

July 1, 2018

Good evening all...

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, July 3, 6:00 p.m., at city hall. [See the agenda](#)

Interesting items: (1) [Popp's Ferry Causeway Park as Leisure and Recreation District](#) (2) [Concession Services Agreement at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park](#) (3) [State MDAH grant to GIS map the Biloxi cemetery](#) (4) [City requesting 1 mill levy by County for port and harbor infrastructure and waterfront development](#).

For those of you who can't wait to get a look at the agenda, it's usually posted online Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Go to the [city's webpage](#)... column on the far left, titled Residents... click on City Council Agenda.

Other meetings...

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|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Development Review Committee (DRC) | Not meeting | (Wednesdays, as necessary) |
| The Architectural & Historical Review Commission (AHRC) | Not meeting | (Second and fourth Thursdays) |
| The Planning Commission | No agenda posted | (First and third Thursdays) |

Special Council Meeting, June 28...

The Council met this past Thursday for the purpose of extending the cost of living allowances (COLA) for retired city employees (and their beneficiaries, about 100 total) who retired under the city's old/self-funded retirement plan. Under the private and local state legislative bill, an actuarial study was conducted prior to approving cost of living allowances for the next ten year period. The study calculated that an additional \$53,000 (.09 mill) must be budgeted annually for funding the COLA. Millage from the General Fund will likely be rolled into the Disability and Retirement Fund; no tax increase is expected. The resolution was approved.

July 4th Fireworks...

If you plan to watch the fireworks display by Deer Island at 9:00 pm, the best viewing location will be from the beach, between the Small Craft Harbor and Oak Street, which is a [fireworks-free zone](#) for spectators. Traffic usually gets congested in that area about 7:00ish and parking gets to be challenging about that time as well.

[City ordinances re Fireworks](#)

[Tips for Firework Safety \(Good Housekeeping Magazine\)](#)

Margaritaville Resort Update...

Margaritaville Resort announced about eighteen months ago that they were planning to expand their operations by building an amusement park and hotel adjacent to their current property on Point Cadet/Highway 90. Then, the Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann, stepped in and basically said, "Wait just a minute..." [Read for background](#) Earlier this week, it was announced that the tidelands issues which had held up the expansion were resolved... and that's good news! More family entertainment is on the way, adding to the economic synergy on "The Point". [Read more \(Sun Herald\)](#) [Read more \(WLOX\)](#)

Mississippi Power bill pay office...

The Mississippi Power office, 195 Reynoir Street, will be closing before October 1st of this year. No specific date has been announced yet. The office has been used by local residents to pay their power bill for many years but with the advent of online bill pay and its popularity with customers, trips to the Biloxi office have diminished significantly. [Mississippi Power](#)

Know your Council Meeting... Citizen Comments (Public Participation)

The Citizen Comments portion of the Council agenda occurs relatively early in the meeting, right after the Mayor's Report, Departmental Reports (which are rare), and Council Reports.

A total of 45 minutes is set aside for citizen comments; each speaker is permitted up to 3 minutes to comment. It is not a question and answer period so if you pose a question or two, don't expect an answer! It's an opportunity to be heard, to share your thoughts/opinion on a topic or topics of your choice. (And, since it's a public forum, with witnesses I might add, you probably don't want to make libelous statements.)

Protocol requires that you state your name and address, so the Council clerk can identify the speaker, prior to your comment(s). The clerk times each speaker and notes when their three minutes are up. Most folks say what they have to say in a minute or two. It's OK to read a prepared statement. Interestingly, a public body is not required to allow members of the public to speak at meetings, although it has become customary to do so.

Bits & Pieces...

- All city offices are closed Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day.
- Keep an eye on the heat... I'm partial to the [Weather Channel website for Biloxi](#) (Hourly, 5 and 10 day forecasts)
- You may have already received your [July BNews](#) (16 pages), but just in case...
- Spraying for mosquitoes is occurring in Ward 5... Folks have told me they've seen and/or heard the "bug truck".
- A city engineer and landscaping contractor met with several residents of The Enclave and Audubon Place to discuss

erosion prevention methods for the drainage swale. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in July after the engineer and contractor have walked/examined the drainage swale between the two subdivisions.

- The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is recommending that employers increase the share of the worker's salary from 15.75% to 17.40%. The retirement plan covers employees of state agencies, public schools, public universities, community colleges, cities, counties and some other entities such as hospitals. Workers will continue to contribute 9.00% of their own paychecks. No estimate yet on how much this increase will affect the city's general fund. [Click to read more \(Jeff Amy, Associated Press\)](#)

This week's podcast [Listen](#) (Margaritaville, MML, and more)

Have a question? Send it to me...

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