

2020 Departmental Annual Reports

Administration Department

- Bond rating remained at AA-, one of best in the state.
- Projected \$59.4 million in revenue, received \$58 million in revenue; projected \$62.2 million in expenses, had \$58 million in expenses
- Employees 667; saw 20 retirements. Hired 59 permanent and 53 seasonal employees
- Installed community crime cameras at Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass, Small Craft Harbor, Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, and U.S. Post Office on Main Street
- Constructed and dedicated Gold Star Families Memorial at Guice Park
- Planning and design phase of Fred Haise statue near Biloxi Visitors Center

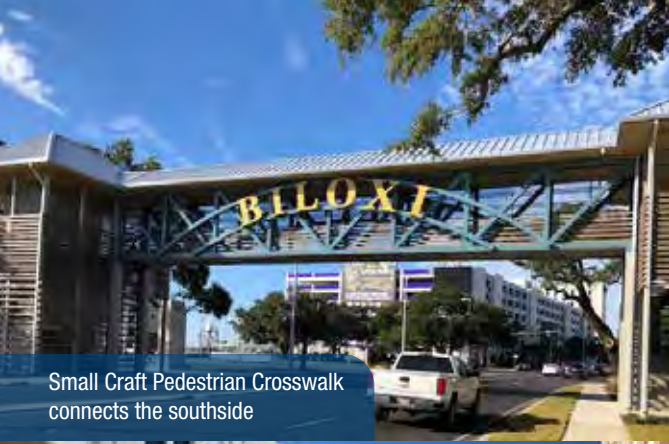
Community Development

- Issued \$79.93 million in construction permits in 2019, including \$42.96 million commercial and \$36.96 million residential
- Issued 3,512 permits, including 221 for commercial and 770 for residential
- Saw the completion of the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Biloxi Fire Station 10, Brick and Spoon restaurant, Kay Jewelers and Verizon Wireless south of the Edgewater Mall, Solid Rock Baptist Church, Waffle House on U.S. 90 near the Hilton Inn, Dr. Frigo Orthodontics, Tubb Insurance Agency, The Sugar Factory, CubeSmart Self Storage, 21 pads at Gulf Beach RV Resort RV, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Pod W, Knight Abbey at Edgewater Village, Small Craft Harbor Pedestrian Overpass, MGM Pedestrian Overpass, and the Mike Fritz mixed use development on Croesus Street
- Permits issued for major commercial projects: Community Bank Main Street branch, Margaritaville amusement park and parking garage, Biloxi Public Schools Performing Arts Center, Gulf Coast Veterinary Pet Crematorium, J Mart Chevron Convenience Store and Gas Station, 140 unit RV Park on Veterans Avenue, and Camp David RV Park





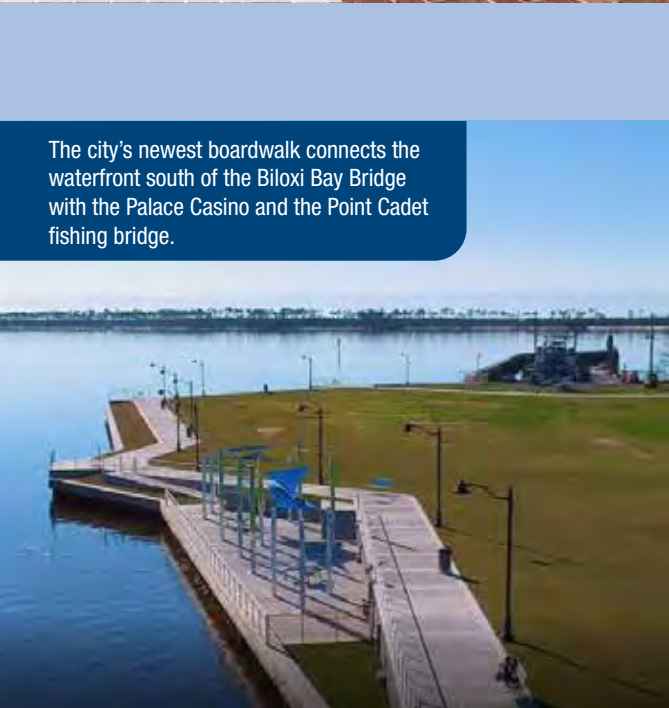
Margaritaville amusement park to be built next to the current hotel and family entertainment center



Small Craft Pedestrian Crosswalk connects the southside



Biloxi's new parquet dance floor on Howard Avenue, now open to two-way traffic.



The city's newest boardwalk connects the waterfront south of the Biloxi Bay Bridge with the Palace Casino and the Point Cadet fishing bridge.

Community Development continued

- Construction continued on the Hotel Legends, The Blake at Biloxi senior living facility, Beach Vista Apartments, three unit retail space on Shriners Boulevard, and Sky Zone trampoline Park.
- Renovations and repairs: bed and breakfast remodel on Rue Magnolia, drive through and swimming pool addition at Flamingo Beach Inn Hotel, expansion to Caterpillar Development Center Daycare in Woolmarket, an addition to Advanced Collision, restrooms at John Henry Beck Park, Saenger Theatre, Biloxi Housing Authority, Virtual Golf at the Beau Rivage, Edgewater Mall, Merit Health hospital pharmacy, V&L CrossFit Gym, Mississippi Music, and second floor level apartments on Howard Avenue.
- Issued 555 new business licenses; 261 Short-term rental
- Planning Commission oversaw 62 cases, conducted public hearing for each and approved five final subdivision plats that created 195 new single family lots.
- Reviewed 59 projects and approved 32 site plans
- Issued 93 residential and 13 commercial tree permits and distributed 300 trees during the annual Arbor Day Run
- Received the designation of "Tree City USA" for the 35th year
- Maintained rating of 4 in building division by the Mississippi State Building Department Rating Bureau
- Maintained "State Best" rating of 5 in the Community Rating System (CRS)
- Biloxi Lighthouse was visited by 2,365 guests
- Biloxi Visitors Center welcomed 121,424 and 277 events
- Biloxi Civic Center hosted 85 public events
- Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum transitioned from a city run operation to a standalone organization, Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum.

Engineering Department

- Managed over 60 projects in concept, design, construction or completion
- Managed \$550,000 of paving with \$250,000 scheduled in 2020
- Completed more than 250 work orders
- Completed projects including Campbell Drive drainage, Biloxi Cemetery digital mapping phase 2, Eagle Point Infrastructure Phase 2, East Biloxi Public Access, Fire Stations 7 and 10, Hiller Park Playground covers, Hiller Park Recreational Trails, Howard Avenue project, Lighthouse Pier repairs, Old Brick House sidewalk and living shoreline, repair of lift stations, Pine Grove drainage, Point Cadet Marina electrical upgrades, Small Craft Pedestrian Overpass, Donal Snyder Center roof repairs and Woolmarket Plantation water project
- Paving completed: Dukate Street, La Bonne Terre concrete repairs, Penzoil Park Track, Timber Ridge, Thornhill, Lorraine Road, Mason Road, McDonnell Avenue, Cedar Lake Road, Moran Alley, Jim Byrd Road and a portion of Carolwood Drive
- Paving pending: Rustwood, Baywood, Camp Wilkes, Darwood, Trailwood and Carolwood (remaining portion) drives, Hattie K Road and Maycook Street.
- Construction underway: Belle La Vie Parkway, Bent Oaks and Goose Point sediment removal, CSX Railroad closures, Eagle Point Park, East Biloxi Connector Roadway, Ellzey Street extension to Medial Park Drive, Holley Hills dredging, John Henry Beck Park restrooms, Keesler Gate inside project, North Contract, Popp's Ferry Bridge Submarine Cable additional work, Port Commission building roof repairs, Sixth Street Infrastructure, South Contract Phase 1, West Beach Boardwalk Phase 1B, and Woolmarket City Center renovations
- Projects in design phase: Bayview Waterfront Restoration Project, Cedar Lake Bridge repairs, Churchill Drive drainage, CSX Passenger Train Platform, East Biloxi Recreational Facility, Keesler Gate outside project, Lorraine Road Waterline, Main street Railroad Crossing upgrades, Malpass Landing drainage, Popp's Ferry Bridge from Riverview to Pass Road, Popp's Ferry Extension, sediment removal master plan, Small Craft to Oak Street Boardwalk, Donal Snyder Center chiller replacement, South Contract Phase 2, Tanglewood Infrastructure repairs, Biloxi Visitors Center renovations, West Contract, Woolmarket Road East drainage, and Woolmarket Road sidewalks
- Projects in concept phase: Point Cadet Boardwalk, Saenger Theatre interior renovations, Mason Road waterline, Point Cadet Marina upgrades, and Kuhn Street Boat Ramp expansion

Fire Department

- Responded to 7,454 calls for service, including 4,964 for rescue and medical (68.5 percent of overall calls), and 225 fire-related. Other calls include good intent, hazardous condition and false alarm calls
- Opened Fire Station 10 and 7, the department's first ever training facility
- 21 firefighters completed certifications for EMTs, with 12 more in process
- Completed over 15,500 hours of professional development training
- Installed 447 smoke detectors in 117 residences
- Conducted 4,729 fire inspections and 563 certificates of occupancy inspections – 280 short-term rentals
- Reviewed 277 blue prints for approval
- Issued 60 burn permits
- Approved 14 outdoor fireworks displays and three indoor pyrotechnic shows
- Completed another year of the Fire Academy for Kids summer camp
- Completed another year of the R U Ready community outreach event
- Secured more than \$1.7 million in grants
- Hired 15 new recruits
- Department employed 172 firefighters and 5 civilians
- Raised \$5,000 for the purchase and donation of 60 bicycles for the annual Asgard Christmas Toy Run
- Experienced first occupational cancer death, Firefighter III Darrin Endris
- Received Class 3 rating
- Received approval for purchase of two E-One Typhoon pumpers, designed for fire protection and protection of firefighters
- Experienced first documented occupational cancer death, Firefighter III Darrin Endris

Police Department

- Responded to 105,129 calls for service
- Officer-initiated calls represented 62 percent of call volume.
- Calls for service generated 6,963 arrests
- Rescued 763 animals, an increase of 307 from 2018
- Investigations Division resolved 35 percent of all felony crimes, a rate above the national average
- Investigated and resolved two homicides
- Five dual-purpose K9s conducted 324 searches for narcotics and explosives
- K9s and handlers conducted 85 narcotic searches and 239 explosive searches
- Conducted more than 15,500 hours of training
- Bomb Squad answered more than 60 calls for service
- Honor Guard was called to provide representation at 24 details
- Public information division generated over 450 press releases and Facebook posts that resulted in over 250 tips in various cases.
- Department employed 131 sworn officers and 54 civilians
- Six sworn officers retired, six resigned and 12 were hired
- Three dispatchers were hired
- Assisted with several events, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Mardi Gras parades, Spring Break, Scrapin' the Coast, Cruisin' the Coast, Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Christmas parades, and governor rally featuring Vice President Michael Pence
- Secured nearly \$180,000 in grants
- Experienced loss of Officer Robert McKeithen, killed in the parking lot of the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center while on duty



Officer Robert McKeithen

Legal Department

- Assisted in recovery of \$8.8 million of FEMA funds, reversing OIG audit decision
- Implemented grant program for more residential units downtown and worked with county and state leaders for grants for boardwalks and harbors



Biloxi Fire Station 10 opened in November 2019.



Biloxi Firefighters and Jack, receive hours of training every year.



Fire Station 7, the department's first training facility, opened Jan. 11, 2020.



Biloxi police officers responded to over 100,000 calls for service in 2019.



Popp's Ferry Causeway Park is open daily for fishing, kayaking, walking and events at the pavilions.



Community crime cameras were installed at the Small Craft Harbor in 2019.



Jack the Biloxi Fire Dog has his own Facebook page, facebook.com/JacktheBiloxiFireDog.



Public Works crews install sidewalks behind City Hall

Parks & Recreation

- Raised \$10,000 from the Guns & Hoses Pickleball Tournament for the Biloxi Police and Fire departments
- Hosted state Senior Olympics
- Hosted Special Olympics games at Biloxi Natatorium
- Hosted annual Santa's Best swim meet at the Biloxi Natatorium with nearly 650 swimmers
- Aquatics Division continues annual lifeguarding certification classes and year round swimming lessons
- Popp's Ferry Causeway Park open daily for fishing, walking, kayaking and events at pavilions
- Planning stages for the state's first ever first responders garden at Hiller Park
- Continues to host yearly programs, sports and community events, including for special needs and seniors
- 25th year for Challenger Baseball to be celebrated in 2020
- Upcoming renovations and repairs: Circle Park, fence and pool at Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, and pool at Biloxi Natatorium
- Summer Playground Program to change from six to three campsites with weekly fees increasing to \$50 and \$60

Port Division

- Maintains four harbors with a total of 457 slips
- Hosted the Gulf Coast Billfish Classic and Biloxi King Master tournaments that brought in over 200 boats to Point Cadet Marina
- Point Cadet Marina received major electrical upgrades
- In design phase for Sherman V. Canaan Back Bay Fishing Dock improvements

Public Affairs Division

- The city's website had 427,254 sessions in 2019, averaging 8,216 visits a week or 1,170 a day. The site had 266,402 unique visitors in 2019.
- 246 Bmails were sent, an average of 4.7 Bmails each week to an audience of 9,000 subscribers.
- 274 B-Alert text messages about traffic issues or weather were sent to an audience that is 9,189 subscribers, growing by 24 percent in 2019.
- 12 BNews Monthly newsletters were printed and mailed to every home, business, apartment, condo and PO Box in Biloxi, each month, and generated \$122,650 in advertising revenue to offset printing and delivery costs.
- Launched BTV: Biloxi Television, a municipal TV channel carrying council meetings and other Biloxi programming on Sparklight, AT&T Uverse and simultaneously on the city's website.
- Ended year with 36,986 followers on City of Biloxi Facebook page, a 12 percent increase. Other pages: Biloxi Police Department grew from 5,564 likes to 11,933, including more than 2,000 new followers in May, in the wake of the shooting of Officer McKeithen; Biloxi Visitors Center, 5,678 likes; Biloxi Fire Department, 4,705; and Jack, Biloxi Fire Dog, 1,172 in first month.

Public Works Department

- Maintained more than 46 city buildings, MGM Park and the Biloxi Cemetery
- Processed 10,389 work orders totaling more than \$3.8 million in inhouse labor.
- Filled 1,996 potholes
- Mowed 6,111 miles of rights-of-way
- Maintained and repaired 642,759 feet of drainage ditches
- Installed and removed 13,396 barricades and 36,800 four-foot delineator cones for special events
- Picked up 1421 bags of litter and 1293 tires
- Water department completed 774 work orders for water meter installations and repairs; 35 percent increase from 2018
- Maintained 23 water wells, 104 lift stations, and more than 2700 fire hydrants
- Seven employees are certified well operators
- Three employees are certified waste water operators
- Assisted with the 45 tests and maintenance of the Popp's Ferry Bridge, which opened a total of 567 in 2019