



# **City of Maryville, Missouri**

415 NORTH MARKET \* P.O. BOX 438 \* 64468-0438

TELE. (660) 652-8001 \* FAX (660) 562-3895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Maryville PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

*C.E. Goodall, Dir. Public Works  
660.562.8001*

The City of Maryville has been able to use the least expensive sewage treatment method for many years with a lagoon system. Those days are fading fast as the City will be asking voters for approval of a \$13.75 million Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bond issue on April 3rd. Bond proceeds will be used to construct a new mechanical sewer plant that will allow the City to meet new regulations for ammonia removal and disinfection.

### ***EPA Requirements***

The Environmental Protection Agency has required the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement new regulations forcing the City to look for alternative sewage treatment methods. In order to comply with the requirements within the operating permit, the City must proceed upgrading the lagoon system. The City has analyzed various options to finance the upgrade, but revenue bonds carry the lowest interest rate and therefore will have the least financial impact on the citizens of Maryville. An increase in sewer rates will be necessary to help pay for the principal and interest on the bonds plus additional operation and maintenance.

"We are just trying to keep the rate increase as low as possible for the citizens and by utilizing the revenue bonds it would allow for the lowest interest rate and in turn cost the city less," Maryville Public Works Director C.E. Goodall said. "The lower the interest rate we can get the less we will have to pass on to the citizens."

The City is currently looking at an estimated net increase of 25-30% to a customer's combined water/sewer bill. These improvements impact the sewer portion of the bill, which is the smaller amount, and it may be necessary to increase the sewer rates approximately 45% to obtain the amount of funds needed.

"Even though we are raising the sewer side of the bill approximately 45% it will only raise the overall bill by 25-30%," Goodall said. "It is tough to increase bills at all, but it is something that has to be done to allow the city to make the mandated improvements to the existing lagoon system."

The City has hired HDR, an engineering firm, to design the new facility. The proposed design utilizes the existing lagoon system for storm water flow and sludge storage. HDR, Geosyntec, and Lathrop & Gage, were all instrumental in assisting the City to reach an agreement with DNR.

The agreement between DNR and the City provides the City with an extension on the project completion deadline. As a result of the agreement, the new facility must be online and meeting new permit limits by July 2015. The new deadline allows the City ample time to ensure proper financing and construct the project. The bond issue is the first key component to reaching the goal of a new treatment facility. If the City of Maryville is unable to meet the DNR deadline, it could trigger the assessment of potential fines.



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“It is definitely within the City’s best interest to make sure we meet the proposed deadline,” Goodall said. “We do not want to have to incur money for fines. That is just a waste of money and it would be an additional expense to the money required for the sewer system upgrades.”

## ***Planning for the Future***

The proposed project at the wastewater treatment facility also increases the total capacity by 300,000 gallons per day for future economic development purposes. Recent flow data has shown that the lagoon system was reaching near capacity at 1.7 million gallons a day. The new capacity will be 2.0 million gallons a day.

The City also had HDR look at additional anticipated regulations to ensure that this project encompasses current and future requirements. The design plan for the treatment facility will leave room to allow for future treatment basins for nutrient removal.

“We have tried to plan ahead with the design allowing for additional capacity and also the future regulations that will be coming at some point,” Goodall said. “We just want to encompass everything now so we don’t have to come back and seek additional money in a couple of years. It is better to just plan for it now.”

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the city’s website at <http://www.maryville.org/pView.aspx?id=2983&catid=25>. Citizens are encouraged to call C.E. Goodall at 660-562-8025 if they have any questions.

“April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a very important day for the City of Maryville and its citizens. We just want our citizens to have all the information possible so they can make an informed vote,” Goodall said.