

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF
VICKSBURG URGING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO FILE LEGISLATION ON
BEHALF OF THE CITY DURING THE 2026 SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg, Mississippi (“Board”) is actively pursuing all options to revitalize the City, retain and grow the population of the City, encourage investment in the City, and provide incentives for business and residential developments within the municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of the City of Vicksburg to see positive growth in population, ad valorem tax, and sales tax through these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature can partner with the City of Vicksburg to encourage such activity by introducing legislation that would help the City achieve this vision.

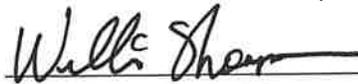
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg that it strongly urges its local delegation to the Mississippi Legislature to file the following legislation in the 2026 session to support the City and its citizens:

- A. General Legislation to support municipal economic development incentive funds (see attached package from the Board).
- B. General Legislation, or direct appropriation in a state bond bill, for the City of Vicksburg to upgrade and repair the necessary infrastructure, i.e. water, sewer, and roads, and for public safety and for the reapportionment of the Levee Street Road Truck Route funding in the amount of \$5,054,178.09 to be allocated for general infrastructure.
- C. General Legislation, or direct appropriation in a state bill for the City of Vicksburg’s revitalization of housing to focus on rehabilitating existing homes in neglected neighborhoods and to develop new, affordable housing units and to reduce blight by cleaning up neglected properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to those members of the Mississippi Legislature representing portions of the City of Pascagoula, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor.

RESOLVED, this the 11th day of February, 2026

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE
CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI



Willis Thompson, Mayor



Thomas J. Mayfield, Alderman



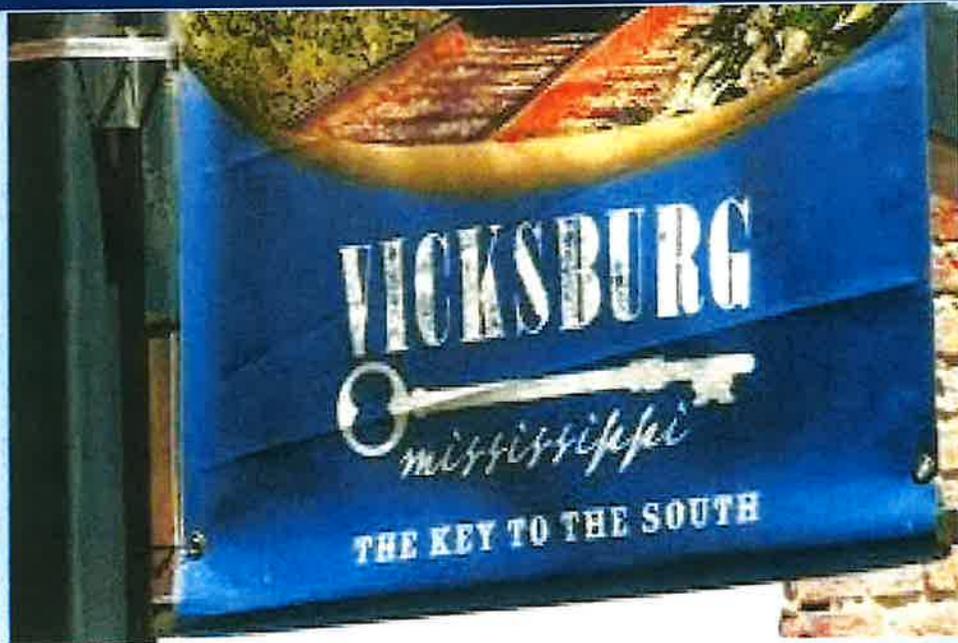
Vickie Y. Bailey, Alderwoman

ATTEST:

Deborah A. Kaiser-Nickson, City Clerk

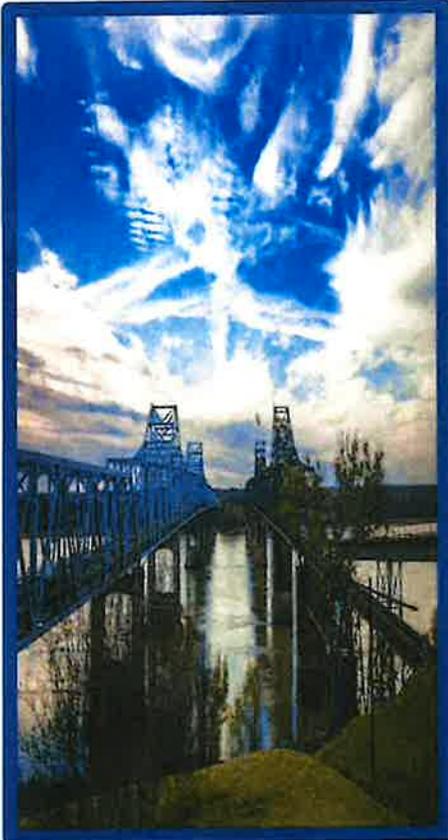


Vicksburg Mississippi



MAYOR WILLIS THOMPSON
WARD 1 ALDERMAN THOMAS J. MAYFIELD
WARD 2 ALDERWOMAN VICKIE Y. BAILEY

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INTRODUCTION

The location of the City of Vicksburg on the Mississippi River has long played a part in the historical, economic, and residential development of the city. Founded in 1811 and incorporated on January 29, 1825, Vicksburg has rapidly grown as a center for commerce, agriculture, and river traffic. Vicksburg is on the brink of significant new developments, including an Amazon Data Center, Entergy's Advanced Power Station, and the expansion and modernization of the City's port.

In order to meet the present and future needs of new and existing businesses and industries, Vicksburg needs to ensure the best possible uses of existing and future investments in public services and utility infrastructure. The goal is to ensure that the possibilities of Vicksburg become realities.

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WILLIS THOMPSON
MAYOR

THOMAS "T.J." MAYFIELD
WARD 1 ALDERMAN



VICKIE BAILEY
WARD 2 ALDERWOMAN

City of Vicksburg

1401 WALNUT STREET | VICKSBURG, MS 39181 | (601)636-3411

Mississippi Legislature
400 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201

RE: City of Vicksburg Legislative Priorities

Dear Honorary Members of the Warren County Legislative Delegation:

The City of Vicksburg is very appreciative of the continuous work that you and other members of the Mississippi Legislature have done in the pursuit of sustainable infrastructure, quality of life, and economic development for our state. Your leadership has enabled our state to be the beneficiary of job creation, new industry, and innovative technology that have advanced economic opportunities for all of our citizens. We are committed to working with the State of Mississippi to address these needs that are critical to our future.

The City of Vicksburg is fortunate to have strategic assets that provide a unique opportunity for economic growth. Some of these assets include, but are not limited to:

1. The National Park Service and Vicksburg National Military Park
2. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
3. The US Engineer Research and Development Center
4. The intermodal connectivity with our nation's heartland, via the Mississippi River and Interstate 20

Vicksburg continues to be engaged in efforts to strengthen and highlight these assets to realize their optimal potential and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. To achieve this goal, it is critical that we invest in infrastructure, housing, technology, and blight removal to make certain that Vicksburg is able to accommodate future industrial and economic developments.

Attached, you will find a Priorities Summary outlining projects that are important to the revitalization and improvements of our city. We are seeking consideration of state funding for these projects in the upcoming legislative sessions. These projects represent a vital investment in our city that will ultimately create new jobs, strengthen tourism, and support economic development. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure the success of these initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willis Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Willis Thompson
Mayor, City of Vicksburg, MS

Incorporated 1825

City Website: <http://www.vicksburg.org>

CITY OF VICKSBURG'S PRIORITIES SUMMARY

The City of Vicksburg is grateful for your dedicated commitment to enhancing our community and assisting in the City's desire to provide suitable infrastructure for new and existing businesses in the community and adequate public safety within the city limits. With state and federal assistance, Vicksburg will certainly continue expanding by adding new businesses, new jobs, new residents, new economic development, and other new ventures.

The City recognizes that its aging utilities infrastructure cannot reliably meet the demands of existing and new industries coming into the city. In south Vicksburg, the new port facilities will need water and gas utilities that could potentially cost up to approximately \$2,000,000 for the construction of the utility connections. To support the needs of the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center ("ERDC") to extend the gas utility lines to increase gas pressure, project costs are approximately \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. To provide utility services needed for the Amazon Data Center, approximately \$1,000,000 is potentially needed.

As part of the commitment to provide adequate public safety, the City of Vicksburg must build a new fire station to readily provide fire and emergency services to the southern part of the city. To build the new fire station and acquire land for the facility, the City will spend approximately \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. In addition, The Parkview Hospital, once a thriving medical center, now sits vacant attracting criminal activity. The Hospital, once a savior to the community, is now a danger to the community. It would cost the City approximately \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to demolish the Hospital to abate the dangers association with the property.

To welcome the new businesses, new jobs and new residents to the City, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen realizes that the Mississippi River and waterfront—one of the City's greatest assets—must be showcased. The City plans on updating the area around the river to attract tourism and commerce to this area. We seek support for strategic improvements to our riverfront along Levee Street, focusing on enhanced docking facilities for cruise ships and modernized public boat ramps for residential and recreational users. With cruise ships docking in Vicksburg two to three times per week, the need for a safer, more efficient, and more accessible waterfront is both immediate and essential.

Housing Revitalization is another critical need in the City of Vicksburg. As mentioned earlier, the new port is projected to generate significant job growth, attract new industries, and expand trade capacity for the region. This development promises to stimulate Vicksburg's economy in ways unseen in decades. However, it also highlights an urgent need: safe, affordable, and modern housing for both current residents and the incoming workforce. Without addressing housing, we risk missing the full potential of this economic investment.

Our revitalization plan focuses on rehabilitating existing homes, developing new and affordable housing units near the port to reduce commuting barriers for workers, partnering with local businesses, and enhancing community infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

1. REALLOCATION OF LEVEE STREET EXTENSION PROJECT FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Project Purpose: To reallocate funds awarded to the City of Vicksburg to address critical infrastructure needs necessary to support current and future economic growth.

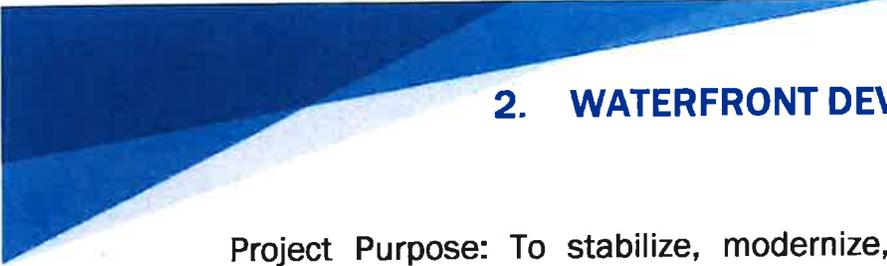
Senate Bill 2948, passed in 2021, awarded the City of Vicksburg \$5,000,000.00 to assist the city with paying costs associated with the Levee Street Truck Route. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen are very appreciative of the funding for this project. A sustainable public infrastructure provides the foundation for a thriving economy. Therefore, the City requests that the funds awarded pursuant to Senate Bill 2948, passed in 2021, be reallocated for infrastructure improvements within the City.

The recent announcements of the housing of the Amazon Data Center and Entergy's Advanced Power Station in Vicksburg have shown that the City is replete with opportunities for future technological advancements and business ventures. The City desires to capitalize on the momentum by ensuring that all existing and new public infrastructure is improved or constructed. The reallocation of the funding will ensure that the upgrades are accomplished.

Some of the intended uses of the infrastructure improvement funds would be the following: construction of water and gas utility connections for the new port facilities, extension of gas utilities for the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center ("ERDC"), and expansion of gas lines to enhance natural gas transportation capacity and for water utility connections and improvements across the City.

As the City of Vicksburg continues to attract major employers, residents, and visitors, our infrastructure must evolve accordingly. Reallocation of these funds will ensure that the City can keep pace with development and fully leverage this economic momentum.

Funding Request: \$5,000,000



2. WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Project Purpose: To stabilize, modernize, and redevelop the Vicksburg riverfront into a safe, accessible, economically vibrant, and resilient corridor along the Mississippi River and Yazoo Canal.

The Mississippi River is one of Vicksburg's greatest assets. As such, the City of Vicksburg desires to develop a recreation corridor along the Mississippi and the Yazoo Canal that is accessible to the public. The City recognizes that the Waterfront is a critical economic and community resource for our community. The City desires to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to educate the public on the importance of the river industry and commerce and highlight the historic downtown area of Vicksburg.

This project is important to the City of Vicksburg because portions of the riverfront are at risk of collapse due to shoreline erosion. Recurring Mississippi River flooding threatens businesses, utilities, and public safety. There is an aging public infrastructure and sidewalks, lighting, and access points are in need of major upgrades. Underutilized waterfront property limits tourism, recreation, and business development.

The vision for this project aims to ultimately create a public recreation and cultural corridor featuring:

1. A marina and boating amenities
2. Historic and educational features

The Vicksburg Waterfront Development Project is a vital investment in the city's future, expanding outdoor recreation, strengthening tourism, protecting natural resources, and supporting economic development. With legislative support, Vicksburg will continue to prosper as a regional gateway to Mississippi's heritage, culture, and recreation opportunities.

Funding Request: \$1,500,000 (Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund; Matched with \$1,000,000 in local and partner contributions)

3. CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION

Project Purpose: To build a new fire station in the southern part of the city to meet the needs of population growth and economic development

In order to provide adequate fire protection services to serve the Amazon Data Center and Entergy's Advanced Power Station, the City of Vicksburg will need a new fire station in the central location of the City to provide optimal fire service coverage to efficiently respond to residential and commercial areas. The current Fire Station No. 7, located at 3217 Washington Street, was constructed in 1910 and originally housed a horse-drawn apparatus. This station is the oldest operating fire station in Mississippi. Due to the historical nature of the building, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History does not allow any alterations to the building to enlarge the truck bay entrances for bigger fire trucks.

Fire Station No. 7 needs expensive repairs to make the facility suitable and safe for operation as a fire station. In order to maintain our Class 4 Fire Rating, the City must maintain fire coverage in the area near Fire Station No. 7. The classification as Class 4 provides a basis for determining insurance rates and decreases insurance costs for commercial and residential structures.

Vicksburg Fire Chief Harry "Trey" Martin III has selected a potential location for the construction of a new fire station that is close in proximity to Fire Station No. 7. This will allow for the expansion of fire services in a facility that is safe for the firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

Funding Request: \$5,000,000

4. DEMOLITION OF OLD MERCY HOSPITAL

Project Purpose: To demolish the Old Mercy Hospital structure and construct a residential or commercial development

Parkview Hospital, located at 100 McAuley Drive, Vicksburg, Mississippi, has been vacant for over 20 years. Pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 21-19-11, the City of Vicksburg has deemed this property as a public menace due to the dilapidated buildings located on the property and unclean state. The City has spent over a hundred thousand dollars to secure and board the property from vagrants and criminals.

This property is detrimental to the neighboring residents in that it attracts criminal activity. The property, in its current state, is an eyesore and diminishes property values for neighboring houses and businesses.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen desire to demolish this property to revitalize the area to accommodate the expected economic growth in the City of Vicksburg due to the new capital investments in the City. The costs for environmental assessment and demolition are exorbitant for the City. Therefore, the Board requests financial support to completely demolish the buildings on this property to remove the criminal dangers from being attracted to this property.

The City further desires that real estate developers will consider this property, once the buildings are removed, for mid to upper range single family homes as there is a present housing shortage in the City.

Funding Request: \$5,000,000

5. HOUSING REVITALIZATION

Project Purpose: To implement a 3-Year Blight Elimination Action Plan to demolish, rehab, and preserve properties in Vicksburg to enhance long-term growth

The City of Vicksburg is on the verge of a transformation and needs funding for critical housing revitalization. The revitalization plan focuses on rehabilitating existing homes in neglected neighborhoods and developing new, affordable housing units near the port and other areas with proposed economic development projects. Unfortunately, the derelict and neglectful condition of houses in the city reduces the property value of neighboring property and is an eyesore to the community. The City desires to reduce blight by cleaning up these neglected properties.

Year 1: Assessment, Stabilization, and Pilot Programs

- Build the foundation, identify priorities, and start with visible wins
- City-wide blight survey
- Contract with planning consultants
- Target 50 unsafe structures near schools and major corridors
- Launch "Green Lot Program" with pocket parks and side-lot sales
- Emergency Stabilization Grants for 5 Civil War era historic buildings to prevent collapse

Year 2: Expansion and Workforce Development

- Increase demolitions, rehab, and workforce training
- Remove additional unsafe structures, mainly in high crime areas
- Train residents in deconstruction jobs
- Launch a developer tax abatement program for restoring 25 blighted homes into affordable rentals
- Expand homeowner assistance to 50 properties (grants and low interest loans)
- Convert vacant downtown commercial buildings into mixed-use spaces (artist studios, affordable housing)
- Establish neighborhood revitalization teams

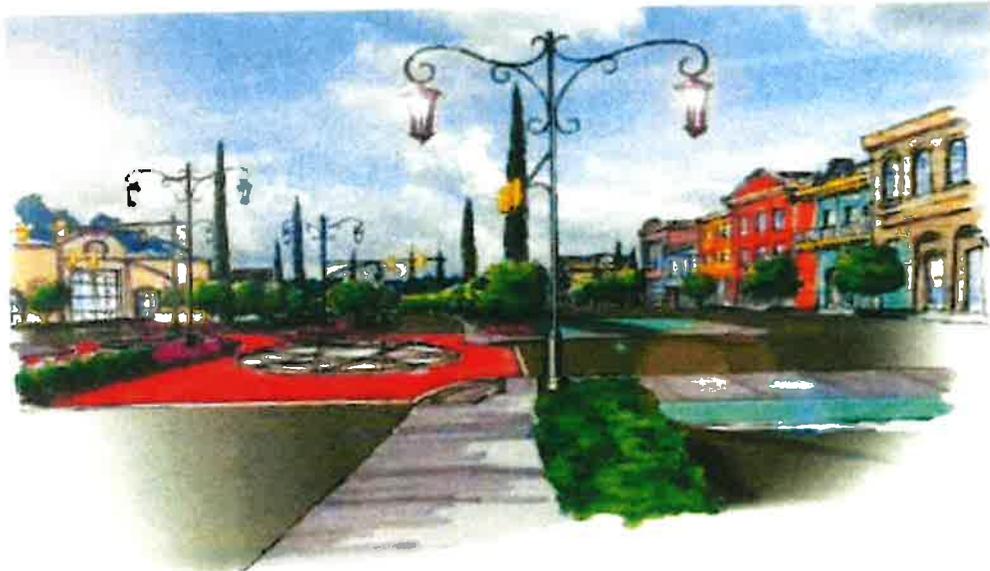
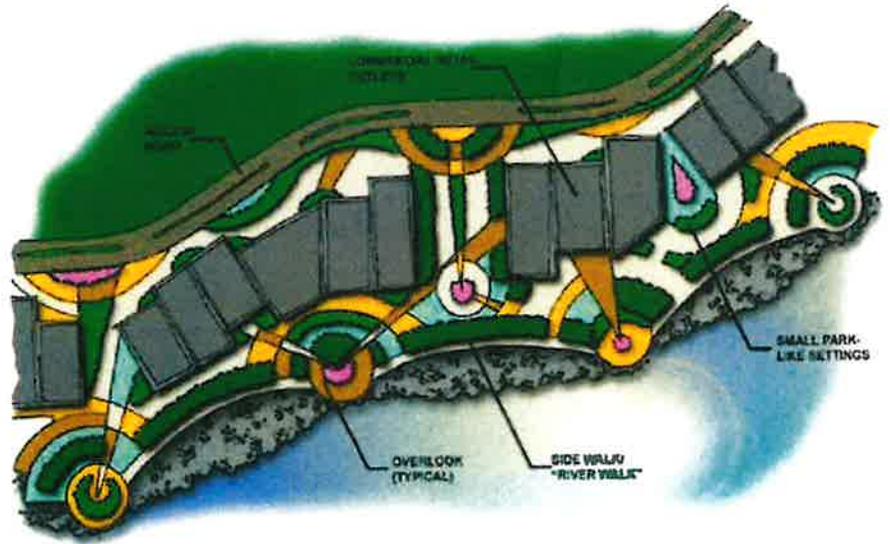
Year 3: Redevelopment and Sustainability

- Transition from cleanup to redevelopment, tie blight elimination into economic growth
- Final demolitions
- Remove more unsafe/vacant structures, focusing on gateway corridors
- Prepare more lots for infill housing or mixed-use projects
- Partner with developers for affordable and senior housing
- Transform vacant lots into permanent green infrastructure and community gardens
- Apply for long-term federal funding

Funding Request: \$4,500,000 (3 year totals)



SKETCH RENDERINGS OF
PROPOSED WATERFRONT
TAKEN FROM 2015
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



ERDC GAS EXTENSION LINES NEEDED
TO INCREASE GAS PRESSURE





**MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL
SERVICE COMPANY**

**RISK CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS
CITY OF VICKSBURG**

PHYSICAL HAZARDS RECOMMENDATIONS:

Life Safety – Second Means of Exit

2024-11-02: Two remotely located exit pathways should be supplied for multiple floor occupancies. Only one exit pathway was furnished for the second floor of the Fire Station #7 Building and discharged internally. To reduce the chance of injury to employees, a remotely located secondary means of exit (egress) should be provided to offer another means of escape should the primary means become inaccessible in the event of a fire or an emergency. The exit pathways should terminate (discharge) to the outside of the building.



Fire Station #7



Fire Station #7



Fire Station #7



MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL
SERVICE COMPANY

RISK CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS CITY OF VICKSBURG

Building Maintenance – Structural Condition

2024-11-15: The building maintenance of the Fire Station #7 should be improved, or another structure should be furnished. Rodents have chewed holes in the firefighter's turn-out gear. To help reduce injury to employees due to rodents due to compromised structural design, structural damage due to the age of the buildings, inadequately sealing of the building from rodents and insects, and due to the dilapidated building construction, the Fire Station #7 Building should be repaired or a new structure with sufficient space for all equipment and that meets local building codes should be furnished. Repairing the current structure may be cheaper but may not be sufficient to maintain a safe work environment for employees. A structural engineer should determine if the current structure can be sufficiently repaired.



Fire Station #7

INSPECTION REPORT FOR FIRE STATION NO. 7

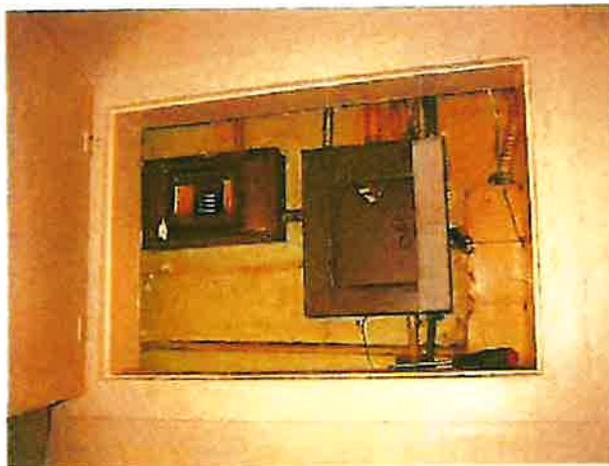


**MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL
SERVICE COMPANY**

**RISK CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS
CITY OF VICKSBURG**

Fire & Electrical Hazard – Wiring Maintenance

2024-11-04: The electrical wiring in the Fire Station #7 should be inspected and replaced if signs of deterioration or non-functioning wiring are determined. Outdated electrical wiring may present significant fire hazards in older and very old building structures and may show signs of wire failure such as flickering lights, odd sounds, stray sparks, burning smells, corroded or burnt wiring, brittle insulation, frequent circuit trips, discolored outlets, and exposed or frayed wires. To reduce the possibility of electrical fires or electrical hazards, outdated wiring (usually older than 50 years) and damaged wiring should be replaced, which may include generating electrical blueprints, mapping out circuit locations, preparing installation plans for running new wiring, and minimizing wall damage. Electrical wiring should not be exposed to excessive amperage demand, such as with some window air conditioners, which may generate excessive wire temperatures and burn protective wiring insulation. Upgrading electrical wiring throughout your building may help to increase property values, require less maintenance, and reduce energy costs.



Fire Station #7



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE
CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

