



# City of Philippi

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Jeremy Drennen, *City Manager*  
Phil Bowers, *Mayor*

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October 9, 2019

Last Wednesday morning, we lost power to our whole electric system. This was due to an equipment failure in our main substation. We currently have equipment in our main substation that was installed in 1976. That equipment survived the 1985 flood. Needless to say, the equipment in our main substation is in desperate need of replacement.

In last week's update, I wrote about the upgrade the City recently contracted out. This upgrade will be replacing the old equipment in our main substation and making our electric even more reliable. We take great pride in our reliability and what happened last Wednesday is unacceptable which is why we are making these upgrades. I want to thank our employees for their quick work in restoring power in under two hours considering the severity of this equipment failure.

There are only two municipalities in West Virginia that have their own power, Philippi and New Martinsville. However, it is not as uncommon in other states. The City is a member of American Municipal Power (AMP), which is one of the largest public power joint action agencies in the Country. AMP encompasses 135 municipalities in nine different states. AMP helps the City with acquiring our power. Our current electric portfolio includes natural gas, landfill gas, hydroelectric power and other miscellaneous sources from the market. They help us keep our rates down for our customers. I currently sit on the Board of Trustees at AMP. This is a great opportunity for the City to be able to share the challenges a smaller community faces with public power.

Once again, thank you to everyone in Philippi that volunteers to help us improve our appearance. If you would like to get involved, please give me a call. We have a lot of groups that meet regularly and are working to make a difference.

Sincerely,

*Jeremy D. Drennen*  
Jeremy D. Drennen, CPA  
City Manager