

September 24th, 2020

To the citizens of Sulphur,

On August 27th, Hurricane Laura dealt our city a terrible blow. The storm unleashed a destructive force unseen in the history of our community. The amount of destruction was immense and widespread, practically everyone was affected.

The city prepped for our recovery even prior to the storm. We have planned years in advance to be prepared for such an event. We initiated our hurricane preparedness policy days before the storm threatened our region.

As soon as the storm passed, our fire and public works departments began to cut and remove tree and other debris from our roadways. We had activated our vegetation debris contractor before the storm to prepare to move in immediately after to begin debris clearing and removal. These actions resulted in Entergy and their partners to be able to navigate our streets to quickly begin repairs to our electrical system. We are proud and thankful to say that power was restored in Sulphur in a very timely manner considering the magnitude of the damage.

We are also proud that the City of Sulphur never lost water or wastewater services as result of the storm. We did experience low water pressure for a short period but was it quickly restored. A boil advisory was required by the Louisiana Department of Health due to our water plants being on temporary power. Once permanent power had been restored, the adversary was lifted. Our regional wastewater facility received some structural damage but continues to be operational. The police department has been on constant alert since the storm responding to calls, especially for looting and vandalism, and doing welfare checks on our seniors, shut-ins, and the disabled. Our public works department has worked non-stop performing duties, from cleaning debris from storm drains to prevent additional flooding, to repairing the scores of water leaks caused by the storm.

Our team of city employees has worked tirelessly throughout this event in an attempt to rebuild our city, even though many of them and their family's homes were damaged or destroyed. Our department directors have demonstrated outstanding leadership aiding our city to rebound quicker than anticipated. We are proud of their efforts and sacrifice.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the good citizens of Sulphur. We have witnessed so many miracles throughout this catastrophe. The spirit of our people once again has shown through as a bright light of hope. Even though we have a long way to go towards full recovery, I have no doubt that because of the good hearts of our citizens, we will be a stronger community in the future.

Thank You,

Mayor Mike Danahay

