

CITY OF BYRAM

SEWER SYSTEM

RATE INCREASE JUSTIFICATION

1. Siwell Utilities was under a Board Order from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to reduce the contamination to Big Creek. In order to comply with this order and make the necessary repairs and upgrades to the system, Siwell utilities had a rate increase request in front of the Mississippi Public Service Commission. This increase was going to approximately double the monthly bill the sewer user was paying as well as an additional charge from the City of Jackson for the treatment of the sewer.
2. Siwell Utilities was not adequately maintaining the sanitary sewer system to established standards. The City of Byram has a responsibility to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its Citizens. The city is in the process of making necessary repairs and upgrades to improve the system and reduce the potential for sanitary sewer overflows, disruption of service and sanitary sewer backups into residences, all of which pose a health threat to the citizens of Byram.
3. The City of Byram has installed a monitoring system to monitor the system twenty four hours a day. This system will help the city prevent overflows and sewer backups through constant monitoring and addressing potential problems before they occur. This monitors for electrical outage, high water alarms, pump failure, pumping rates and other parameters to assist the city in monitoring and operating the sewer system in a safe and healthy manner.
4. For Byram to prosper and grow, the city has to provide adequate sanitary sewer service to all areas of the city and not just select residential areas as the Siwell Utilities was providing. By acquiring this sewer utility, the city now has a basis for a city wide sanitary sewer system to benefit all citizens and not just a select few who happen to live in the area served by Siwell. The city, through working with MDEQ, can improve and expand the sewer system to the benefit of all the citizens of Byram and not just maintain the status quo as Siwell was doing. This will benefit both residential and commercial growth and allow Byram to prosper.
5. With the city acquiring the sewer system the citizens now have the benefit of city maintenance and resources to adequately maintain and operate the system. The city provides twenty four hour on call services and repairs to keep the system operating safe and efficiently. This reduces the threat of health problems and interruptions to the sewer system for the citizens and provides a much more reliable system.