Good evening all...

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, October 23, 1:30 p.m., at city hall. See the agenda

(There is no Council meeting next week since it's the fifth Tuesday of the month.) Of particular interest to Ward 5 residents...

<u>4C</u> Resolution declaring the intention of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Biloxi, Mississippi, to issue general obligation public improvement bonds (the "Bonds") of the Municipality in the maximum principal amount of Fourteen Million Dollars (\$14,000,000)

Note that this is a Resolution of Intent, that is, it signals the city's intent to borrow money.

# Other meetings/agendas...

Development Review Committee (DRC) <u>Not posted as of 10/21/18</u> (Wednesdays, as necessary) Architectural & Historical Review Commission <u>See the agenda</u> (Second and fourth Thursdays) Planning Commission <u>Next meeting is November 1</u> (First and third Thursdays).

# Highlights of this past week's Council meeting... View the Council meeting, 10/16/18 (youtube, 2hr 28 min)

(1) Approved re-zoning on Pass Road, adjacent to Edgewater Estates, from single family residential to Neighborhood Business (Cajun Planters). In a related matter, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College will be meeting with the city administration about possibly constructing a road from Pass Road to Eula Switzer Road, west of this newly rezoned parcel.

(2) Approved the Final Plat for Peninsula subdivision (Wetzel Drive), 20 lots.

(3) Approved a consulting contract with Key Impact Strategies (RESTORE Act, BP Economic Damages, GOMESA, OIG Audit and Appeal, Public Trust Tidelands, new Keesler Air Force Base gate)

(4) Approved salary increases for three city directors: Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Engineering, to make them comparable to the other city directors.

(5) Approved a Resolution opposing the Harrison County School District's bond issue for \$55 Million; residents in that school district, which includes Ward 7 of Biloxi, will vote on this issue in November.

Some very brief background information: State law dictates that when a city annexes additional territory (as Biloxi did in 1999, or when Gulfport annexed the Orange Grove community years prior to that), students residing in the annexed area remain with the school district that has served them. So, students residing in the Woolmarket community of Biloxi, roughly Ward 7, attend the Harrison County School District even though they reside within the city limits of Biloxi.

Without putting words in the mayor's mouth, I believe he might well make these points:

Ward 7 residents should be aware that if their children were to become part of the Biloxi School District, their school taxes would be lower by about 12 mills... or about \$120 lower for each \$100,000 assessed value of their home. (Example: A home assessed at \$250,000 in Ward 7 pays about \$300/year more than if that home were located in Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 in Biloxi. Explained from another perspective, the Ward 7 homeowner, if their home was within the Biloxi School District, would pay \$300/year less than they pay now in school taxes.)

The annual <u>School Accountability Performance ratings</u> were released earlier this month: Biloxi is rated "A", Harrison County is rated "B".

Biloxi School District can accommodate the additional students if Woolmarket/Ward 7 were to become part of the Biloxi School District.

If you live in the city of Biloxi, Woolmarket/Ward 7, why should you have to pay tuition for your child to attend the city school district?

Shouldn't the residents of Woolmarket/Ward 7 be able to choose which school district their children attend?

# Bits & Pieces...

- 2018 Biloxi Cemetery Tour, Tuesday, October 23, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Biloxi Cemetery on Beach Boulevard... It's FREE!
- Don't forget to "Fall Back" Saturday night, November 3, by setting your clock back 1 hour before going to bed. Daylight Savings Time officially ends Sunday, November 4, at 2:00 a.m.
- Cove Drive residents: A demolition permit has been "pulled" by a contractor to demolish the structure at 460 Cove Drive.
- If you think you hear the roar of cannons in west Biloxi this weekend... you are! It's the Fall Muster at Beauvoir Shrine.
- The street sweeper is scheduled to sweep Debuys Rd., Eisenhower Dr., Walmart Lane, and C.T. Switzer Dr. on October 28.
- For those interested, video updates on the North Project and the South Project (Bmail).... Watch the video
- Annual Excel By 5 "Trip to Wonderland:, Saturday, October 27, 10:00-Noon at Lopez School, 140 St. John Avenue. FREE... For ages 5 and under only... Arts, crafts, and a Tea Party with Alice and the Mad Hatter!

# Traffic/Road closures for the week ahead See the list

(Scroll to bottom of the webpage to see the streets sweeping schedule.)

This week's podcast Listen (Road work, fire department update, school issues)

I ran across this earlier this week; hadn't seen it in years... Ann Landers' Golden Rules: If you open it, close it. If you urn it on, turn it off. If you unlock it, lock it up. If you break it, admit it. If you can't fix it, call someone who can. If you borrow it, return it. If you value it, take care of it. If you make a mess, clean it up. If you move it, put it back. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

## *Have a question?* Send it to me... *Tired of receiving the Ward 5 eBlast?* Let me know and I'll remove you from the distribution list.

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