

June 24, 2018

Good afternoon all...

The Council does not meet this week due to the Mississippi Municipal League's summer conference in Biloxi. The Council's next meeting is Tuesday, July 3, 6:00 p.m., at city hall.

Other meetings...

The Development Review Committee (DRC)	See agenda	(Wednesdays, as necessary)
The Architectural & Historical Review Commission (AHRC)	No meeting	(Second and fourth Thursdays)
The Planning Commission	See agenda Next meeting is July 5th	(First and third Thursdays)

Bits & Pieces...

The Lighthouse Pier, damaged in last fall's hurricane, is expected to be accessible to the public for July 4th. Water and lights should be installed and functional shortly thereafter. The old ice wharf pier, at the north end of Oak Street, and the Coliseum pier should be accessible to the public later in July.

Dredging canals in North Haven subdivision will begin in a matter of weeks, per the City Engineer. This work is paid for out of Tidelands grant money.

Construction on a new Waffle House has begun on Highway 90 just west of Bellman Street (site of the Church of the Redeemer, pre-Katrina).

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Popp's Ferry Extension (Pass Road to Highway 90)...

Right-of-way acquisition has begun and that process includes a meeting with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), which occurred earlier this week. The acquisitions are expected to take about a year. Preliminary design and engineering is underway with comprehensive design and engineering to follow. [Read for background, \(Sun Herald, September, 2016\)](#)

That "HCUA" line item on your water bill... Source: [PEER report, 2010](#) (54 pages)

What is the Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA) and why am I paying them every month? First, some history...

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Governor Barbour created a commission to study/offer recommendations for the Gulf Coast's recovery, one of which was to create an entity to manage sewer, water, storm water, and other utility services across the six counties (Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone, and George). The Gulf Coast Region Utility Act, passed during the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, created the HCUA and five other countywide utility authorities.

Soon thereafter, the Mississippi Gulf Region Water and Wastewater Plan (MGRWWP) was authorized to identify immediate water and wastewater infrastructure needs and project those needs over the next twenty five years and promote economic development in the six counties.

While other studies projected slow to moderate growth between 2% and 27% in Harrison County from 2000-2020, the MGRWWP projected explosive growth, 64%, for the same period. These figures were a factor in justifying the construction of water tanks and wastewater facilities; Harrison County now has utility infrastructure sufficient to serve a population level that most likely will not materialize in the near future.

HCUA funds its operations and debt service by assessing each member city and the county an amount in relation to the water and sewer used by citizens within its boundaries.

The HCUA Board is composed of each Harrison County city's mayor and two Harrison County supervisors. Donald Schaar serves as HCUA's executive director. The budget and all resolutions enacted must be approved unanimously by this seven member board.

Biloxi's share of the HCUA budget this current year, FY18, is \$11,555,000 of which 35% goes to debt, 20% for solid waste, 5% for operational reserve, and 40% for water and wastewater.

Looking at your monthly city utility bill, you'll see charges for: (1) Water, (2) Sewer, (3) Garbage, and (4) HCUA. If you're a commercial customer you'll also see Sales Tax, 7%. Residential customers are not charged sales tax for water.

Since most of you, if not all of you, are residential customers, let's look at an actual residential water bill.

Service	From Date	To Date	Meter No.	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Usage	Amount
Water	04/26/2018	05/26/18	12345678	241259	247547	6288	8.97
Sewer							17.88
Garbage							14.33
HCUA							23.89

Explained as follows... Note that the cost/1,000 gallons used/processed increases categorically for water and sewer. [Click here to see/print the water and sewer rates for this year and the next two annual step increases.](#)

The charge for the first 3,000 gallons of water is a flat rate, \$4.42.
The charge for the next 2,000 gallons of water, at \$1.30/1,000 gal is \$2.60.
The charge for the remaining 1,288 gallons of water, at \$1.52/1,000 gal is \$1.96.
There's the total water charge for 6,288 gallons, **\$8.97**. (We're off a penny due to rounding.)

The charge for the first 3,000 gallons of sewer is a flat rate, \$8.25.
The charge for the next 2,000 gallons of sewer, at \$2.75/1,000 gal is \$5.50.
The charge for the remaining 1,288 gallons of sewer, at \$3.21/1,000 gal is \$4.13.
There's the total sewer charge for 6,288 gallons, **\$17.88**.

The charge for residential garbage service is a flat rate, **\$14.33** per can.

The HCUA charge is \$3.80/1,000 gal water used... $\$380 \times 6.228$ (thousands of gal) = **\$23.89**

Total Charge for this billing period: **\$65.08** (\$8.97+\$17.88+\$14.33+\$23.89) (We're off a penny due to rounding.)

[Click here to see/print this same example in spreadsheet form and 1 commercial example.](#)

Notes: If you have an irrigation system, you receive a separate bill for that meter/water... no sewer or HCUA charge!

Senior citizens are eligible for a senior rate.

Questions about your water/sewer bill? Contact the city water department: 228.435.6236...195 Main Street.

A typical household in Biloxi typically uses a bit less than 5,000 gal/mo.

See [Water conservation tips](#)

I received a question this past week...

Do panhandlers on the side of the road have the right to be there, holding up traffic while they beg? Is the city selling permits for this?

It is legal, if you're properly licensed, to panhandle in the city limits, but there are some restrictions!
(Apparently, there's a constitutional right to beg...)

In October, 2017, the Council approved, after some discussion, an amended ordinance to address aggressive panhandling, licensing and related purposes. [See Ordinance 13-1-16 Panhandlers, peddlers and solicitors](#)

As I recall, to obtain a panhandling license (\$25), paperwork must be completed at the Community Development office... BPD then runs a background check before the license is issued. (So, it's possible you might not get a panhandling license based on your background.)

If you observe a violation, my suggestion would be to take a picture, noting the date, time, and location... then email it to BPD: policechief@biloxi.ms.us.

This week's podcast [Listen](#) (Scrapin' the Coast traffic plan, Splash the Coast meet)

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.

Paul
228.297.6800
ptisdale1@yahoo.com
www.tisdaleforbiloxi.com

