

City Manager Update – 10/14/22

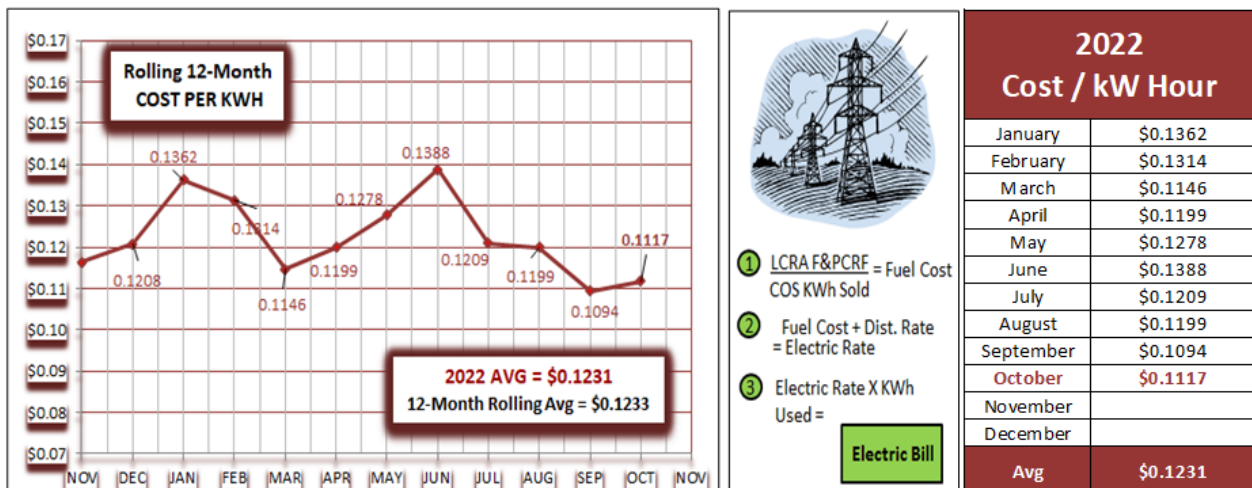
Daylight Saving time will end at 2:00 am on **Sunday, November 6, 2022**. Be sure to change your clocks. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”. It’s also a good time to change out the batteries in your smoke detectors. Most areas of the United States observe daylight saving time, the exceptions being Arizona, Hawaii, and the overseas territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 established the system of uniform daylight savings time throughout the US. Click on the following link for more information → https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time. Whether you are a fan of daylight savings time or not.....I’m looking forward to the extra hour of sleep!

Early voting for the 2022 General Election will be held at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Gazley) and will began on **Monday, October 24, 2022** and end on **Friday, November 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm**. Election Day is on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. 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 8th, 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. Also, click on the following link for a sample ballot → [2022 General Election Sample Ballot - Bastrop County](#).

Below you will find a list of significant accomplishments, events, and activities since my last update:

- 1) City of Smithville to Receive \$17k from the Texas Opioid Abatement Class Action Settlement** – On October 18, 2021, the City Council unanimously voted to approve Resolution # 2021-10-479 to participate in the \$26 billion-dollar National Opioids Settlement whereby the City of Smithville will receive \$17,009 in compensation. Funds should be deposited before the end of the calendar year. As part of Senate Bill 1827 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2021, the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund (“the Trust Fund”) was established to receive opioid abatement litigation settlement proceeds and to make distributions to Trust Fund recipients. The \$1.6 billion Trust Fund is made up of payments received by the state from settlements against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other parties subject to a civil action for an opioid-related harm associated with the marketing, promotion, distribution, dispensation, or sale of opioids. Additional details about the statewide opioid settlement initiatives can be found here: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/opioid-council/>
- 2) 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 \$0.0617/kWh. This represents a **3.87% INCREASE** in fuel cost compared to September’s fuel cost of \$0.0594. Adding the City’s distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA’s \$0.0617 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during OCTOBER will be \$0.1117 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 2022



City Manager Update - 10/14/22 (continued)

- 3) **FY21/22 Financial Audit Completed** - The FY21/22 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 2023. Cynthia has finalized our FY21/22 budget amendments. Revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$295k on a \$13.7M budget (this is within 2% of commit “to the good”). These “extra” funds will be added to our FY22/23 reserve account. Approval of the FY21/22 budget amendments will be an item for discussion/action during the October 17, 2022 council meeting.
- 4) **2022 Notice-To-Airman (NOTAM) Authorization for Smithville Municipal Airport Submitted** - The City updated its annual FAA 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 for refurbishment / repairs
 - 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)

Sandy Meyerson, Mike McKenna, and JD Casteel have been assigned and have agreed to assist the Airport Manager with establishing, modifying, or cancelling of Class D NOTAMS (Notice-To-Airmen) affecting Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport (identifier 84R), in Smithville, Texas.

- 5) **City of Smithville Employee Health Benefits Open Enrollment Held** – The FY22/23 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 4% increase in our annual premium. On average, benefits account for approximately 28% of an employee’s total compensation (\$9-12k per employee per year). We are among the very few employers that pay 100% of the employee’s benefit cost (i.e., medical, dental, short-term disability, longevity, etc.).
- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for October 2022 vs. October 2021 (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 \$69,994. This represents a **26.34% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Total year-to-date payments are \$739,515 or 19.44% higher than 2021. 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 \$70k in sales tax revenue, approximately \$4,65,000 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 2022

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2022 Payments To Date	2021 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$954,398	\$830,741	14.88%	\$9,426,041	\$8,192,289	15.05%
Elgin	1.50%	\$298,167	\$255,795	16.56%	\$2,966,483	\$2,489,967	19.13%
Smithville	1.50%	\$69,994	\$55,398	26.34%	\$739,516	\$619,152	19.44%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$635,213	\$559,715	13.48%	\$6,509,243	\$5,288,877	23.07%

City Manager Update - 10/14/22 (continued)

- 7) **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 14-18, 2022. 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 9-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.
- 8) **Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management Issues BURN BAN** - A BURN BAN for Bastrop County will be in effect from Tuesday, October 11, 2022 until Monday, October 24, 2022. State law prohibits outdoor burning at this time. For more information on outdoor burning, go to https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.outdoor_burning.

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

The next CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held on **Monday, October 17, 2022** at City Hall (317 Main) beginning at 6:00 pm. Click → [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda.

The Smithville Recreation Center will be hosting their annual [FALL FESTIVAL](#) on **Saturday, October 15, 2022** from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be live music, face painting, petting zoo, games, craft vendors, and food.

The next HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) collection event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 22, 2022** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at 109 Taylor Street in Smithville. This is a PAINT ONLY event. Must have voucher to participate. Click on the following link for more information -> https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/ds.household_waste

Bastrop County Early Voting BEGINS on **Monday, October 24, 2022**.

The next CHAMBER OF COMMERCE QUARTERLY LUNCHEON will be held at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (400 Olive) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on **Wednesday, October 26, 2022**. Smithville Superintendent Cheryl Burns will give an update on the Smithville ISD. REGISTER HERE: [CHAMBER QUARTERLY LUNCHEON](#) or call 512-237-2313.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY will be held on **Saturday, October 29, 2022** from 10 am to 2 pm at City Hall. Out of date prescription drugs (or drugs you are no longer taking) will be collected and discarded. For questions or information contact Sharlene Scheler RN Wesley Nurse at 210-259-3733 or e-mail at sscheler@mhm.org.

The next P&Z meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 1, 2022 @** at City Hall (6:00 pm).

Bastrop County Early Voting ENDS on **Friday, November 4, 2022**.

Daylight Savings Time **ENDS @** 2:00 am Sunday, **November 6, 2022**.

ELECTION DAY is **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**. Polls will be open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

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

-- Robert --

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



PHOTOS – 10/14/22

2022/23 CITY OF SMITHVILLE EMPLOYEE BENEFITES / OPEN ENROLLMENT



NEW HANGAR CONSTRUCTION @ SMITHVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

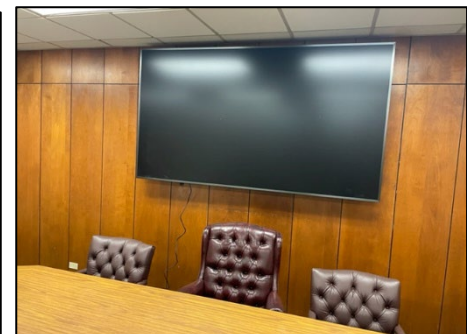
TFS Fire-fighting Team @ 84R



ADA-COMPLIANT MULCH INSTALLATION AT THE RAILROAD PARK PLAYGROUND



A/V SYSTEM INSTALLATION - CITY HALL



DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT @ Hwy 95 and NW 2ND Street

