



WATER/SEWER AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, October 28, 2019, 2:30 P.M.

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson, De’Keither Stamps; Vice Chair, Ashby Foote; Charles Tillman and Virgi Lindsay, Council President. Directors: Dr. Robert Blaine, Chief Administrative Officer; Angela Harris, Deputy City Clerk; and Terry Williamson, Legal Counsel for Public Works.

Absent: Melvin Priester, Jr. and Aaron Banks.

The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson, De’Keither Stamps.**

DISCUSSION: UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Chairperson Stamps recognized **Robert Miller**, Director of Public Works, who provided information following:

1. Collection results and past management strategies- In September 2014, the Water/Sewer Department, pre-implementation collected \$6.7 million in revenue.
2. Water Bill Appeal Process, Backlog Statistics and Hearing Officer Appointment- Total appeals received = 586, 372 were resolved, 32 were no shows, 168 are awaiting hearings and 14 are awaiting City Council Review. The City Attorney’s office is still hearing water bill appeals until a Hearing Officer is appointed.
3. Payment Plan Practices- Modifications have been made to the delinquent residential water, sewer and solid waste bills as follows:
 - If the customer is renting the property- the City of Jackson will allow the delinquent balance to be paid monthly increments of \$75 until the balance is paid off.
 - If the customer is the owner of the property and the property has an assessed value of \$130,000 or less- the City of Jackson will allow the delinquent balance to be paid in monthly increments of \$75 until the balance is paid off.
 - If the customer is the owner of the property and the property has an assessed value of more than \$130,000- the City of Jackson will allow the delinquent balance to be paid with an initial payment of one-fourth of the balance not to exceed \$500 and then in monthly increments of not less than \$75 or more than \$150.
4. Flat Rate Billing-An upcoming plan for rate flat billing for those customers whose account does not have a billable current reading will be implemented as follows:
 - Beginning in November 2019, for accounts that do not have an actual meter reading, the City of Jackson will charge customers a flat amount each month for water usage based upon the size of the meter serving their home. Residential customers with 5/8” meter will receive the following message on their bill:



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➤ “Metered usage amount was not available at this time. Usage was estimated at 13.3672 cubic feet per day or 100 gallons per day. When metered usage data becomes available, any usage less than this amount will be credited to your account.” This will result in a monthly bill of \$63.27 for water consumption, sewer usage, and sanitation service based upon 414.4 cubic feet of water for a 31-day month.

5. Customer Bill of Rights- Two (2) enhancements have been made to the Bill of Rights:

- The City of Jackson will not disconnect service for non-payment with the National Weather Service of Jackson has issued a freeze warning or excessive heat warning or tropical storm warning.
- The City of Jackson will not disconnect service for nonpayment for a period of one year when a written notice from a medical doctor licensed to practice in the State of Mississippi is provided.

Chairperson Stamps recognized **Dr. Robert Blaine**, Chief Administrative Officer provided a status update on the Lift, Shift, and Enhance Project with Mythics. Dr. Blaine stated the following information:

- Stage 1: Move – Complete
 - Established a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection from OnPrem CheckPoint firewall to OCI
 - Migrated CCB, CSS, and BIP applications and databases to the OCI Mitigation (MIG) environment
 - Completed functional integration testing (FIT) for CCB, CSS, and BIO
- Stage 2: Improve
 - Completed setup of the OCI CCB development environment, to include necessary patches and upgraded application.
 - Completed setup of the OCI CSS and BIP development environments
 - Currently conducting internal testing on CCB, CSS, and BIP prior to handoff to the City of Jackson
- Stage 3: Begin CCB Enhance
 - Confirm/Validate Mueller Mi.Host interface
 - Begin setup of the Test environments for CCB, CCS, and BIP
 - Begin development/configuration changes to address required enhancements
- Go live November 18, 2019 with implementation

DISCUSSION: O.B. CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT (MAINTENANCE & STAFFING): **Chairperson Stamps** recognized **Dr. Charles Williams**, Engineer, who provided a brief update on the O.B. Curtis Water Plant. **Dr. Williams** stated the following:



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- The lime to soda ash conversion should be completed by the end of October 2019. This will improve the ph balance at the plant.
- Replace the membrane, gauge and raw order screens at the plant.
- Looking to improve the sludge removal from the plant.
- A second SRF loan was taken to purchase a 48” inch water line to help improve capacity and distribution in South Jackson.
- Upcoming plans to add a small study for the J.H. Fewell plant to go from liquid lime to soda ash.

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After a thorough discussion and there being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting stood adjourned at 3:56 p.m.