



Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- **Animal control** 392-0641
To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- **Auto Tag/Property Tax Information** ... 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- **Birth Certificates** 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building Permits** 435-6270
To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- **Business Licenses** 435-6247
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** 435-6257
To reach councilmembers or clerks of council
- **City Court** 435-6125
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Code Enforcement** 435-6270
To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- **Drivers Licenses** 392-1183
Automall Parkway, D'Iberville, near public library
- **Emergency Police and Fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **Garbage Collection** 392-1820
Advanced Disposal manages the city's residential garbage collection
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's Office** 435-6254
Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- **Museums information** 435-6244
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- **Parks & Recreation** 435-6281
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** 435-6266
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- **Public Schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Streets and Drainage** 435-6271
To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- **Visitor Info** 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
Temporary center at Bond-Grant House, Howard Avenue
- **Voter Registration** 435-6279
To register to vote or change in address
- **Water Service** 374-7953
Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department

Utilities

- Cable TV**
- Cable One** 374-5900
- Electricity**
- Mississippi Power** 800-532-1502
- Coast Electric Power Assoc** 388-3109
- Gas**
- CenterPoint Energy Entex** 896-7500
- Water/sewer**
- City of Biloxi** 374-7953 or 435-6236

More information is available online at biloxi.ms.us.

Standing firm

City finances holding their own in turbulent economic times

"2009 will be a year of caution from the city's financial perspective," says Director of Administration David Staehling, but numbers for the first quarter of the year have been encouraging, considering the difficult times many cities face across the country.

As of February, the city's three revenue streams – gaming taxes, sales taxes and property taxes – were meeting 93 percent of their projections, while the city has been able to reduce expenditures 19 percent below budgeted amounts.

Said Staehling: "Not knowing the severity of the recession or how long it's going to last will require spending discipline on the part of all city departments and divisions. We'll continue to monitor that very closely."

Biloxi's three primary revenue sources account for three-quarters of the city's annual operating revenue. The largest of the streams, the tax on gross gaming revenue, amounts to nearly a third of the city's annual operating revenue.

The city had begun reducing expenditures back in October 2008, coinciding with the beginning of the fiscal year.

"This action," Staehling said, "was essential to provide a fund balance that would be sufficient to see us through any budgetary shortfalls or contingencies that might occur. We're certainly well aware that hurricane season begins May 1, and just the threat of a hurricane is enough to cause a dip in gaming and sales tax revenue. That's the reason we remain prudent in terms of revenues and expenditures."

Still, the city's economy is better off than many.

"The Biloxi gaming market is performing much better than the gaming markets in other parts of the country," Staehling said. "Biloxi is a much more affordable destination, and, despite the storm damage, we have a lot of activities, whether they be fishing, golf, great restaurants, or special events such as the Keesler air show, Smokin' the Sound, Cruisin' the Coast, or our other annual events.

"The affordability and wealth of activities are the driving forces in our market having such success."

For details on the city's financial operations, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/financialreport/