

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
JULY 22, 2025

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 Tommy Fromenthal.

The first Positive Image recipients for the month of July were Morgan City Fire Department employees Captain Ryan Pellerin, Captain Dwayne Engleton, Operator Carlos Izaguirre, Operator Justin Rogers, and Firefighter Korey Kincade. Mayor Dragna read a statement by Assistant Chief Patrick Haller regarding a CPR save that took place on July 6, 2025 (copy on file). He said that without the training and dedication of these heroes on this emergency medical call, the patient would not be alive.

Police Chief Chad Adams presented the second Positive Image Award to Assistant Chief Mark Griffin, Jr. He said that Mark had been a police department employee for 34 years and had moved up through the ranks. He thanked Mark for his dedicated service to the citizens of Morgan City and the department and wished him all the best on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. Kolin Leonard requested permission to hold the second annual Mama G's & Swampland Revival Turkey Bash on November 22, 2025, from 10 AM to 8 PM in the Mama G's parking lot. A motion to approve the event was made by Mr. Domangue, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Taylor Robinson addressed the council regarding placing a Women's Care & Comfort Cabinet in Lawrence Park. Hearts of Hope had received a grant to build and supply this cabinet with menstrual products for women in the area. It would be an honor system, hoping that only what was needed would be taken from the cabinet. Ms. Robinson asked to place the cabinet near the playground. Mayor Dragna suggested that the cabinet be placed near the library. He felt that children might get into the cabinet and scatter the supplies all over the park. A motion to approve the cabinet was made by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor. Mayor Dragna asked Ms. Robinson to get with Mr. Charlie Solar, the CAO, regarding the exact location of the cabinet.

Mr. Mike Ruffin addressed the council regarding reopening the "Kick em Out" bar located at 319 2nd Street. Mayor Dragna said that he did not see any problems with the reopening, but asked Mr. Ruffin to get with Chief Adams and Anthony Governale at Planning & Zoning to discuss the next steps.

Mr. Jake Benoit with Senator Kennedy's office introduced himself to the Mayor and Council and told them that he was happy to be of service if they needed anything in the future.

Mr. Brian Joubert with Kolder, Slaven & Company gave the annual audit report for the City for the year ending December 31, 2024 (copy on file).

The next matter on the agenda was the Mayor's Report. Mayor Dragna said that a lot of road repairs were taking place in Lakeside Subdivision and he thanked the residents for their patience while that work was going on.

The minutes of the June 24, 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.

Mayor Dragna submitted the following financial statement for the period ending June 30, 2025. He noted that the MISO costs were going up and warned residents that they would see a higher rate per Kwh on their upcoming utility bills.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
DATE:	July 22, 2025
TO:	Mayor and Council
FROM:	Deborah Garber
RE:	Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended June 30, 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 June 30, 2025. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: Actual revenues are over budget by \$79,697. Sales tax in General Fund are currently \$49,000 over budget. Operating expenses are under budget by \$53,764. The net loss of \$2,020,500 is a favorable variance of \$118,461 as compared to the adopted budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues in this fund remain under budget by \$620,068. Electric revenues alone are 738,000 under budget. The operational expenses are over budget by \$768,281. This overage is in large part due to Purchase power costs being over budget by \$949,604. The net loss, after transfers, of \$42,629 creates an unfavorable variance again this month as compared to the budget of \$1,205,847.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are slightly over budget by \$38,058, with total operating expenses under budget by \$19,538. The net income, after transfers, of \$272,597 leaves a favorable variance of \$78,182.

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

CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended June 30, 2025

	JUNE 2025 ACTUAL	JUNE 2025 BUDGET	VARIANCE	JUNE 2024 ACTUAL
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS				
REVENUES				
General Fund	4,027,253	3,954,655	72,598	3,839,309
Recreation Fund	74,435	50,740	23,695	66,363
Library Fund	3,082	2,850	232	3,947
Auditorium Fund	50,915	49,476	1,439	55,698
Lake End Park Fund	574,075	574,126	(51)	557,968
Cemetery Fund	77,004	125,018	(48,014)	124,261
State Prisoner Fund	102,312	72,514	29,798	78,916
Total Revenues	4,909,076	4,829,379	79,697	4,726,462
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL				
General Fund	6,150,979	6,090,288	60,691	5,755,299
Recreation Fund	274,027	353,111	(79,084)	255,270
Library Fund	73,487	89,081	(15,594)	55,785
Auditorium Fund	328,397	254,860	73,537	253,102
Lake End Park Fund	487,986	617,685	(129,699)	482,821
Cemetery Fund	133,021	136,884	(3,863)	140,340
State Prisoner Fund	331,362	291,114	40,248	343,098
Total Expenses	7,779,259	7,833,023	(53,764)	7,285,715
TRANSFERS				
Transfers from Funds	1,688,695	1,688,695	0	1,245,000
Transfers to Funds	(839,012)	(824,012)	(15,000)	(569,000)
Net Transfers	849,683	864,683	(15,000)	676,000
Excess(deficiency) net of trans	(2,020,500)	(2,138,961)	118,461	(1,883,253)

UTILITY FUND

Total Revenues	11,454,672	12,074,740	(620,068)	10,613,631
Total Expenditures	10,380,383	9,612,102	768,281	9,091,734
Net Excess	1,074,289	2,462,638	(1,388,349)	1,521,897
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(1,116,918)	(1,299,420)	182,502	(994,336)
Excess net of transfers	(42,629)	1,163,218	(1,205,847)	527,561

SANITATION AND SEWER FUND

Total Revenues	1,732,208	1,694,150	38,058	1,691,322
Total Expenses	2,210,489	2,230,027	(19,538)	2,071,507
Net Excess	(478,281)	(535,877)	57,596	(380,185)
Net Trans/non- oper. expenses	750,878	730,292	20,586	568,614
Excess net of trans & non-oper.	272,597	194,415	78,182	188,429

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

The next matter on the agenda was the resolution authorizing the Mayor’s signature for Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the owners of 1408 McDermott Drive and 1414 McDermott Drive. Mayor Dragna said that a generator needed to be placed at a sewer lift station located on property at these two addresses. The City required a servitude to install and service the generator, and the City and the owners had come to an agreement, whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-45

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City needs to install a generator for a sewer line on McDermott Drive in Lakeside Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the generator would be installed on private property and a servitude agreement would be needed; and

WHEREAS, Rheba B. Castaneda, 1408 McDermott Drive has agreed to grant the servitude for the generator to the city.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a servitude agreement with Rheba B. Castaneda.

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 22nd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-46

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan City needs to install a generator for a sewer line on McDermott Drive in Lakeside Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the generator would be installed on private property and a servitude agreement would be needed; and

WHEREAS, Hai Huu Nguyen, 1414 McDermott Drive has agreed to grant the servitude for the generator to the city.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a servitude agreement with Hai Huu Nguyen.

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 22nd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The public hearing for the amendment of Section 114-32 was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on June 24, 2025. Published by title on June 27, 2025.

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 114-32 TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF WEEDS AND OVERGROWTH.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Article II, Weeds, Grass, and Other Growth, Section 114-32, Duty to Cut and Remove be amended by adding thereto, the following paragraph.

Under no circumstances shall any person, corporation or other entity allow the growth of weeds, grass or other deleterious, unhealthy, growth to exceed seven (7") inches in height. The growth of weeds, grass or other deleterious, unhealthy growth in excess of seven (7") inches in height shall constitute a violation of Section 114-31, et seq.

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, Hutchinson, Hymel
NAYS:	None

ABSENT: None

Certified approved and adopted this 22nd day of July, 2025.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 9:00 am, this 23rd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Approved this 23rd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

Received from Mayor at 9:15 am on July 23, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Published: July 30, 2025

The public hearing for the amendment of Section 114-34 was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on June 24, 2025. Published by title on June 27, 2025.

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 114-34 TO PROVIDE FOR CUTTING AND REMOVAL BY CITY; LIEN FOR ALL COSTS; INTEREST; PENALTIES; ATTORNEY’S FEES/

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Article II, Weeds, Grass, and Other Growth, Section 114-34, Cutting and removal by city; lien for costs; interest; penalties; attorney’s fees be amended by adding thereto, the following paragraph.

- (4) Additionally, the city may undertake the cutting, destruction or removal of noxious weeds or grass or other deleterious, unhealthful or noxious growths upon the property on a monthly basis without the notice required by section 114-33 if the property owner liable has been notified pursuant to section 114-33 at any time during the immediately preceding six months and has failed to do the work himself after an opportunity to do so. The council, prior to undertaking such monthly work, shall file and record an affidavit, signed by the mayor, with its director of finance, which affidavit shall include a description of the property sufficient to reasonably identify it; a photograph of the property sufficient to reasonably identify its unsafe and unsanitary condition and to justify the necessity of cutting, destroying or removing weeds, grass or other noxious growth; and a statement that the property owner liable has, within the past twelve months, failed to do such work after notification and an opportunity to do so pursuant to section 114-33.

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. Hymel seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

Certified approved and adopted this 23rd day of July, 2025.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 9:00 am, this 23rd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 23rd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 9:115 am on July 23, 2025.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: July 30, 2025

Mayor Dragna submitted the name of Anna Strega for appointment to the Board of Adjustments and the Planning & Zoning Board and Kimberly Landry to the Historic District. A motion to concur in the appointments was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and voted unanimously in favor.

The next matter on the agenda was the resolutions of respect for Mr. James Davis and Mr. Sterling Fryou; whereupon,

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-47

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES “JIM” HUGH DAVIS, SR.

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken James “Jim” Hugh Davis, Sr. from our midst; and

WHEREAS, “Jim” grew up in Houma and graduated from Terrebonne High School; and

WHEREAS, he voluntarily served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, he was a long-time resident of Morgan City; and

WHEREAS, “Jim” had a long and distinguished career in the oil industry, and was co-owner and sales manager of American Supply Company from 1971 until his retirement in 2003; during that time, he also co-owned OHI Filter Supply Company in Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated servant in his community, being named an honorary alumnus of Nicholls State University in 1989. Nicholls also awarded him the Harvey Peltier Award in 1995 and the Marie Fletcher Award in 1996, both of which are the highest honors for service in the community and to the university; and

WHEREAS, “Jim” served as the president of the South Louisiana Economic Council, the Business Advisory Council (NSU College of Business), and the Nicholls President’s Business Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, he also served as President of the Morgan City Civitan Club, Officer/Member of the St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce, and as an active member of the Atchafalaya Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, St. Mary Industrial Group, and state advisory councils for vo-tech schools and centers of technology; and

WHEREAS, he was a longtime parishioner of Holy Cross Catholic Church, where he served as a lector/commentator, in music ministry, and on the finance council of the church; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his wonderful memory his children, James “Jimmy” Davis, Jr., Paul Davis, Lynn Davis McMahon, Aleta Davis Dempsey, Susan Davis Naquin, Edward “Eddie” Davis, and Rebecca Davis; nineteen grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of James “Jim” Hugh Davis, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City hope that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Morgan City, through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that this resolution be inscribed on a separate page of the official proceedings of this meeting; that a copy of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family; and that this meeting adjourn out of respect for the late James “Jim” Hugh Davis, Sr.

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard 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 22nd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna

Lee Dragna

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington

Debbie Harrington

Clerk

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 25-48
IN MEMORIAM
STERLING J. FRYOU, SR.

WHEREAS, God, in his infinite wisdom has taken Sterling J. Fryou, Sr. from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Sterling was a local legend, known as the “Bayou Man”, proclaimed by a song written for him and performed by him on local radio; and

WHEREAS, he was born on a houseboat on Four Mile Bayou, and was a lifelong commercial fisherman; and

WHEREAS, he loved to bass fish, loved classic country music, and loved to sing, dance, and play guitar; and

WHEREAS, Sterling was a devoted member of St. Andrew Catholic Church for over 50 years and gave countless hours to church activities, including serving as an eucharistic minister; he earned a fourth degree in the Knights of Columbus; and volunteered at the local AARP Chapter. Mr. Fryou owned several businesses that were staples in the community and served as Councilman for St. Mary Parish District 8 for eight years; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor, and friend. He loved his family and would beam with pride as he talked about them; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his wonderful memory his children, Charlene Patureau, Sterling J. Fryou, Jr., Terri Barrilleaux; six grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Sterling J. Fryou, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Morgan City hope that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Morgan City, through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, etc., that this resolution be inscribed on a separate page of the official proceedings of this meeting; that a copy of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family; and that this meeting adjourn out of respect for the late Sterling J. Fryou, Sr.

Messrs. Bias, Domangue, Hutchinson, Hymel, and Leonard 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 22nd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Lee Dragna

Lee Dragna

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington

Debbie Harrington

Clerk

/s/ Debbie Harrington

Debbie Harrington

Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna

Lee Dragna

Mayor