

September 16, 2018

Good evening all...

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 1:30 p.m., at city hall. [See the agenda](#)

#### **Other meetings/agendas...**

- Development Review Committee (DRC) [See the agenda](#) (Wednesdays, as necessary)
- Architectural & Historical Review Commission No meeting (Second and fourth Thursdays)
- Planning Commission No Meeting; next meeting is October 4 (First and third Thursdays) .

#### **Ward 5 meeting... Wednesday, September 26, 6:30, Snyder Center, Pass Road**

*Last call for topics you'd like to know more about...* Topics submitted so far:

- Speed table at Mercury Lane (Christy Lebatard, City Engineer)
- Spring Break/Thunderbirds planning for April, 2019 (Major Chris Deback, BPD)
- Cruising the Coast... Beau Rivage construction be an obstacle/problem? (Major Chris Deback, BPD)
- Enclave-Audubon drainage swale (Christy Lebatard, City Engineer)
- City's Tree Committee (Carroll Campbell, city Tree Protection Committee, Ward 5 representative)
- FY2019 Budget highlights (Paul Tisdale)
- Rezoning of Fore property by Mississippi Music on Pass Road (Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development)
- Popp's Ferry Extension, Pass Road to Beach Boulevard (Christy Lebatard & Neel Schaffer representative)

#### **City Budget approved for Fiscal Year 2019...**

The Council approved the city budget, September 14, for Fiscal Year 2019 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) on a 3-1 vote. [See the budget documents](#) [See the budget meeting video \(facebook\)](#)

I voted against this budget because we're budgeting to spend more (\$61,498,807) than we're budgeting in expected revenue (\$57,976,511). This has been the case for nine of the previous eleven years.

Property (ad valorem) tax revenue has been flat for a number of years. I raised the matter of a tax increase for discussion but there was none. I also raised the matter of cutting the equivalent of a mill (\$550,000) from the proposed budget and \$125,000 was trimmed. [Click here to see the tax levy history](#)

The last tax/millage increase was in FY96 when millage increased from 57.56 to 58.31. Let that sink in for a moment... before gaming hit the coast, the property tax in Biloxi was almost exactly twice what it is today.

Sales tax revenue to cities, also flat for a number of years, has been taking a beating because of the increase in online shopping. But with recent legislation, the state has begun collecting sales tax for online purchases with cities getting some of that... but not at the rate prior to online purchases because the state is scraping off some of that revenue to repair roads and bridges.

Gaming revenue, generally up and down slightly in past years, is expected to yield an additional \$1 Million to \$1.25 Million in FY19 because of sports book and futures betting.

There are some big ticket items on the horizon ahead... hiring additional firefighters to man the new Fire Station 10 at Old Highway 67, several new fire trucks in 2020 to replace those that are 20 years old, employer/city contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), payments on the new Fire Station 7 at Cedar Lake, Mississippi Power's energy increase, and, perhaps, a pay raise for employees, to name a few that are foreseeable.

Millage has been set at 30.10 since FY01; inflation (per Consumer Price Index, CPI) has increased about 40% since then.

#### **Give me some feedback, please...**

I began sending out this Sunday eblast last February. And, although it's titled Ward 5 eblast, it's really for anyone who wants to keep up with what's going on in the city of Biloxi.

***Does this eblast keep you better informed about your city and the actions of the Mayor and Council?***

#### **Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA) Public Hearing on water and wastewater rates ...**

Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA)... NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING... Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and Water and Waste Water Rates... The Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA) will conduct a public hearing concerning the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and proposed water and wastewater rates.

Per the [HCUA website](#): Thursday, September 20, 2018, 9:00 A.M. at the Harrison County Utility Authority office, 10271 Express Drive, Gulfport, MS 39503. The purpose of the hearing is to inform and obtain input regarding the proposed Harrison County Utility Authority budget and water and wastewater rates. HCUA staff and consultants will present the proposed budget and rates and receive comments and feedback for consideration by the HCUA Board of Directors, prior to the adoption of the FY 2019 Budget.

Questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the Harrison County Utility Authority at (228) 868-8752.

**Edgewater Mall developments...**

Two projects at Edgewater Mall are progressing on schedule; pics below were taken September 14.



[Sky Zone trampoline park](#)



[Premiere Cinema](#)

**Highlights of this past week's Council meetings...**

- (1) Budget workshop, Tuesday, September 11, 2018
- (2) Adopted Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, Friday, September 14, 2018.

**Water Rate increase...**

Be reminded that the city water and sewer rates will increase October 1, 2018. About 70% of the city's residents and businesses will experience no increase, despite the rate change, since they use less than 5,000 gallons per month.

<b>City Water &amp; Sewer Rates</b>				
Rates are per 1,000 gallons Minimum usage is <3000 gallons		<b>2018 Rate</b> (10/01/17 to 09/30/18)	<b>2019 Rate</b> (10/01/18 to 09/30/19)	<b>2020 Rate</b> (10/01/19 to 09/30/20)
<b>Water</b>	<3,000 gal	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$4.41
	3,000-5,000 gal	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30
	5,000-8,000 gal	\$1.52	\$1.56	\$1.61
	8,000-25,000 gal	\$1.67	\$1.72	\$1.77
	>25,000 gal	\$1.70	\$1.75	\$1.80
<b>Sewer</b>	<3,000 gal	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25
	3,000-5,000 gal	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75
	5,000-8,000 gal	\$3.21	\$3.31	\$3.41
	8,000-25,000 gal	\$3.41	\$3.51	\$3.61
	>25,000 gal	\$3.47	\$3.57	\$3.68

**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](#) (Meet Biloxi police, fire at a fun event)

**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.**

Until next Sunday,  
Paul

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