

City Manager Update – 5/9/25

Congratulations to **Brandon Dunham, Tyrone Washington, and Jimmy Jenkins** on their election / re-election to office. Special THANKS to outgoing Councilmember Tom Etheredge for his many years of service. Voter turnout for the 2025 City election was 20.9% with 578 votes cast out of 2,760 registered voters within the city limits. County-wide voter turnout was 7.69% with 4,080 votes cast out of 53,036 registered voters. Click on the following link for additional information → [Bastrop County Election Results](#). Once the campaign dust settles, I would like to hold a workshop to discuss City Council, Mayor, and City Manager roles and responsibilities. In addition, I will provide an update on recent accomplishments, current projects, and future plans. I will also provide an overview of the FY25/26 budget process. Given all that is going on the next several weeks (e.g., Fly-In, SVFD Annual Fundraiser, PID/Impact Fee Workshop 5/21, Memorial Day, etc.), I am targeting **Wednesday, June 18, 2025** for the 1st budget workshop.

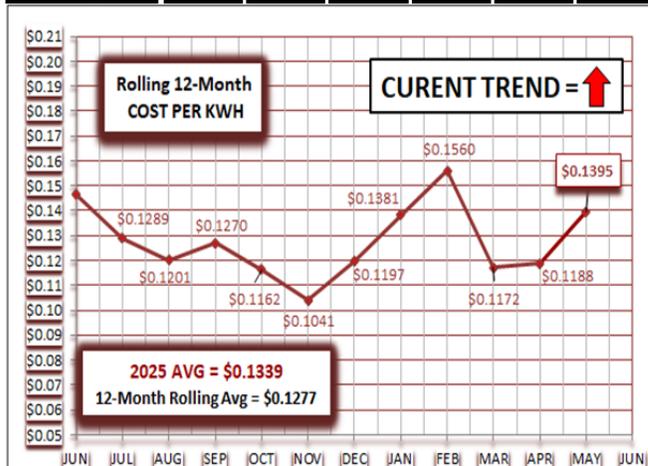
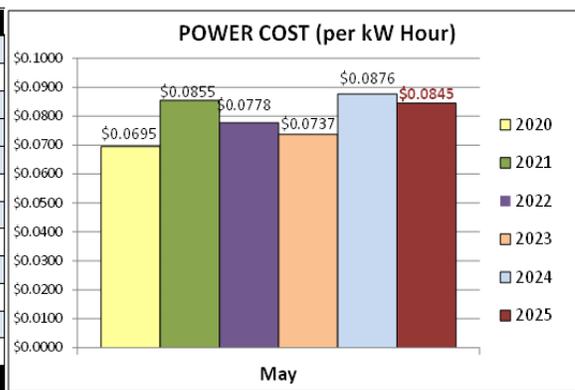
The 66th annual Jamboree was a huge success with 29,700 people visiting the park during the week of the celebration. Thanks to the members of the Jamboree Committee and all the community volunteers for their efforts. This event takes the entire year to plan and most folks never give it a second thought. Riverbend Park looked great. Kudos to Edward Balusek and his team for paying attention to detail and going the extra mile mowing, weed-eating, pruning, and trimming trees. We are fortunate to have such a well-maintained asset for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Here is a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities since my last report:

- 1) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in MAY. Fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The cost per kWh for residential customers in MAY will be \$0.1395. This represents an **17.42% INCREASE** compared to April’s cost per kWh of \$0.1188. On average, the annual cost per kWh for electric service in Smithville is between 13-14 cents with the average household using 1,200 kW per month (\$156-168). The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas provides [energy conservation tips](#) to help reduce consumption which in turn will help citizens save money. Below you will find a “rolling” 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh – MAY 2025

Billing Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$0.0716	\$0.0755	\$0.0862	\$0.0897	\$0.0876	\$0.0831
February	\$0.0628	\$0.0620	\$0.0814	\$0.0678	\$0.0871	\$0.1010
March	\$0.0679	\$0.0829	\$0.0646	\$0.0742	\$0.0566	\$0.0622
April	\$0.0694	\$0.0539	\$0.0699	\$0.0785	\$0.0795	\$0.0638
May	\$0.0695	\$0.0855	\$0.0778	\$0.0737	\$0.0876	\$0.0845
June	\$0.0769	\$0.0896	\$0.0888	\$0.0870	\$0.0914	
July	\$0.0676	\$0.0965	\$0.0709	\$0.1121	\$0.0739	
August	\$0.0694	\$0.0588	\$0.0699	\$0.0655	\$0.0651	
September	\$0.0595	\$0.0778	\$0.0594	\$0.0757	\$0.0720	
October	\$0.0465	\$0.0550	\$0.0617	\$0.0577	\$0.0612	
November	\$0.0664	\$0.0663	\$0.0652	\$0.0586	\$0.0491	
December	\$0.0619	\$0.0708	\$0.0800	\$0.0762	\$0.0647	
Avg	0.0658	0.0729	0.0730	0.0764	0.0730	0.0789



2025

Cost / kW Hour

January	\$0.1381
February	\$0.1560
March	\$0.1172
April	\$0.1188
May	\$0.1395
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
Avg	\$0.1339

① $\frac{\text{Current LCRA Bill}}{\text{Prior Month kWh}} = \text{Fuel Cost}$

② $\text{Fuel Cost} + \text{Dist. Rate} = \text{Electric Rate}$

③ $\text{Electric Rate} \times \text{KWh Used} = \text{Electric Bill}$

Note: Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor + City Distribution Fee* (\$0.0550) = Cost / kWh
 *Residential Distribution Fee = \$0.0550/kWh (Effective October 1, 2023). Non-Resident (i.e., service outside city limit) Distribution Fee = \$0.0650/kWh

City Manager Update – 5/9/25 (continued)

- 2) **FY25/26 City of Smithville Budget Process / Timelines** - The schedule for this year’s budget process includes three (3) Council / Budget Workshops beginning in June (see below) plus a 4th workshop in September if needed. These are preliminary dates subject to change based upon Council member availability (we must have a quorum). I have also attached a more detailed explanation of what the budget process entails → [FY25/26 Budget Timeline](#) and provided links to the following→ [FY24/25 Budget Information](#) (e.g., Budget Workshops #1 through #5 and the Adopted Budget). These presentations provide an overview of the budget elements with 5-years of historic data which helps us identify spending trends and targets at the departmental level. The key driver for initiating the budget process is the receipt of the certified property values from the Bastrop County Appraisal District (BCAD). By law, these values must be received by the taxing entities no later than July 25, 2025. Last year, the preliminary appraisal values changed seven (7) times before the final Certified Appraisal Roll with Effective Tax Rate Assumptions was released. These final values drive both the M&O and I&S portion of our tax rate. They also impact our debt service. So, we are basically dealing with a moving target which makes it very difficult to publish meaningful and accurate numbers prior to the publication of the certified roll in July. Having said this, there are several workshops planned where I will provide an update regarding the current budget (e.g., revenue vs. expenditures, debt obligations, Tax Note spending, etc.) that will include an overview of current projects, initiatives, and future plans. The city staff will be fully engaged during the entire process and there will be ample opportunity for citizens and councilmembers to provide feedback.

FY25/26 Budget Workshop Schedule			
Date	Description	Location	Time
6/18/2025	Budget / Council Workshop #1	City Hall	5:00 PM
7/30/2025	Budget / Council Workshop #2	City Hall	5:30 PM
8/20/2025	Budget / Council Workshop #3	City Hall	5:00 PM
9/3/2025	Budget / Council Workshop #4 (If Needed)	City Hall	5:00 PM
9/8/2025	Adopt FY25/26 Tax Rate / Budget	City Hall	5:00 PM

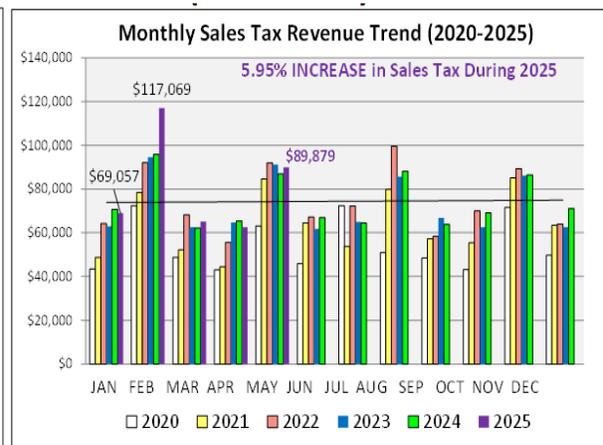
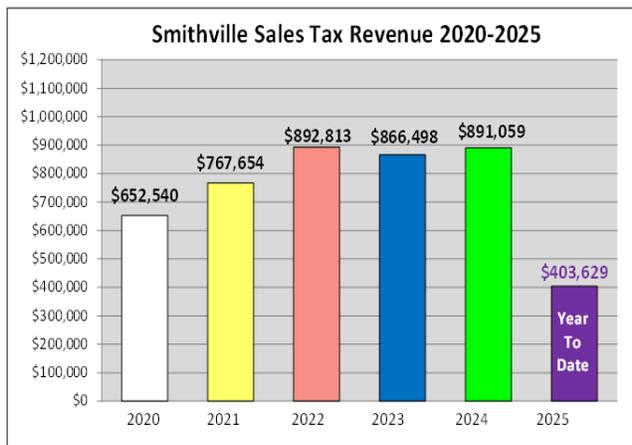
- 3) **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Presentation to be Held** – Representatives from Austin Water will be making a presentation regarding the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) project in Bastrop County during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on **Monday, May 12, 2025**. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a water supply strategy to store available water in a natural aquifer during wet times for later recovery and use. Austin Water is currently studying aquifers in our region to determine the most favorable areas for an ASR project in the future. After careful scientific study, the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County was identified as the focus area because it has favorable hydrogeology, is closer to the existing system infrastructure, and is in an area where water can be stored deep in the aquifer well and below levels of local wells. Travis County was thoroughly evaluated but was not identified as the focus area because the hydrogeology is less favorable than Bastrop County, resulting in lower water storage capacity. Austin Water is working with stakeholders in Bastrop County to provide updates about the study results, to discuss safeguards for the aquifer and local communities, and to learn about desired community benefits in Bastrop County. For additional information, click on the following link → [Austin Water ASR Project](#).
- 4) **Smithville Police Association (SPA) Blue Bunny Easter Egg Hunt Held** - The Smithville Police Association’s (SPA) annual Blue Bunny Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th was a huge success. Approximately 2,500 candy-filled eggs were “harvested” from MLK Park in less than 5 minutes! The kids took photos with the Easter Bunny and a good time was had by all. A few lucky kiddos found “money eggs” in the mix that I hide each year. Kudos to the Smithville Police Association (SPA) for sponsoring this annual event and all the volunteers who helped assemble Easter baskets and “hide” the eggs. (SEE PHOTOS)

City Manager Update – 5/9/25 (continued)

- 5) **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) HOME Grant Project Update** – Last year, the City of Smithville received a Housing Rehabilitation Assistance (HRA) grant from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to build a new \$135,000 home at 100 Turney Street. The HRA program is more commonly referred to as the HOME grant program. The HOME grant program funds rehabilitation (or reconstruction) of homes owned and occupied by low-to-moderate income residents of our community. Eligible homes must be inside the city limits and homeowners must have clear title to their property, be current on their property taxes (and mortgage, if applicable), and must have incomes below the 60% median family income in the County. The City match requirement for the HOME grant program is 1% of the total construction cost for every thousand population. Our current (estimated) population is 4250. This makes the match 5% or \$5,000 for the home. The City has waived fees and other charges associated with HOME project (e.g., debris removal and container fees, tap fees, electrical hook up, building permits, etc.) to meet the match criteria. Construction of the home is complete and the keys were turned over to the “new” homeowners (Charles and Cheryl Kier) on Monday, April 28th. This makes the twenty-fifth (25th) HOME grant home to be built in Smithville since 2003. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 6) **“Notify Me” Alerts Available on City Website** – In an effort to enhance communication, improve community engagement, and increase transparency, the City has a new feature on our website whereby citizens can receive notification via text and/or email for a variety of city notices, meetings, and events. On the city website landing page, there is a [“Notify Me”](#) radial button that will allow citizens to sign up for over 2-dozen types of alerts (e.g., council agendas, specific meeting dates, general news, alerts, city manager updates, etc.). Citizens will need to set-up an account and user-defined password. Once the set-up and login are complete, citizens can select the type of notifications they would like to receive and method of delivery (e.g., text, email).
- 7) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for May 2025 vs. May 2024 (retail sales made primarily in March). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for May was \$89,879. This represents an **3.47% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. All sales tax receipts within the county are trending slightly higher compared to last year. Smithville’s year-to-date sales tax payments total \$403,629. Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Please remember to SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Tax Allocation Summary - MAY 2025

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2025 Payments To Date	2024 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$1,070,083	\$1,041,718	2.72%	\$5,549,713	\$5,206,148	6.59%
Elgin	1.50%	\$385,534	\$369,483	4.34%	\$1,824,981	\$1,689,037	8.04%
Smithville	1.50%	\$89,879	\$86,861	3.47%	\$403,629	\$380,939	5.95%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$815,066	\$775,353	5.12%	\$3,952,372	\$3,602,643	9.70%



City Manager Update – 5/9/25 (continued)

There are several events / activities planned in the next few weeks in Smithville:

The **19th ANNUAL SMITHVILLE FLY-IN** will be held this **Saturday, May 10, 2025** at the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport. The event will start at 10 a.m. and the day will be filled with airplanes, pilots, games, and prizes. Food will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and or updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/Fly84R?fref=ts>.

MOTHER'S DAY is **Sunday, May 11, 2025**.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK is **May 11-17, 2025**. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty. If you get the opportunity, please THANK our Police Officers and Dispatchers for all they do to keep everyone safe.

The next **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held on **Monday, May 12, 2025** at 6:00 pm (City Hall). Click link to access the [COUNCIL AGENDA](#) and [COUNCIL DATA PACKET](#).

The **SMITHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** will be held on **Sunday, May 18, 2025** at Riverbend Park. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. with the live auction beginning at 1 pm. Lunch includes fried chicken, sausage and all the sides for \$15. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The grand prize is a \$1000 Visa gift card. For more information, click on the following link → [2025 Annual Fundraiser](#). Also, the SVFD has set up a [Venmo Account](#) to purchase tickets, donate, or to pay for auction items. Hope to see you there!

There will be a **SPECIAL-CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING / WORKSHOP** on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025** at City Hall from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm to discuss / review the city's DRAFT Public Improvement District (PID) Policy and the process for implementing Impact Fees.

Please join the **SMITHVILLE VFW POST 1309** on **Monday, May 26, 2025 (Memorial Day)** at @11:00 am to honor those servicemen who have sacrificed and paid the ultimate price for our FREEDOM. There is no guest speaker this year. However, there will be a tribute to [2nd Lt. Donald J. Matocha](#). Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served and the public is welcome to attend. For more information, click → [George M Jones VFW Post 1309](#)

Just a reminder that **CITY OFFICES** will be CLOSED **Monday, May 26, 2025** in observance of **MEMORIAL DAY**. Office hours will be 8-5 Tuesday through Friday (May 27th to May 30th).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Otherwise have a great weekend and have a **Happy Mother's Day**.



PHOTOS (5/9/25):

66th Annual Smithville Jamboree



Smithville Police Association Annual Blue Bunny Easter Egg Hunt @ MLK Park



NE 2nd Street Drainage Improvement / Street Repaving Project



PHOTOS (5/9/25):

Loop 230 Detention Pond / Oak Meadows Drainage Improvement Project



27th Annual Bastrop County First Responder's Luncheon



TDHCA HOME Grant "Key Turnover" – 100 Turney



Bad Day at the Airport.....

