

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
OCTOBER 26, 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, 725 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 Reverend Herb Stanley.

The next matter on the agenda was the Positive Image Awards. Mayor Dragna stated that Clarence Robinson with the Morgan City Housing Authority and the Housing Authority employees were the first positive image recipients of the night. He said Mr. Robinson had brought the Housing Authority back to operating efficiently and worked hand in hand with the City. Mayor Dragna stated that Clarence and the Housing Authority employees had been doing a fantastic job of keeping the facilities clean and orderly and complaint free. The Housing Authority employees were also a large part of that. Mr. Robinson thanked the Mayor and Council for the award and introduced his Assistant Director Janice McIntyre and Mr. Michael Francois. He stated that they would continue working hand in hand with the City. He also thanked the Morgan City Police Department for their quick response when issues arose and Reverend Bias for all of his help in every situation.

John Broussard, owner of Elite Graphics and Steelwood Lanes accepted the Positive Image awards for his businesses. Mayor Dragna stated that Elite Graphics had been around for a while and Mr. Broussard had recently resurrected the old bowling alley. He thanked John for believing in the City. Mr. Broussard thanked his wife for standing beside him in all of his endeavors. He stated that he appreciated the awards and thanked the Mayor and Council. Tamporello thanked for everything he did for the schools and the community and for his work in keeping the bowling alley working.

Mayor Dragna stated that Rita Mae's Kitchen was an iconic Morgan City Restaurant. Reverend Bias stated that Mrs. Rita was in the restaurant business before even opening her business. She never let anyone leave her home hungry. Woodrow Parker thanked the City for their support of Mrs. Rita and the restaurant. Mr. Harry Lee, son of Mrs. Rita Mae thanked the Mayor and Council for the award on behalf of his mother. He stated she was 78 years old, still cooking and at the moment was at home making a gumbo.

Alex Romero, owner of Wildflower Boutique submitted a request on behalf of Wildflower Boutique and Southern Roots Salon to hold Moonlight Madness on Monday, November 22, 2021 from 4 PM to 8 PM (copy on file). She asked that Front Street from Bay City Bistro to The Frame Shop and Freret Street from Front Street to First Street be closed to allow for vendors to set up and allow customers to sit outside and enjoy the live music. A motion to allow the requests was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Domangue, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that the City received an email asking for a proclamation declaring November 2021 as Lung Cancer Month, whereupon,

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in Louisiana in 2021, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 1,107,127 new lung cancer cases and 746,042 deaths because of lung cancer between 2014 and 2018 in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is ~59%, yet only ~17% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial (3) and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large randomized trial; and

WHEREAS, funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities; and

WHEREAS, lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

WHEREAS, lung cancer in never smokers is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of never smokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in never smokers is increasing in the US; and

WHEREAS, organizations working in Louisiana, such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum, are committed to educating about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE DO I, Lee Dragna, Mayor of Morgan City, hereby proclaim November 2021 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in Morgan City, and recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities, and encourage all citizens to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Morgan City to be affixed this 26th day of October, 2021.

Lee Dragna
Mayor

seal

Pastor Bias stated that the month of October was Breast Cancer awareness month and he would like to also have a proclamation for that; whereupon,

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Breast Cancer Awareness Month began in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries Pharmaceuticals, and breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers among women; and

WHEREAS, many organizations, including the American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for a Cure, hold event promoting awareness and make contributions to raise funds for research providing progress in how breast cancer is diagnosed and treated; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, more than 281,550 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 women die from breast cancer each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, increased breast cancer screening increases early detection; reduces death;

increases life expectancy; decreases late-stage cancer diagnoses; and increases five-year survival rates; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity for the City of Morgan City to Go Pink in October to raise awareness, promote early screening and honor those affected by breast cancer.

NOW THEREFORE DO I, Lee Dragna, Mayor of Morgan City, hereby proclaim October 2021 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Morgan City, and recognize the need for research in breast cancer affecting women and breast cancer health disparities, and encourage all citizens to learn about breast cancer and early detection through breast cancer screening.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Morgan City to be affixed this 26th day of October, 2021.

Lee Dragna
Mayor

seal

In the matter of the Mayor's Update, Mayor Dragna stated that the old powerplant was in the process of being torn down. He stated that there was a survey at mymorgancity.com that he encouraged everyone to go and take to help the City identify the needs of the citizens and the city could build a proper website.

The minutes of the September 28, 2021 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 September 30, 2021.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: October 26, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Deborah Garber
RE: Comments related to summary of revenues and expenses compared to budget for the period ended September 30, 2021.

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 September 30, 2021. The following comments are related thereto:

General and Ancillary Funds: These funds have remained static through the month of September. Actual revenues remain over budget by \$690,514. Majority of that is due to Sales taxes in General Fund being over budget by \$379,507. Operating expenses are below budget by \$444,783. The net loss, after transfers, of \$1,650,897 is a favorable variance of \$1,135,297 compared to the budget.

Utility Fund: The Utility fund is also operating very similar to last month. Actual revenues are increasingly under budget \$1,359,160. The operational expenses are also under budget but only by \$620,520. The cost of purchased power and natural gas is under budget by \$633,524. The net loss, after transfers, of \$112,224 creates an unfavorable variance this month of \$516,501.

Sanitation and Sewer Fund: The operating revenues are slightly over budget this month by \$3,636, with total operating expenses under budget by \$93,998. The net income, after transfers, of \$478,472 leaves a favorable variance of \$101,086.

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

**CITY OF MORGAN CITY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT**

Actual Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget
Period Ended September 30, 2021

	SEPTEMBER 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021	
GENERAL AND ANCILLARY FUNDS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
General Fund	4,274,177	3,655,188	618,989
Recreation Fund	87,303	102,836	(15,533)
Library Fund	23,938	14,888	9,050
Auditorium Fund	38,938	57,699	(18,761)
Lake End Park Fund	699,191	550,882	148,309
State Prisoner Fund	293,464	345,004	(51,540)
Total Revenues	5,417,011	4,726,497	690,514
EXPENSES-OPERATIONAL			
General Fund	7,860,292	8,084,720	(224,428)
Recreation Fund	278,318	434,742	(156,424)
Library Fund	62,476	88,959	(26,483)
Auditorium Fund	357,960	361,269	(3,309)
Lake End Park Fund	649,289	681,111	(31,822)
State Prisoner Fund	333,573	335,890	(2,317)
Total Expenses	9,541,908	9,986,691	(444,783)
TRANSFERS			
Transfers from Funds	2,885,000	2,885,000	0
Transfers to Funds	(411,000)	(411,000)	0
Net Transfers	2,474,000	2,474,000	0
EXCESS NET OF TRANSFERS	(1,650,897)	(2,786,194)	1,135,297
 UTILITY FUND			
Total			
Revenues	15,559,510	16,918,670	(1,359,160)
Total Expenditures	13,286,918	13,907,438	(620,520)
Net			
Excess	2,272,592	3,011,232	(738,640)
Net Transfers and non-oper.	(2,384,816)	(2,606,955)	222,139
Excess net of transfers	(112,224)	404,277	(516,501)
 SANITATION AND SEWER FUND			
Total			
Revenues	2,197,717	2,194,081	3,636
Total Expenses	2,445,416	2,539,414	(93,998)
Net			
Excess	(247,699)	(345,333)	97,634
Net Transfers/non-operating expenses	726,171	722,719	3,452
Excess net of transfers and non-operating	478,472	377,386	101,086

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

Mr. Anthony Governale, Director of Planning & Zoning, stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission had met to discuss the change of zoning designation of a 1.6 acre sections of land located in the Ditch Annex South Railroad Avenue Subdivision to "R-4" Residential from "C" Commercial. This was a first reading of the ordinance. No definitive action was necessary.

Mayor Dragna stated that City Attorney Paul Landry had requested they go into executive session to discuss the Opioid Litigation. A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Tamporello, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 6:28 PM TO 6:50 PM.

A motion to return to regular session was made by Tamporello, seconded by Pastor Bias, and voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Dragna stated that a resolution needed to be passed regarding the Opioid Litigation; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-32

A Resolution authorizing Morgan City (herein referred to as this "Governmental Unit") to join with the State of Louisiana and other local governmental units as a participant in the LOUISIANA STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPIOID LITIGATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (the "MOU") and any subsequent Formal Agreements necessary to implement the MOU, including but not limited to, the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s) in Exhibit K of the Distributor Settlement Agreement and the Janssen Settlement Agreement.

WHEREAS, Morgan City has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, Morgan City recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Cities and Parishes have also filed an action *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the "Opioid Litigation") and Morgan City is a litigating participant in that action;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and lawyers representing certain various local governments involved in the Opioid Litigation have proposed a unified plan for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") sets forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds and it is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the MOU will be entered into at a future date; and,

WHEREAS, participation in the MOU by a large majority of Louisiana cities and parishes will materially increase the amount of funds to Louisiana and should improve Louisiana's relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the MOU will reduce funds available to the State, Morgan City, and every other Louisiana city and Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA:

SECTION 1. That this Governmental Unit finds that participation in the MOU would be in the best interest of the Governmental Unit and its citizens in that such a plan ensures that almost all of the settlement funds go to abate and resolve the opioid epidemic and each and every City and Parish receives funds for the harm that it has suffered.

SECTION 2. That this Governmental Unit hereby expresses its support of a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the MOU, attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

SECTION 3. Michael G. Stag and/or Joseph Burke are hereby expressly authorized to execute the MOU in substantially the form contained in Exhibit "A."

SECTION 4. That Mayor Lee Dragna is hereby authorized to execute any formal agreements implementing a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds that is not substantially inconsistent with the MOU and this Resolution including but not limited to the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s) in the *Distributor Settlement Agreement* and the *Janssen Settlement Agreement*.

SECTION 5. That the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 6. The Clerk of this Governmental Unit is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Ordinance/Resolution to:

Attorney General Jeff Landry
c/o Bill Stiles
Post Office Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SECTION 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Domangue seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of October, 2021.

Lee Dragna, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Harrington, Clerk

Mayor Dragna stated that the November meeting fell on Thanksgiving week and some people may be out of town; whereupon,

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

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-33

WHEREAS, the November 2021 council meeting falls on November 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, children are out of school for the holiday and many families take vacations at this time, and

WHEREAS, from past experience it has been determined to be within the best interest of the city to change this council meeting date,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, that the November 2021 council meeting be changed as follows:

November 23, 2021 meeting changed to November 16, 2021

Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of October, 2021.

Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The next matter on the agenda was the Capital Outlay resolution; whereupon, Mr. Domangue offered the following Resolution, who moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. R: 21-34

WHEREAS, the Mayor submitted to the council, the following projects for re-submission to the State requesting Capital Outlay funding:

Morgan City Water System Improvements	\$1,750,000.00
Morgan City Lake End Parkway Pier Development	\$10,488,000.30

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the governing authority of the City of Morgan City, Louisiana that it hereby supports the Mayor's request, to the state, for Capital Outlay Funds to complete these projects.

Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

The vote thereon was as follows:

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

The resolution was therefore declared approved and adopted this 26th day of October, 2021.

Lee Dragna
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Harrington
Clerk

The first reading of the 2021 Amended Budget Ordinance was opened. No definitive action was necessary.

The first reading of the MD Shannon School Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Ordinance was opened. No definitive action was necessary.

The second reading on the 2022 Budget was opened. Mayor Dragna stated that this would be adopted next month when the numbers were final.

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

Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Lee Dragna
Mayor