

Ordinance No. 2597

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 22-2-33 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF BILOXI RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZEN RATES

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of Biloxi has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Biloxi to amend Section 22-2-33, Senior Citizen Rates of the Code of Ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION One: Section 22-2-33 of the Code of Ordinances, Biloxi, Mississippi, of 1992, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 22-2-33. Senior citizen rates.

- (a) *Generally.* Citizens of the city residing in a qualified senior citizen household shall be granted a senior citizen rate, upon approval of a senior citizen rate application.
- (b) *Qualified household defined.* For purposes of this section, the term "qualified household" shall mean an individually metered dwelling unit:
 - (1) Which is the principal residence of the senior citizen applying for a senior citizen rate;
 - (2) Where either the applicant or spouse is 65 years of age or older; and
 - (3) Where the water and sewer account is in the name of the applicant and the applicant is responsible for paying the bill.
 - (4) Where the total ~~assessed~~ value of land and improvements of the principal residence, as determined by the Harrison County Tax Assessor, is under \$125,000.00.
 - (5) Where the total annual income for the applicant and all household members is \$45,150.00 or less.
- (c) *Application.* To qualify for a senior citizen rate, the residents of the affected household shall make application for a senior citizen rate, on forms provided by the director of administration or his agent, and shall provide as part of the application adequate proof of the applicant's compliance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, describing the criteria for a qualified household.
- (d) *Prerequisites for approval.* A senior citizen rate shall not be approved until such time as the director of administration shall review all applications for senior citizen rates and certify, by publication of each applicant's name in the senior citizen rate register, the applicant's request for a senior citizen rate.

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- (e) *Effective date.* Senior citizen rates shall become effective on the beginning date of the billing cycle next following the date of approval.
- (f) *Appeal of denial.* Any person who fails to receive approval of an application for senior citizen rates may appeal to the senior citizens rate appeals board, by completing the appropriate appeals forms made available by the director of administration. The board shall review each appeal and file a finding of fact and recommendation regarding the appeal with the mayor, who shall make a final determination.
- (g) *Appeals board.* There is hereby created a senior citizens rate appeals board, which shall, on behalf of the mayor, review all appeals and provide to the mayor a finding of fact and recommendation regarding each appeal. The mayor shall appoint three senior citizens from the qualified electors of the city to serve on the board. In addition, the mayor shall appoint the director of administration to serve as secretary and advisor to the board.
- (h) *Rates established.* The water and sewer rate for approved applicants shall be as follows:
 - (1) *Water rate:* Seventy-five percent (75%) of the existing water rate set forth in Section 22-2-29.
 - (2) *Sewer rate:* Seventy-five percent (75%) of the existing sewer rate set forth in Section 22-2-32.
 - (3) ~~In addition to the above fees, month seventy five percent (75%) of the Harrison County Utility Authority monthly charge will be added to each user's bill, whether the use is metered or unmetered, in accordance with statutory obligations relating to the city's mandatory participation in the Harrison County Utility Authority. Any reduction for qualified senior citizens shall apply only to water and sewer rates, as specified herein. All other charges, including, but not limited to, garbage collection charges and charges relating to the city's mandatory participation in the Harrison County Utility Authority, will be assessed as specified in Section 22-2-29 and 22-2-32.~~
- (i) *Additional duties of appeals board.* The senior citizens rate appeals board shall also serve as the appeals board for any denial of an application for a hardship reduction pursuant to section 9-1-22. The senior citizens rate appeals board shall have the same powers and duties when hearing appeals of denials of hardship applications as when hearing appeals for senior citizen rate appeals.

SECTION TWO: Upon unanimous vote of the members of the City Council, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage, because it serves the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of Biloxi, and good cause exists for same. If not a unanimous vote this Ordinance shall become effective as soon thereafter as is signed, certified, and as is otherwise provided by law.

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The foregoing Ordinance having first been reduced to writing, was read by the Clerk and moved by Councilmember Tisdale, seconded by Councilmember Gray, and was adopted by the following vote:


YEAS:	Gray	Tisdale	NAYS:	Creel
	Marshall	Glavan		Shoemaker
	Nail			

The President then declared the Ordinance adopted this the 21st day of April, 2026.



ATTEST:

APPROVED:



CLERK OF THE COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Submitted to and approved by the Mayor, this the 24th day of April, 2026.

APPROVED:



MAYOR