87,432. The net income, after transfers, of \$145,163 leaves a positive variance of \$107,852.

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, 2026

	FEBRUARY 2026 ACTUAL	FEBRUARY 2026 BUDGET	VARIANCE	FEBRUARY 2025 ACTUAL
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS				
REVENUES				
General Fund	1,438,032	1,374,386	63,646	1,331,466
Recreation Fund	19,266	10,523	8,743	22,062
Library Fund	257	610	(353)	12
Auditorium Fund	18,688	14,265	4,423	11,859
Lake End Park Fund	213,345	224,838	(11,493)	151,979
Cemetery Fund	12,167	16,700	(4,533)	9,966
State Prisoner Fund	26,798	32,410	(5,612)	34,311
Total Revenues	1,689,588	1,624,622	64,966	1,561,655
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL				
General Fund	1,871,213	2,219,802	(348,589)	1,988,534
Recreation Fund	93,874	106,117	(12,243)	71,129
Library Fund	16,853	34,993	(18,140)	18,417
Auditorium Fund	98,386	92,050	6,336	83,456
Lake End Park Fund	82,059	99,190	(17,131)	124,304
Cemetery Fund	15,076	14,242	834	25,897
State Prisoner Fund	87,359	91,653	(4,294)	88,594
Total Expenses	2,264,820	2,658,047	(393,227)	2,400,331
TRANSFERS				
Transfers from Funds	135,000	135,000	-	45,000
Transfers to Funds	(200,000)	(200,000)	-	(155,000)
Net Transfers	(65,000)	(65,000)	-	(110,000)
Excess(deficiency) net of transfers	(640,232)	(1,098,425)	458,193	(380,437)
UTILITY FUND				
Total Revenues	4,610,418	4,376,680	233,738	3,837,200
Total Expenditures	3,557,255	3,395,710	161,545	3,232,796
Net Excess	1,053,163	980,970	72,193	604,404
Net Transfers and non-oper.	19,271	45,299	(26,028)	25,151
Excess net of transfers	1,072,434	1,026,269	46,165	629,555
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND				
Total Revenues	589,794	569,968	19,826	586,912
Total Expenses	696,565	783,997	(87,432)	659,564
Net Excess	(106,771)	(214,029)	107,258	(72,652)
Net Transfers/non- operating expens	251,934	251,340	594	212,297
Excess net of transfers and non-ope	145,163	37,311	107,852	139,645

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

Mayor Dragna stated that the construction of the new swimming pool had been bid out, and the lowest bid had come back about 100,000 over budget. He stated that there was still enough donations to cover the project. Mr. Solar said that construction was scheduled to begin in April, and be completed in August, weather permitting. He also informed the public that this would not affect any parking at the complex; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-11

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the bid of GW Oliver Aquatics., for furnishing all materials, equipment, etc., for The Complex Auqatics project in the amount of ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (1,367,000.00) being the least and most

responsible bid received, be and the same is hereby accepted and awarded to GW Oliver Aquatics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute a contract with said GW Oliver Aquatics. for and on behalf of and in the name of said Municipal Corporation, for furnishing all materials, and equipment for The Complex Aquatics 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. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the bid tabulation for the NGDISM Gas Replacement project. Mayor Dragna said that the bids had come in extremely under budget, which would allow another phase to be done; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-12

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the bid of Norris & Boudreaux Contractors, LLC, for furnishing all materials, equipment, etc., for The Morgan City NGDISM Gas Replacement project in the amount of TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS AND NINETY SEVEN CENTS (2,600,135.97), and Alternate Bid 1 of ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS (\$1,000,952.04) being the least and most responsible bid received, be and the same is hereby accepted and awarded to Norris & Boudreaux Contractors, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that the Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute a contract with said Norris & Boudreaux Contractors, LLC, for and on behalf of and in the name of said Municipal Corporation, for furnishing all materials, and equipment for The Morgan City NGDISM Gas Replacement 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.

Mrs. Leonard seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the Fair Housing Month resolution; whereupon, Pastor Bias offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-13

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, 2026 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. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Change Order One for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements, Phase II was the next matter on the agenda; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-14

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 + \$177,466.00, and 97 calendar days, under Contract Number R:25-26, between the City of Morgan City and The Lemoine Company, LLC, for the Morgan City Water Treatment Plant Improvements, Phase II project.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna said that change order three, under the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Phase I project needed to be signed; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-15

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 3 in the amount of -15,096.00, and + 450 calendar days, under Contract Number R:24-24, between the City of Morgan City and The Lemoine Company, LLC, for the Morgan City Water Treatment Plant Improvements, Phase I project.

Mr. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna said that the agenda needed to be expanded to discuss signing a Task Order with CH Fenstermaker for Engineering on the LA 70 Rehab project being undertaken by the State. He said that we would be required to move a good bit of utilities, and the engineering would need to be completed quickly in order to keep the project moving. A motion to expand the agenda was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and voted unanimously in favor; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 26-16

WHEREAS, The City of Morgan City will be undertaking a LA 70 Rehab – Marguerite Street to US 90 – Utility Relocation Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has a master services agreement with the firm of C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the firm of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C. meets the City's needs of Consulting Engineers for the LA & 0 Rehab – Marguerite Street to US 90 – Utility Relocation Project.

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, L.L.C. 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. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Domangue, Hutchinson, Bias, Hymel, Leonard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The first reading of the Adopt Millage Rates for Tax Year 2026 ordinance was the next matter on the agenda. No action was necessary.

The public hearing for the Amend and Re-Enact Section 18-5, to Provide for Keeping of Domestic Poultry, Chickens, Ducks, Fowl, Sheep, and Rabbits was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on February 24, 2026. Published by title on March 4, 2026.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 26-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA, TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 18-5 TO PROVIDE FOR KEEPING OF DOMESTIC POULTRY, CHICKENS, DUCKS, FOWL, SHEEP, AND RABBITS.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Article I, In General, Section , Grills and Outdoor Cooking/ Heating Appliances, be enacted by adding thereto, the following paragraph.

Chapter 18 – Animals
Article I – In General

Sec. 18-5. Keeping of Domestic Poultry, chickens, ducks, fowl, sheep, and rabbits; limitations.

Domestic Poultry, chickens, ducks, fowl, sheep, and rabbits may be kept in the city limits, but only in accordance with the following:

- (1) Such animals and fowl shall be securely confined within the owner's or keeper's yard a minimum of 30 feet distance from the nearest residence.
- (2) No more than ten (10) poultry birds in total may be kept on any single residential property within the city limits.
- (3) No Roosters, Cockerels, or Capons are allowed.
- (4) All regulations of the State Sanitary Code shall be strictly complied with; violations of the State Sanitary Code which result in offensive odors, unsanitary ground conditions or any other public health violations shall be declared to be a nuisance in addition to being a violation of the code. Every owner, lessee or keeper shall comply strictly with state regulations pertaining to stable refuse including its removal, disposal and transportation.
- (5) Any violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed:
 First offense.....\$500 and/or up to 30 days imprisonment
 Second offense.....\$750 and/or up to 60 days imprisonment
 Third offense..... \$1000 and/or up to 90 days imprisonment

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. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified, approved and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 9:30 am, this 26th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 26th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 10:00 am on March 26, 2026.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: April 1, 2026

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor