

# City Manager Update - 11/8/24

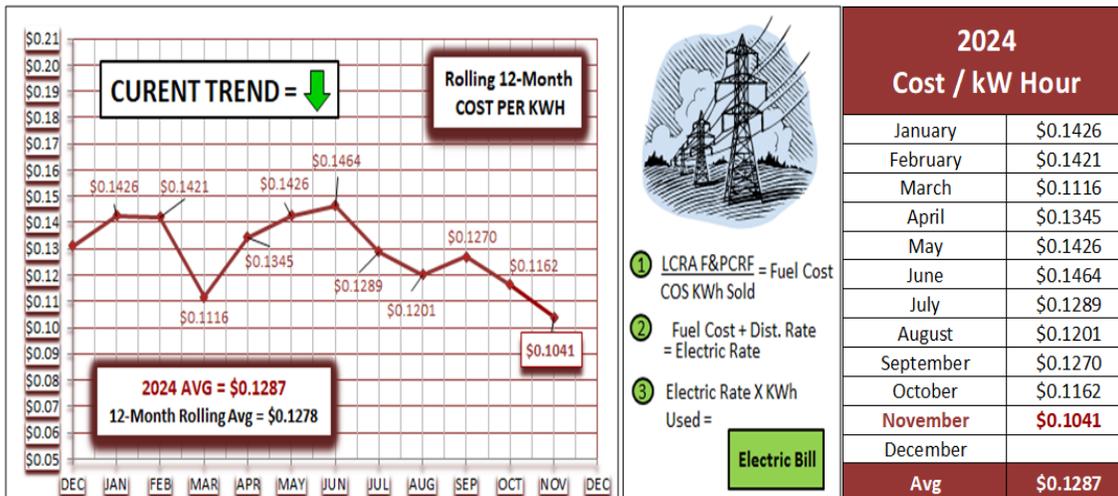
TGIF! I would like to begin this month’s City Manager update by thanking all the law enforcement agencies, firefighters, emergency management personnel, volunteer organizations, and the Smithville Recreation Center staff for their response to the 400-acre Hudson Fire (SEE PHOTOS). As of 11/7/24 the fire is 100% contained. As a reminder, Bastrop County has issued a [BURN BAN](#) in effect until midnight on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

It is hard to believe the Holiday Season is rapidly approaching. Airing of the Quilts, Blue Santa kick-off, [Smithville Reel Film Expo](#), Gingerbread Man adoption, Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving, Festival of Lights, and Christmas will come and go before you know it. As a reminder, City Hall will be closed on **Monday, November 11, 2024** in observance of **Veteran’s Day**. City Hall office hours during the week will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Due to the Holiday, the regularly scheduled City Council meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

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

- 1) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Held** – The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 10 am to 2 pm at City Hall. Approximately 235-lbs of out-of-date prescription drugs / medications were collected and discarded. Special THANKS to Sharlene Scheler, RN and Detective Jad Hubbard of the Smithville Police Department for their efforts (SEE PHOTOS).
- 2) 2025 LCRA “Steps Forward Day” Project Application Submitted** – The City of Smithville submitted our 2025 “Steps Forward Day” project application(s) to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for consideration. Volunteers from LCRA will gather on Friday, April 11, 2025, to work on community projects throughout LCRA’s service territory. Examples of potential projects include cleaning parks, painting pavilions, planting trees or doing carpentry work. Last year, LCRA volunteers repainted all of the ornamental lights in the downtown area. This year (if selected), LCRA volunteers will repaint the interior of the restrooms at Riverbend Park. A second project being considered is to repaint / restripe the parking lot and wrought-iron fence at the Rec Center. The city will provide the supplies and equipment necessary to support the project(s) with LCRA providing the manpower (typically 20-25 volunteers). The City of Smithville is fortunate to have LCRA as a community partner. Programs like Steps Forward and the Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) have definitely made a positive impact.
- 3) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** - An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in NOVEMBER. Fuel cost per kWh vary month to month and are based upon electric utility generation, transmission, line loss, unmetered sales, and service fees. The fuel cost per kWh for November is \$0.04911. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0550, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during NOVEMBER will be \$0.1041. This represents an **10.38% DECREASE** compared to October's \$0.1162 cost/kWh. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas has published cold weather energy-savings tips → <https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/Save.aspx>. 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 – NOVEMBER 2024



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 – 11/8/24 (Continued)

- 4) **Wastewater Rates - Three Month Winter Water Averaging Begins December 1<sup>st</sup>** - Wastewater rates in Smithville are set by using a three (3) month “winter” water use average between DECEMBER and FEBRUARY. You can reduce your monthly wastewater (sewer) bill by conserving water during these months. In the event that the monthly water usage for any month is less than the computed "winter water average," the lesser of the two shall be used as the basis for calculating the wastewater bill. Residential customers pay a \$15.00 sewer base rate per month and \$4.00 sewer fee per 1000 gallons of water used. Cut back on water use between December and February and let the savings begin! For a list of all utility rates in Smithville, click on the following link → <https://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/175/Rates>.
- 5) **Miscellaneous Projects and Plans / Work-in-Progress** – The following projects and plans are a small sampling of what is being supported by multiple city staff members:
- a. Supported Comp Plan meetings and initiatives;
  - b. Hired Utilities / Public Works Maintenance Worker;
  - c. Completed installation of 10,000-gallon fuel tank at the airport;
  - d. Submitted Enclave construction plans for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party compliance review;
  - e. Submitted SWTC construction plans for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party compliance review;
  - f. Entered into 90-day earnest money contract(s) for the purchase of three (3) aircraft hangars;
  - g. Received [DRAFT Public Protection Classification Summary Report](#) from ISO (Current rating is 5.0 - unchanged);
  - h. Provided administrative approval of preliminary plat (replat) of Enclave Subdivision - (Item will go before the P&Z and Council for approval in December);
  - i. Completed review of construction plans and issued permit for CARTS remodel on Loop 230;
  - j. Approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for AOI Internation, Inc. rooftop HVAC units;
  - k. Coordinating voluntary annexation of Born-Again Emporium (BAE) and developing Service Plan;
  - l. Completed dozer work and removal of mulch from brush dump - (Brush dump remains CLOSED to the public. However, the city is picking up leaf and limbs again per the following schedule → [LEAF & LIMB MAP](#));
  - m. Submitted pre-application to GLO for \$5M in Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program funding for WWTF;
  - n. Researching funding mechanism(s) for WWTF expansion (e.g., PID, TWDB grants, DRRP, Impact Fees);
  - o. Completed installation of new security door in the lobby of City Hall for controlled access;
  - p. Held kick-off meeting for implementation of city ERP/CRM.
- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for November 2024 vs. November 2023 (retail sales made primarily in September). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for November was \$86,492. This represents a slight **INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Total year-to-date payments are \$819,934. Given historical shopping trends associated with the Holiday Season, I am projecting we will finish the calendar year somewhere between \$880-900k which represents a 2.5% Y-O-Y increase in local sales tax revenue. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

### Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - November 2024

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2024 Payments To Date	2023 Payments	% Change
<b>Bastrop</b>	1.50%	\$979,392	\$1,021,968	-4.16%	\$11,523,527	\$11,254,473	2.39%
<b>Elgin</b>	1.50%	\$346,433	\$337,348	2.69%	\$3,865,475	\$3,509,772	10.13%
<b>Smithville</b>	1.50%	\$86,492	\$86,236	0.29%	\$819,934	\$803,886	1.99%
<b>Bastrop County</b>	0.50%	\$770,639	\$701,687	9.82%	\$8,093,690	\$7,648,212	5.82%

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

The annual **Airing of the Quilts and Historic Home Tour** will be held on **Saturday, November 9, 2024** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Some of the quilts on display will be for sale. There will also be a quilt raffle. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Contact the Chamber at 512-237-2313 with any questions.

City Hall will be closed **Monday, November 11, 2024** in observance of Veteran’s Day.

## City Manager Update – 11/8/24 (Continued)

**VFW Post 1309** is hosting their annual Veteran's event in Smithville on **Monday, November 11, 2024**. The Ladies Auxiliary will have a raffle and cake walk. The ceremony starts at 11:00 am followed by a Chili or Stew meal that is FREE to the public. SHS Athletic Director Lance Neumann is the speaker.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for **6:00 pm Tuesday, November 12, 2024** at City Hall. Click for [AGENDA](#).

There will be a Special-Called City Council Meeting / Workshop on **Thursday, November 14, 2024** from 5:30-7:30 pm at City Hall to review the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Expansion Study final report. The Council will also be reviewing the Boards & Commissions Handbook and Ethics Policy. Click the following for [AGENDA](#).

The [Smithville Reel Film Expo](#) will be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2024**.

The Smithville Police Department, the Chamber of Commerce, and First National Bank invite you to kick-off the Smithville Holiday Season during the [Blue Santa Chamber Mixer](#) on **Thursday, November 21, 2024** from 5-7 p.m. at 312 Main Street. Cash donations can be made at the event or at the Smithville PD.

The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for all City personnel on **Thursday, November 21, 2024** at 11:00 am. Turkey, dressing, and all the fixings (including homemade desserts) will be prepared and served to show appreciation to all City employees. Councilmembers are also invited to attend. The FUMC has sponsored this event for over a decade and the City of Smithville is truly thankful for their effort(s). **NOTE: City Hall will be CLOSED from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm** to allow employees to enjoy the event.

The Smithville Recreation Center is sponsoring a [TURKEY TROT](#) on Saturday, **November 30, 2024** at 8:30 am.

The P&Z Commission will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024** (from 6:00 to 7:00 pm) at Smithville City Hall.

**Friday, December 6, 2024** is the Smithville VFD Christmas Party. They are having it in the Pavilion at Riverbend Park. Social starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00 pm. Councilmembers are invited to attend.

The [33rd Annual Festival of Lights](#) and Indoor / Outdoor Arts & Crafts Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7, 2024** on Main Street and at the Recreation Center (106 Royston) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Below you will find the City of Smithville Holiday schedule. This information will be communicated on our City website, Facebook Page, and inside the November / December Utility Bill in the message section. In addition, we will post notices on the doors of City Hall one week in advance of the scheduled Holiday.

### THANKSGIVING:

- Wednesday, November 27th – (Close at Noon)
- Thursday, November 28th – Holiday
- Friday, November 29th - Holiday

### CHRISTMAS:

- Tuesday, December 24th – (Close at Noon)
- Wednesday, December 25th – Holiday
- Thursday, December 26th – Holiday

### NEW YEARS:

- Wednesday, January 1st – Holiday

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend and be sure to THANK a Veteran for their service!

--- Robert ---



# PHOTOS – 11/8/24

## 400-Acre Hudson Fire



## Rec Center Staff Opening Shelter for Evacuees



## Clara Beckett w/ Nim Kidd (TDEM)



## NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Drainage, Sidewalk, and ADA Ramp Project



## Hannibal Book Signing @ SPL



## 2024 Drug Take-Back



## Fuel Tank Installation @ 84R

