

City Manager Update (10-15-21)

The City received 5.25" inches of rain in 6-hours from Hurricane Pamela causing some businesses to flood on NE 2nd Street (e.g., Honey's / Carne Lenta). Funding for drainage improvements on NE 2nd has been approved but not yet released and we are still 4-6 months from beginning construction. Other (smaller) infrastructure improvement projects currently underway include paving roads, sidewalk repairs, and miscellaneous drainage improvements. (SEE PHOTOS)

Early voting for the 2021 Special Election will be held at City Hall (317 Main) and will began on Monday, October 18, 2021 and will end on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Election Day is on **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**. There are eight (8) constitutional amendments on the ballot → https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_2021_ballot_measures. Sample ballots are also available by Precinct. Voters in Bastrop County will now vote using the "ExpressVote" ballot marking devices during early voting. The ExpressVote system combines touch screen technology with a paper ballot. Traditional paper ballots will only be available on Election Day. Please note that you can early vote at any of the locations listed no matter which Precinct you reside. However, if you wait until Election Day on November 2, 2021, you must vote at the Precinct location where you are registered. Here is a link to the Bastrop County votes website → <https://www.bastropvotes.org/> for more information about the voting schedule and polling locations.

Here is a list of significant accomplishments, events, and activities since my last update:

- 1) Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Train Derailment** - At approximately 5:00 am on Sunday, September 26, 2021 a Union Pacific train with hazardous cargo derailed at SH95 and MLK Blvd. The tanker car involved in the incident contained residual hydrochloric acid that was leaking. The Smithville VFD and Smithville PD set up a safe perimeter 150 yards from the train and began evacuation of approximately 20-25 families from the area. No one was injured. However, the Live Oak, 4th Avenue, and MLK crossing at SH95 were all blocked isolating citizens on the "Hill" for approximately 1-hour until the train could be "broken" to allow access. TXDOT closed SH95 at FM2571 and FM535. A Union Pacific HazMat team arrived on-scene to plug the leaking chemical tanker and decontaminate the area so the derailment crew could begin clearing the pile-up. Local traffic used the Marburger and Taylor Street railroad crossings to get to/from town. An air quality expert took samples in and around the impacted area (i.e., Walker, Prima, Harris, MLK, SE 2nd) to ensure it was safe for the 20-25 families that were evacuated to return. Kudos to the Smithville PD, VFD, and City Crews for their response and continued support throughout the day. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 2) City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for October 2021 vs. October 2020 (retail sales made primarily in August). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for October was \$55,398. This represents a **28.38% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Total year-to-date payments are \$619,152 or 16.54% higher than 2020. The state collects 8.25% on every dollar of which the City gets 1.5%. A very rough calculation would show that for every \$1M spent, the State gets \$67.5k and the City receives \$15k. So, for the City to receive \$55k in sales tax revenue, approximately \$3,690,000 of local goods and services would need to be sold. This sounds like a lot but one needs to consider all the goods and services the businesses operating in this town provide to consumers in any given month (e.g., restaurants, grocers, C-stores, furniture stores, auto parts, retail shops, professional services, and Amazon Prime deliveries, etc.). Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - October 2021

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2021 Payments To Date	2020 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$830,741	\$684,402	21.38%	\$8,192,289	\$6,726,211	21.79%
Elgin	1.50%	\$255,795	\$200,497	27.58%	\$2,489,967	\$2,280,739	9.17%
Smithville	1.50%	\$55,398	\$43,150	28.38%	\$619,152	\$531,253	16.54%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$559,715	\$434,649	28.77%	\$5,288,877	\$4,433,402	19.29%

- 3) FY20/21 Financial Audit Completed** - The FY20/21 financial audit (conducted by Singleton, Clark & Company) is complete. The annual audit focused on internal financial controls, payroll, employee records, and accounts payable/receivable, etc. The official audit report will be available in April 2022. Cynthia has finalized our FY20/21 budget amendments. Although COVID-19 and the Arctic winter weather expenditures made for a very challenging year, revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$600k on a \$12.4M budget. Approval of the FY20/21 budget amendments will be an item for discussion and action during the October 18, 2021 council meeting.

City Manager Update (10-15-21) – continued

4) **Ameresco Measurement & Verification (M&V) Audit Scheduled** - Ameresco will be conducting our annual Measurement & Verification (M&V) audit to validate the annual savings for each of the Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) associated with our utility infrastructure upgrade during the week of November 12-25, 2021. The audit report will be available in January and will validate the year-to-date project cost savings. The anticipated cost savings over the next 10-years will more than cover the principal and interest associated with the lease/purchase agreement for our “smart meter” infrastructure upgrade. The M&V audit is performed each year and is a requirement of our Ameresco lease/purchase agreement.

5) **2021 Notice-To-Airman (NOTAM) Authorization for Smithville Municipal Airport Submitted** - The City updated its annual Notice-to-Airman (NOTAM) authorization to provide the names and contact phone numbers of the individuals authorized to submit a NOTAM. A NOTAM is a notice filed with an aviation authority to alert aircraft pilots of potential hazards along a flight route or at a location that could affect the safety of the flight. NOTAMs are unclassified notices or advisories that contain information concerning the establishment, conditions or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel and systems concerned with flight operations. NOTAMs are issued (and reported) for a number of reasons, such as:

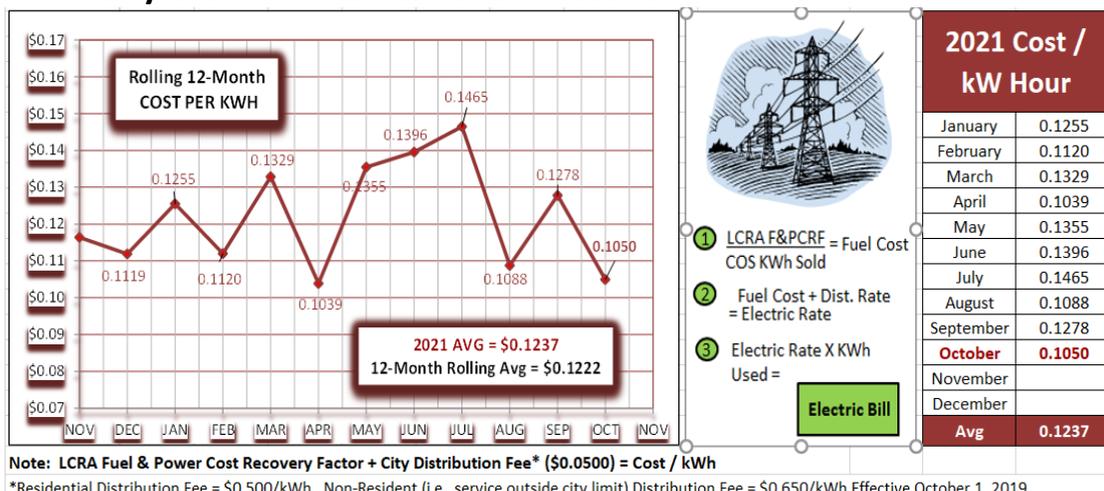
- Hazards such as air shows, parachute jumps, kite flying, lasers, rocket launches, etc.
- Flights by important people such as POTUS (sometimes referred to as Temporary Flight Restrictions, TFRs)
- Closed runways
- Inoperable radio navigational aids
- Military exercises with resulting airspace restrictions
- Inoperable lights on tall obstructions (e.g., beacon)
- Temporary erection of obstacles near airfields (e.g., cranes)

The following individuals have been assigned to assist with establishing, modifying, or cancelling of Class D NOTAMS (Notice-To-Airmen) affecting Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport (identifier 84R), in Smithville, Texas:

- Mr. Sandy Meyerson
- Mr. Mike McKenna
- Mr. JD Casteel

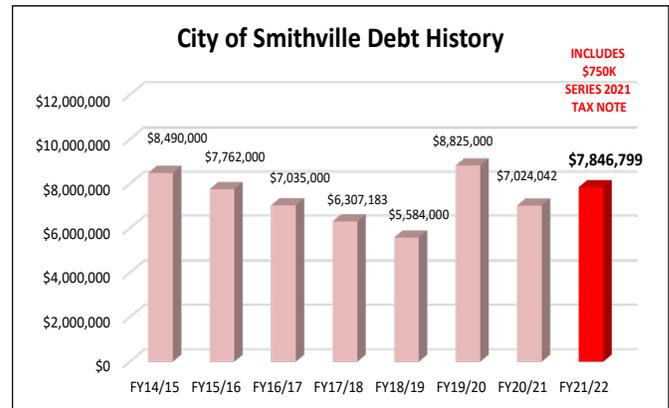
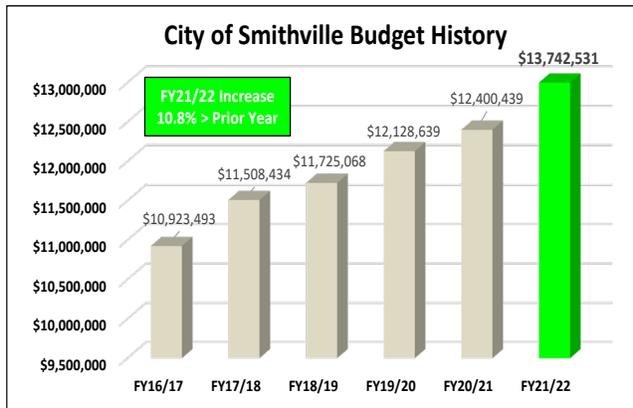
6) **Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** - An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in OCTOBER. LCRA fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon electric utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The LCRA fuel cost for October is \$0.0550/kWh. This represents a **21.93% DECREASE** in fuel cost compared to September’s fuel cost of \$0.0778. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0550 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during OCTOBER will be \$0.1050 per kWh. Below you will find a "rolling" 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart. On average, the cost per kWh for residential electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh – OCTOBER 2021



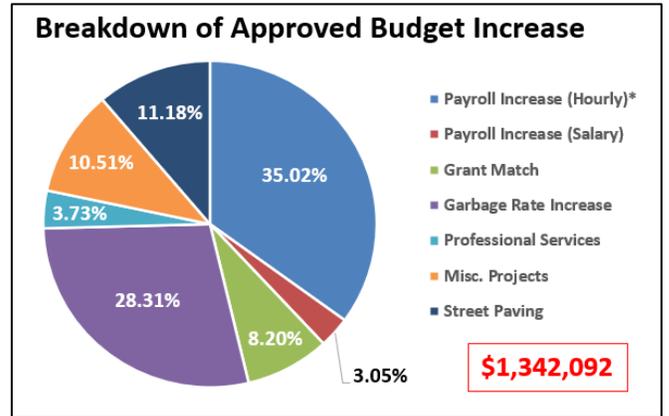
City Manager Update (10-15-21) – continued

7) **City Council Adopts FY21-22 Tax Rate, Budget, and Utility Fees** – On September 13, 2021, the City Council unanimously voted to adopt a \$0.549061 tax rate (same as the previous year) and a \$13,742,531 balanced budget representing a 10.8% INCREASE in spending required to fund an equity adjustment for all hourly employees (\$470k) and cover an increase in solid waste fees (\$380k). This is \$1,342,092 greater than the City’s FY20/21 budget of \$12,400,439. Also in September, the City Council approved the issuance of a \$750k Tax Note to purchase capital equipment for the PD and Public Works department(s). Our current S&P bond rating is “AA-minus”. The additional revenue from issuing a tax note and raising utility rates (e.g., water, sewer, and garbage, etc.) will cover the cost of purchasing capital equipment, grant matches, increasing base wages, and hiring four (4) additional FTE’s. The average cost to homeowners from raising utility rates is \$27 / month. Funds have also been budgeted to enable mowing of over-grown lots, removal of debris associated with condemned property, installation of a new A/V system for the council chambers, seal-coating and re-striping the Rec Center parking lot, expanding Wi-Fi, and installing internal security doors at City Hall. Public services like fire, police, animal control, courts, library, airport, rec center, parks, cemetery, leaf/limb, road repair, street paving, and small drainage projects throughout town will be funded through property taxes, sales tax, permits, and a \$1.325M Utility transfer to the General Fund.



Item	Percent	Cost
Payroll Increase (Hourly)*	35.02%	\$470,000
Payroll Increase (Salary)	3.05%	\$41,000
Grant Match	8.20%	\$110,000
Garbage Rate Increase	28.31%	\$380,000
Professional Services	3.73%	\$50,000
Misc. Projects	10.51%	\$141,092
Street Paving	11.18%	150,000
TOTAL	100.00%	\$1,342,092

* Includes 28% Burden Rate for Benefits + Estimated OT and Part-Time Labor



Description of Fee	Old Rate	New Approved Rate	Estimated Revenue	\$\$\$ Taxpayer Impact / Mo	\$\$\$ Taxpayer Impact / Yr	Comments
Water Meter Base Rate	\$16.50	\$18.00	\$101,669	\$1.50	\$18.00	1845 Active Accounts. Based on average homeowner use of 12,000 gallons / month. Date of last increase - 10/1/17
Water / 1000 Gallons	\$3.10	\$3.50		\$4.00	\$48.00	
Sewer Base Rate	\$10.50	\$15.00	\$102,471	\$4.50	\$54.00	1596 Active Accounts. Based on average homeowner use of 6,000 gallons / month. Date of last increase - 10/1/17
Sewer / 1000 Gallons	\$3.85	\$4.00		\$6.90	\$82.80	
Electric Meter Base Rate	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$206,230	\$5.00	\$60.00	2235 Active Accounts (Includes residential and commercial). Date of last increase - 10/1/14
Garbage Rate	\$33.17	\$38.50	\$125,000	\$5.33	\$63.96	1576 Active Accounts. 2x / wk service, 1x / mo. Bulk + leaf / limb. Date of last increase - 10/1/19
TOTAL			\$535,370	\$27	\$327	

Click on the following link(s) to access the City of Smithville budget workshop presentation(s) →

http://easyedit.ci.smithville.tx.us/filemanager/files/2021_22_City_of_Smithville_Budget_Workshop_1_FINAL.pdf

http://easyedit.ci.smithville.tx.us/filemanager/files/2021_22_City_of_Smithville_Budget_Workshop_2_FINAL_Autosaved_.pdf

City Manager Update (10-15-21) – continued

8) **City of Smithville Employee Health Benefits Open Enrollment Held** – The FY21/22 Health Benefits plan has been finalized and was presented to City employees during open enrollment meetings last month. Aetna will continue serving as our primary medical benefits provider with an overall 7% reduction of our annual premium. On average, benefits account for approximately 28% of an employee’s total compensation (\$12-13k per employee per year). We are among the very few employers that pay 100% of the employee’s benefit cost (i.e., medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, longevity, etc.).

There are several events and/or meetings scheduled the next few weeks:

The next CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held on **Monday, October 18, 2021** at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston) beginning at 6:00 pm. The meeting has been relocated to accommodate early voting at City Hall. Citizens can attend in person or access the meeting via YouTube → (www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w). Click → [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda.

The Smithville Recreation Center will be hosting a FALL FESTIVAL on **Saturday, October 16, 2021** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be live music, face painting, petting zoo, games, craft vendors, and food.

Bastrop County Early Voting BEGINS on **Monday, October 18, 2021**.

On **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**, the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will hold their quarterly luncheon at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (400 Olive) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. City Manager Robert Tamble will give a “State of the City” update. The luncheon is at 12pm and will be held via ZOOM. REGISTER HERE: [CHAMBER QUARTERLY LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 2021 - Oct 27, 2021](#) or call 512-237-2313.

Bastrop County Early Voting ENDS on **Friday, October 29, 2021**.

ELECTION DAY is **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**. Polls will be open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

The next P&Z meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 2, 2021** @ 6:00 pm. The meeting is being held at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston) to accommodate election day voting at City Hall.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Wishing you a HAPPY and SAFE HALLOWEEN.

-- Robert --

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



PHOTOS – 10/15/21

Street Paving / Road Repair



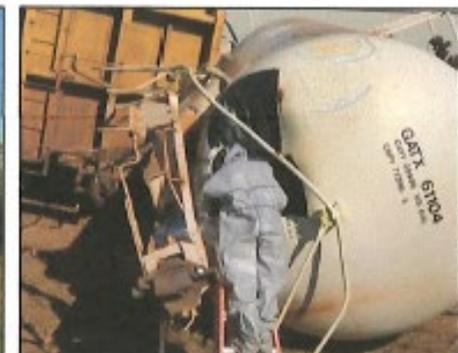
Sidewalk Repair (4th and Olive)

Drainage Improvement - L230

M5 Subdivision Drainage Work



UPRR Hazardous Cargo Train Derailment – 9/26/21



2021 Benefits Enrollment

Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

