

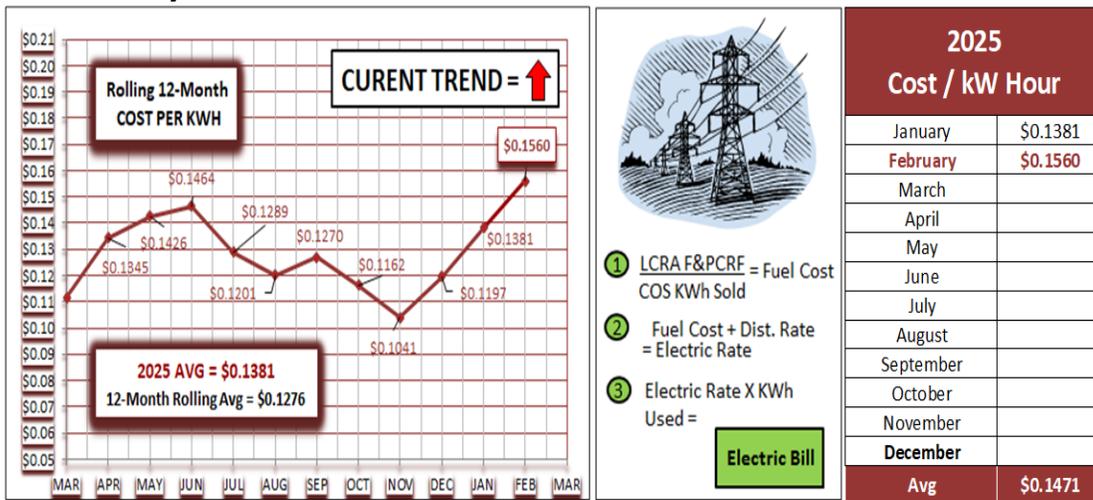
City Manager Update – 2/7/25

With less than a month to go, Smithville is leading the competition in the “Extra Small Community” category (population < 5,000) for the “2025 IT'S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE”. Stockdale (population 1,435) is currently in 1st place and proving to be a worthy adversary. Each year, Texans compete in the free, state-wide competition to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living. The winning community in each size category will receive recognition for their health-related efforts, along with a trophy, school district banner, and Governor's certificate. Approximately 90 community members from Smithville have registered to participate. Thanks to all who are currently participating in this competition with a special shout out to the City of Smithville “Avengers”. The City of Smithville has won this competition the past seven (7) consecutive years and we are trying for Lucky #8. If you have not yet registered, there is still time to participate → Go to <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com/> and join the challenge!

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, activities, issues, events, and/or future plans since my last report:

- 1) Wastewater Rates - Three Month Winter Water Averaging Ends February 28th** - 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>.
- 2) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event Held** - The City of Smithville partnered with the City of Bastrop, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Bastrop County, and Lee County to hold a used tire and electronics recycling event at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street in Smithville from 9:00 am to noon. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this a successful event!!! Approximately 8,000 lbs. of used electronic equipment and 350+ used tires were collected. The next HHW collection event for disposal of paint, chemicals, and pesticides is scheduled for March 15, 2025.
- 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 FEBRUARY. 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 February is \$0.1010. There were six (6) days of below freezing weather in January which increased overall demand and consumption. Adding the city's distribution fee of \$0.0550, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during FEBRUARY will be \$0.1560 per kWh. This represents a **12.95% INCREASE** compared to January’s cost per kWh of \$0.1381. Generally speaking, it costs more to heat a residence than it does to cool it as there is a greater outdoor temperature difference to make up to achieve what most folks consider “comfortable” inside....68°F in winter and 78°F in summer. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas has published energy-savings tips on their website → <https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/Save.aspx>.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh - FEBRUARY



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 – 2/7/25 (continued)

- 4) **Smithville City Council and Smithville ISD Candidate Filing / Election Schedule** – Smithville City Council and Smithville ISD candidate filing for the upcoming May 3, 2025 general election began Wednesday, January 15, 2025. New and incumbent candidates interested in filing to run for Smithville City Council or the SISD School Board can pick up a candidate packet at City Hall or the SISD Administration building respectively. The deadline to file is February 14, 2025 at 5:00 pm. See below for current list of incumbents (by place). A list of candidates, polling locations, voting times, and sample ballots will be available on the bastropvotes.org website once candidate filing is complete.

	Position	Candidate	Term Lenth	Term Expires	Election Type	Candidate Status
City of Smithville	Alderman - Place 1	Tyrone Washington	2-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Alderman - Place 2	Tom Etheredge	2-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Alderman - Place 3	Jimmy Jenkins	2-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
SISD	Trustee - Place 5	Josh Magden	3-Years	May 2025	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Trustee - Place 6	Candice Parsons	3-Years	May 2025	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Trustee - Place 7	Michael Hancock	3-Years	May 2025	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger

- 5) **2023-24 Fiscal Year Financial Audit Scheduled** – The FY23-24 financial audit will begin **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**. Last year, the City received a “clean” financial audit for our prior fiscal year’s performance confirming compliance with government accounting standards. The focus of the audit will be on internal financial controls, payroll, procurement, HR, accounts payable, and accounts receivable, etc. Multiple federal, state, and local grants for infrastructure improvements have triggered the requirement to conduct a single audit. The Code of Federal Register Regulations (CFR), Title 2, Chapter II, Part 200, Subparts A through F requires Federal grant recipients to submit a Single Audit report if, in the fiscal year, \$750,000 or more was expended in Federal Grant Awards (all sources combined). Approximately \$2.3M in federal and state grants were awarded to the City of Smithville during 2024 for sidewalks, drainage improvements, TDA Innovation Center, GLO Comprehensive Plan, and ARPA funding. The results of the annual financial audit will be presented by Jack Clark (Singleton & Clark) during the April 14, 2025 Council meeting.
- 6) **Smithville SEE/CLICK/FIX Issue Reporting Platform Reminder** - SeeClickFix is a user-friendly, cloud-based platform that gives citizens the ability to “connect” with City Hall through a variety of means. Citizens can report issues (e.g., pothole, broken street light, etc.) using their smartphones, Facebook, and/or the City website. The system automatically documents the location via GPS coordinates and creates a work order that is routed to the department responsible for resolving the issue and completing the work. Citizens can also forward photos of the issue to the City. The platform has been tailored to track closure status, work order aging, location, and type of issue being reported. This partnership not only allows Smithville citizens to report problems, but also to view, comment on, and vote to fix problems submitted by their neighbors. Citizens can even create their own “watch areas” to receive

notifications about all the issues reported in their community, enabling them to follow the progress of all service requests — not just the ones they report. The SeeClickFix app also keeps citizens engaged during the process by communicating what steps have been (or will be taken) to resolve the issue while providing links to other important information like City News, Calendar, and Utilities. The SeeClickFix mobile app is available for download on Android → [SeeClickFix-ANDROID](#) and iPhone → [SeeClickFix-iPHONE](#). In addition to the mobile apps, citizens can send reports to the City website. SeeClickFix provides a reliable issue(s) reporting / work order platform to enhance citizen engagement and improve operational efficiency.

SeeClickFix Overview

WHAT:

- Platform for Citizens to Report Issues using Smart Phone
- Low Cost Solution – (subscription fee)
- Create, Assign, Process, and Track Work Orders

BENEFITS:

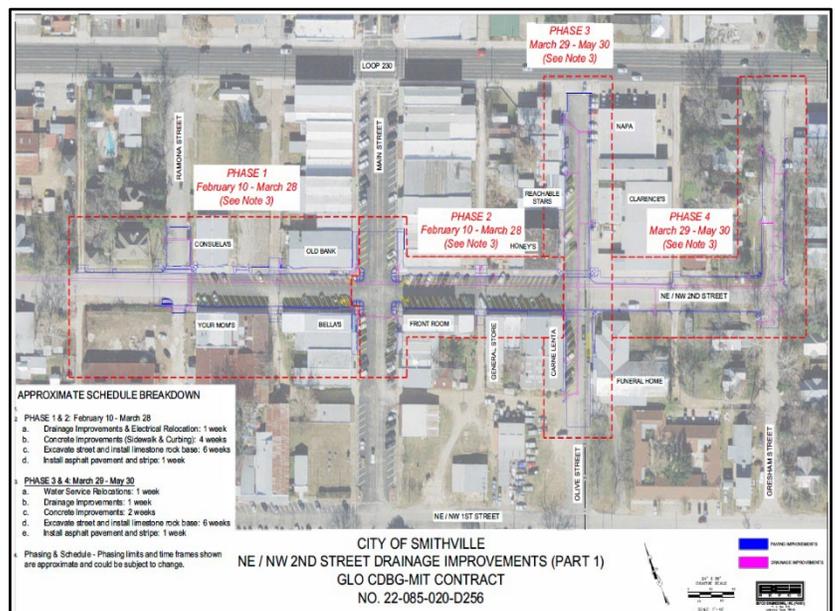
- Increase Productivity / Efficiency
- Enhance Customer Service

HOW:

- Partner with SCF to Customize platform for City Use

City Manager Update – 2/7/25 (continued)

- 7) **NW / NE 2nd Street Drainage Project Update** – The NW/NE 2nd drainage project is progressing nicely and is 65% complete. Below you will find a detailed breakdown of the remaining work to be done:
- The existing 6-inch (6”) waterline at the intersection of Gresham and 2nd Street will be relocated due to conflict with the proposed storm sewer. Once the 6” waterline is relocated, the remaining storm sewer improvements at the intersection of Gresham and 2nd will be completed. At this time, it is anticipated these storm sewer improvements will be complete by February 14th. Once complete, the only storm sewer improvements remaining will be 1 grate inlet and 50 LF of storm sewer at the intersection of Main and 2nd Street (see below).
 - Street re-construction will start on February 10th. Street re-construction will begin between Ramona and Main. To expedite installation of the street re-construction, 2nd Street and the portion of Ramona Street between Katy House and Consuela’s will be closed. WJC shall notify adjacent property owners and coordinate schedule with the City so that notices may be provided to the police department and public. Street re-construction during this time will include excavation, subgrade preparation, and installation of limestone rock base. Once the limestone rock base is installed, the street will be re-opened. Installation of asphalt pavement will not occur until excavation, subgrade preparation, and installation of limestone rock base occurs at both the Main Street intersection and the portion of 2nd Street between Main and Olive.
 - Once the section between Ramona and Main is complete (with limestone rock base), street re-construction will occur at the intersection of Main and 2nd Street. To expedite installation of the street re-construction, the intersection will be closed. WJC shall notify adjacent property owners and coordinate schedule with the City so that notices may be provided to the police department and public. Street re-construction during this time will include excavation, subgrade preparation, and installation of limestone rock base. Once the limestone rock base is installed, the intersection will be re-opened. In addition to the street re-construction, remaining drainage improvements will be completed (1 inlet and 50 LF of storm sewer), sidewalks at the southeast side of the intersection will be demolished and re-constructed, and curb ramps at all four corners of the intersection will be installed. Additionally, electrical conduit for the street lights will be relocated as required. The City will provide the electrical conduit and WJC will install. Upon installation of the conduit, the City will install all wiring. WJC shall coordinate the electrical with the City.
 - Upon completion of the street re-construction at the intersection of Main and 2nd, street re-construction will occur along 2nd Street between Main and Olive. To expedite installation of the street re-construction, 2nd Street will be closed in this area. WJC shall notify adjacent property owners and coordinate schedule with the City so that notices may be provided to the police department and public. Street re-construction during this time will include excavation, subgrade preparation, and installation of limestone rock base. Once the limestone rock base is installed, the street will be re-opened.
 - Upon completion of the street re-construction above, asphalt pavement will be installed in the three areas. It’s anticipated asphalt pavement installation will take 2-3 days to complete and cure. During this time, the streets will be closed. WJC shall notify adjacent property owners and coordinate schedule with the City so that notices may be provided to the police department and public. Once the asphalt pavement is installed, striping of the parking spaces will occur. It is not anticipated any closures will be required for the striping. Upon completion of the striping, areas along 2nd Street will be identified for installation of step handrail from street to sidewalk.



City Manager Update – 2/7/25 (continued)

- 8) **Downtown Road Closure Notice** – WJC Constructors, LLC will begin street renovation on NW 2nd Street from Ramona to Main Street on **Monday, February 10, 2025** through **Friday, February 21, 2025**. This will require closure of the streets (intersections) indicated below to ensure the SAFETY of all involved. Several key points to mention:

1. Sidewalk will remain OPEN at all times.
2. If Contractor is able to install a portion of gravel base by 5:00 pm on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, then the street will be re-opened except at Main for the weekend and CLOSED again on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th until full installation of gravel base. NW 2nd will not be re-opened if there is no gravel base (weather dependent).
3. Access along NW 2nd and the intersection of MAIN will remain CLOSED for the duration of the street closure.
4. Schedule is approximate and subject to change depending upon the weather.

See project details in Item #7 above. Contact City Hall on 512-237-3282 if you have any questions.



- 9) **2024 – 2025 Façade Improvement Grants** – The 2024-2025 Façade Improvement grant is a collaboration between the City of Smithville and the Smithville Chamber of Commerce. The program is structured as a 50/50 matching grant for improvements to the exterior of commercial properties within the city limits of Smithville, Texas. The intent of the program is to:

- Encourage commercial property owners to make visible improvements to their businesses;
- Enhance the unique character and aesthetic appearance of commercial properties;
- Promote and maintain the architectural beauty of commercial properties in the downtown commercial district.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of eligible expenses up to \$1,000.00 upon satisfactory completion of the work, which must be completed by **March 31, 2025**. The city provided the grant and the Chamber managed the project. Seven businesses in the city were awarded a portion of the \$5,000 grant. They were Main Street Gifts, Ralph-Land Realty, Molly Todd Realty, Woodwise Construction, Southern Direct Primary Care, Serenity Star, and Golden Girls Boutique.

- 10) **“Southside Pride” History Project** - Consultant Alta Yevett Alexander will be working with Jose Rivera and Jill Strube to establish a program highlighting the important historic locations, activities, and people of Smithville's Southside neighborhood (timeframe: January 15-April 15). The project is called “Southside Pride”. Ms. Alexander held her first Southside Pride public meeting on Thursday, February 6th. The meeting was well attended and the 30+ participants



were very engaged. She provided four options to the community as a starting point, and they chose to begin with the Historic Preservation/Design Standards Advisory Committee's "City Marker" program. They have identified two buildings for the first two markers (Mary A. Brown Primary School and Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church), and will develop a list of the suggestions that came from the meeting to send out as a survey to see which other locations will move forward with this effort. The City has allocated some funds to go towards about three markers, and several participants are willing to provide additional funds for more markers as necessary. Jose may also start a campaign on "See My Legacy" once they determine how many additional markers they will want. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled, but is anticipated to be within about two weeks given the short timeframe for Alta's contract. In the meantime, t-shirts and hoodies are being sold to market the initiative.

City Manager Update – 2/7/25 (continued)

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

The next CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on **Monday, February 10, 2025** at City Hall. Click on the following link for the [AGENDA](#) and [DATA PACKAGE](#).

Valentines Day is **Friday, February 14, 2024**.

The deadline to file for City Council and/or SISD School Board elections is 5:00 pm **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

City Offices will be CLOSED on **Monday, February 17, 2025** in observance of President's Day.

The CHAMBER OF COMMERCE QUARTERLY LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025** at the VFW Post (557 NW Loop 230) from 11:15 to 1:00 pm. The guest speaker will be City of Smithville City Manager Robert Tamble who will be providing an update on the "State-of-the-City".

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

--Robert--

Happy
VALENTINE'S
—>>> **DAY** <<<—


— **HAPPY** —
PRESIDENT'S
★ ★ ★ **DAY** ★ ★ ★
—

PHOTOS – 2/9/24

Bastrop County HHW Used Tire and Electronic Recycling Event



Byrne Street Residential House Fire – SVFD Response



January 2025 Arctic Blast



2025 ITT Community Challenge Leaderboard – As of 2/9/25



Leaderboard: Commun...			
MY COMMUNITY EXTRA SMALL			ALL
1st	S	Stockdale	593,075 points >
2nd	S	Smithville	583,075 points >
3rd	H	Hardin	346,325 points >
4th	MA	Monte Alto	216,525 points >



Smithville Innovation Center Construction – 404 Fawcett



Golden Girls Façade Grant

