

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
JUNE 28, 2022

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, Mark Stephens and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: Tim Hymel

Also present were Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Paul Landry, City Attorney.

The invocation was given by Reverend Mo Seneca.

Mr. Terry Guarisco addressed the Council regarding a Civil War gun boat that had sunk in 1863. The Colonel Kinsman struck a log in the Atchafalaya River and sunk near the railroad bridge and Bateman Island. The boat was 177' long and 49' wide and still had three cannons, ammunition and guns on board. Five free men of color went down with the boat and were still on board in the bottom of the boat. There had been a \$200,000 study done by the Corps of Engineers and Oceanering also conducted a study around 2000. They found that the boat was buried under around 100' of silt. He stated that he was a Civil War buff and felt that attention needed to be brought to the site.

The first Positive Image recipient for the month of June was Mrs. Lisa Levy with Gotta Dance Studios. Mayor Dragna said that Mrs. Levy had been teaching dancing in the City for the last forty years and the award was well deserved.

Mr. Tamporello stated that the second Positive Image recipient for the month of June was the Port of Morgan City staff and management. They had recently hosted the Atchafalya/ Red River Maritime Round Table in the City and a lot of work and preparation had gone into it. He thanked them all for everything they did.

The Mayor stated that the biggest update he had was regarding the scheduled electrical outage. After having long conversations with Mr. Cefalu, they decided to bring more manpower in to complete the job quicker. The start time had been pushed from 10 PM to midnight, and was expected to last several hours. The project needed to be completed because it was a main feeder line into the City. There were backup generators for the sewer, and someone would be monitoring the gas pressure because of all the generators in the City would be kicking on at once. The police were also going to ramp up patrols to keep the City safe during the power outage.

The minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting were submitted. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Deborah Garber, Finance Director, submitted the following financial statement for the period ending May 31, 2022.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: June 28, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended May 31, 2022.

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 May 31, 2022. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: The actual total revenues remain over budget by \$586,171. Sales taxes in General Fund were over budget by \$216,000, and dividend from workmen's

compensation was over budget by \$100,000. Operating expenses are below budget by \$318,778. The net loss, after transfers, of \$243,940 is a favorable variance of \$904,949 compared to the budget.

Utility Fund: Actual revenues are currently over budget by \$13,050. The operational expenses are under budget by \$280,078. The net loss, after transfers, of \$174,402 creates a favorable variance of \$365,757.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are \$12,311 under budget, with total operating expenses under budget by \$61,011. The net income, after transfers, of \$418,674 leaves another favorable variance of \$43,764.

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

CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended May 31, 2022

	MAY 2022	MAY 2022	
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	2,765,882	2,339,285	426,597
Recreation Fund	55,220	28,533	26,687
Library Fund	5,102	6,052	(950)
Auditorium Fund	37,668	26,071	11,597
Lake End Park Fund	475,533	353,293	122,240
State Prisoner Fund	105,309	159,389	(54,080)
Total Revenues	3,339,405	2,753,234	586,171
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	4,095,550	4,204,716	(109,166)
Recreation Fund	143,932	165,109	(21,177)
Library Fund	33,230	58,434	(25,204)
Auditorium Fund	175,751	197,693	(21,942)
Lake End Park Fund	337,065	427,221	(90,156)
State Prisoner Fund	304,483	355,616	(51,133)
Total Expenses	5,090,011	5,408,789	(318,778)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	1,775,666	1,775,666	0
Transfers to Funds	(269,000)	(269,000)	0
Net Transfers	1,506,666	1,506,666	0
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	(243,940)	(1,148,889)	904,949
UTILITY FUND			
Total			
Revenues	8,509,845	8,496,795	13,050
Total Expenditures	7,317,220	7,597,298	(280,078)
Net			
Excess	1,192,625	899,497	293,128
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(1,367,027)	(1,439,656)	72,629
Excess net of transfers	(174,402)	(540,159)	365,757
SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total			
Revenues	1,222,795	1,235,106	(12,311)

Total Expenses	1,351,692	1,412,703	(61,011)
Net Excess	(128,897)	(177,597)	48,700
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	547,571	552,507	(4,936)
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	418,674	374,910	43,764

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

Mayor Dragna stated that the Gas Quest agreement needed to be signed as soon as possible so we would have no interruptions with our gas service; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-27

WHEREAS, Texas Gas Transmission will be implementing a new gas management system, Gas Quest, effective July 1, 2022 for the transportation of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, a new Gas Quest agreement must be signed.

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 use agreement with Gas Quest.

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Tamporello, Domangue, Stephens

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hymel

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the surplus equipment; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-28

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. 2008 Ford F250 VIN#1FTSW205X8EE39994 | Public Works |
| 2. 2007 Chevy 1500 VIN#3GCEC12X77G225144 | Electric Department |
| 3. 1995 Ford F150 VIN#1FTDF15Y0SLB53967 | Electric Department |
| 4. 2001 Dodge 1500 Ram VIN#1B7HC13Y71J571174 | Water |
| 5. 1996 Dodge 1500 Ram VIN#1B7HC16Y2TJ160893 | Public Works |

6. 2006 Ford Crown Victoria VIN#2FAFP71W06X119426
7. 2007 Ford Crown Victoria VIN#2FAFP71W87X149064

Police Department
Police Department

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

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The Resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28TH day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the H & B Young Foundation had made a donation to upgrade the Complex Park bathrooms in the amount of \$40,000. The plans were never drawn up and the bathrooms were still usable, and the City had identified the need for playground upgrades at Hamm's Park and Willie Evans Park. He had been in touch with Ms. Ayo at the Foundation and asked if the monies could be used towards the playground upgrades instead and the Board agreed. He would also need to reallocate \$48,128 from the ARPA funds to complete the park projects; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-29

WHEREAS, in 2022, the H & B Young Foundation allocated \$40,000 for bathroom repairs at Complex Park; and

WHEREAS, the drawings and specifications for the Complex Park Bathrooms have not yet been completed; and

WHEREAS, a need to upgrade the playgrounds at Hamm's Park and Willie Evans Park has been identified; and

WHEREAS, the cost of playground equipment, benches, swings, fence and mulch for Hamms Park is \$46,188 and the cost of playground equipment and mulch for Willie Evans Playground is \$41,940; and

WHEREAS, the City has remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available to put towards the projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of Morgan City, Louisiana, that it hereby approves the reallocation of \$40,000 from the Complex Park bathroom project to the Hamms Park and Willie Evans Park projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED it hereby approves the reallocation of \$48,128 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to be used to fund the remaining balance of the playground upgrades.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Bias, Domangue, Stephens, Tamporello

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hymel

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the substantial completion for the Maple Street Pump station project; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-30

WHEREAS, the firm of Volute, Inc. has substantially completed the work done under contract No. R:21-13 for the Maple Street Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation project, dated May 20, 2021 and recorded in the mortgage records of the Parish of St. Mary, Book 1624, Page 19, and

WHEREAS, the contractor has requested that this work be put in the lien period, and

WHEREAS, the engineer for the project has recommended acceptance of said project as substantially complete, to begin the forty-five (45) day lien period with no items remaining to be done, and

WHEREAS, before final payment is made, the engineer will so certify to the City that the project is fully complete and approve the payment of the retainage,

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 the "Certificate of Substantial Completion" and that a copy of this resolution, along with said "Certificate" be filed with the Clerk of Courts of the Parish of St. Mary to initiate the forty-five (45) day lien period for the work done under the above mentioned contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to sign a Final Recap balancing change order to adjust final contract quantities and time period as necessary.

Mr. Tamporello seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Stephens, Tamporello, Bias, Domangue

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hymel

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the 2020 Census numbers had come in and there were some significant changes in some districts that needed to be addressed. South Central Planning & Development had submitted a proposal to perform redistricting; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 22-31

WHEREAS, the Census 2020 count has been completed and the PL94-171 reapportionment data was delivered to the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, if any district is outside of a +/-5% deviation from the ideal population of 2,294 persons, redistricting is necessary to rebalance the election districts among each other; and

WHEREAS, the firm of South-Central Planning & Development has submitted a proposal in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to the City to conduct the process of creating a new plan that will meet the applicable State and Federal Criteria.

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 agreement with South Central Planning & Development for the purpose of development of the new district boundaries.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that an ordinance was being introduced that would require anyone who put a deposit down for electricity to possess a valid US picture ID. There were a lot of large balances that the City had to eat because there was only a \$100 deposit on electrical service. He said if a picture ID issued by the United States could not be produced, there would be a \$1,000 deposit required. He said that there were also problems with both commercial and residential accounts falling behind. He proposed that for any account that became delinquent, the top three bills from one year would be averaged and that would be the new deposit required for the account. This was a first reading and no definitive action was necessary.

The public hearing was opened for the Operating Hours of Drinking Establishments Ordinance. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with first reading on May 24, 2022. Published by title on May 27, 2022.

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER R: 22-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA: TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT ARTICLE V. OPERATING HOURS SECTION 10-231, NO SALES BETWEEN CERTAIN HOURS; BARS AND SALOONS TO CLOSE; OTHER STORES MAY REMAIN OPEN AND SECTION 10-232, EXCEPTIONS.

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council, the governing authority of the municipal corporation of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana, that Article V, Section 10-231 through 10-233 of the Code of Ordinances be amended and re-enacted, said sections to read as follows:

Section 10-231 – No sales between certain hours; bars, saloons to close; other stores may remain open

(b) All bars, saloons, nightclubs or any other place of business licensed under the provisions of this chapter shall be closed and locked at 2:30 a.m. continuously until 6:00 a.m. on each day of the week, Sunday through Saturday.

Section 10-232 - Exceptions.

(b) *Applications.* The following exceptions shall apply to limitations on sales and to the closing provisions of this article:

(1) The holders of a retail dealer's license and permit issued in accordance with this chapter, servants, employees or agents of the licensees or permittees may be in or upon the licensed premises at any time and during the period mandated to be closed by this article, provided that each person bears some written form of proof establishing that they are the holders of a retail dealer's license and permit issued in accordance with this chapter, an employee, a servant or an agent of the licensee or permittee. Under no circumstances shall more than four persons be allowed in or upon the licensed premises in accordance with this section. If the persons are not holders of retail dealer's license and permit issued or in accordance with this chapter or an actual employee, they must provide proof of employment or contract for services and their names to the chief of police before being present in any bar, saloon, or nightclub as covered in this section, after 2:30 am.

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 votes on introduction thereon were as follows:

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

Certified, approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 1:30 PM, this 30th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 30th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor at 1:45 PM on June 30, 2022.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: July 6, 2022

The public hearing for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and Act of Donation of Shannon School to the Development District was opened. No one appeared for or against said ordinance; whereupon,

This ordinance was introduced with a first reading on May 24, 2022. Published by title on May 27, 2022.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 22-05

An ordinance authorizing the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with respect to the donation of certain property of the City to the Morgan City Development District; approving the form and terms of such agreement; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Act of Sale dated March 16, 2022, between the City of Morgan City, State of Louisiana (the "City"), and the St. Mary Parish School Board, the City acquired six (6) tracts of land and the improvements thereon, as further described in the property description attached to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and attached as **Exhibit A**, hereto (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Development District (the "District") was created pursuant to La. R.S. 33:2740.32 (the "District Act") for the purposes of, among other things, accepting title from or contracting with the City concerning any or all immovable and movable property and improvements owned or acquired by the City, utilizing any land, immovable and movable property, and improvements to enhance economic benefits generated in the City through planning, developing, building, constructing, operating, regulating, maintaining, selling, and transferring any residential or subdivision land, real and personal property, and improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to transfer title to the Property to the District pursuant to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in substantially the form attached as **Exhibit A** hereto (the "Agreement") to accomplish the purposes set forth in the District Act; and

WHEREAS, the City anticipates that the revenues and other economic benefits generated by the development of the Property will exceed the current value of the Property; and

WHEREAS, this Morgan City Council, acting as the governing authority of the City, now desires to authorize the Mayor and Clerk of the Council to execute the Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Morgan City Council (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City, that:

SECTION 1. The foregoing whereas clauses are hereby adopted and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. This Governing Authority hereby approves and the Mayor and Clerk of the Council are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement in substantially the form attached as **Exhibit A** hereto, subject to revisions as may be approved by the Mayor and the Clerk of the Council.

SECTION 3. The Mayor and Clerk of the Council are hereby further authorized to do and undertake any and all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

The foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Pastor Bias seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Stephens, Bias, Domangue, Tamporello

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hymel

Certified approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

Delivered to Mayor Dragna at 1:30 PM, this 30th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Approved this 30th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna, Mayor

Received from Mayor Dragna at 1:45 PM on June 30, 2022.

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Published: July 6, 2022

Mayor Dragna stated that he wanted to push the adoption of the Freeboard Ordinance until the July meeting so he could have a conversation with Mr. Joiner with the State.

Mayor Dragna offered the names of Micah Allen and Tracy Carmichael for appointment to the Convention, Tourism and Culture Commission; Tracy Carmichael, LaSonja Prince and Colleen Hammonds for appointment to the Recreation and Parks Commission; and Craig Bennett to the Board of Adjustments and the Planning & Zoning Commission. A motion to concur in the appointments was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

The Class "A" Liquor and Beer application for Yra Chavez d/ba the Michelada House was the next matter on the agenda. A motion to approve the application was made by Pastor Bias, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and voted unanimously in favor.

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

/s/ Debbie Harrington
Debbie Harrington
Clerk

/s/ Lee Dragna
Lee Dragna
Mayor