

City Manager Update (10-16-20)

TGIF! The cooler weather has been a welcome change that will hopefully bring a little relief from mosquitos and high utility bills. Various infrastructure improvement projects are currently underway that include city-wide water tower and ground storage tank refurbishment, sealcoating and restriping of Main Street, sidewalk repairs, and miscellaneous drainage improvements. (SEE PHOTOS)

Early voting at City Hall began on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and will end on Friday, October 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Voter turnout has been very good in Smithville with approximately 1500 ballots cast during the first four (4) days of early voting. There are 52,122 registered voters in Bastrop County. Smithville has approximately 8,345 registered voters (including the school district). Election Day is on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Here is a link to the Bastrop County votes website → <https://www.bastropvotes.org/> for more information about the voting schedule, candidates, and polling locations. Sample ballots are also available by Precinct. Please note that you can early vote at any of locations listed no matter which Precinct you reside. However, if you wait until Election Day on November 3, 2020, you must vote at the Precinct location where you are registered.

Daylight Saving time will end at 2:00 am on **Sunday, November 1, 2020**. 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 “Five Weird Effects of Daylight Saving Time” → <https://www.livescience.com/40903-daylight-saving-time-affects-your-body.html>. Whether you are a fan of daylight savings time or not.....I’m looking forward to the extra hour of sleep!

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

- 1) **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 October 19-23, 2020. The audit report will be available in December 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.
- 2) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for October 2020 vs. October 2019 (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 \$43,150. This represents a **6.38% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. The City of Smithville is slightly behind Elgin with the second highest year-to-date change (13.12%) among the three municipalities in the County. Total year-to-date payments are \$531,253. 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 \$43k in sales tax revenue, approximately \$2,875,000 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 2020

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2020 Payments To Date	2019 Payments To Date	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$684,402	\$623,238	9.81%	\$6,726,211	\$6,297,883	6.80%
Elgin	1.50%	\$200,497	\$197,961	1.28%	\$2,280,739	\$1,772,457	28.67%
Smithville	1.50%	\$43,150	\$40,562	6.38%	\$531,253	\$469,628	13.12%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$434,649	\$388,137	11.98%	\$4,433,402	\$3,891,448	13.92%

City Manager Update (10-16-20) – continued

3) FY19/20 Financial Audit Completed - The FY19/20 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 March 2021. Cynthia has finalized our FY19/20 budget amendments. Although lower utility revenues and COVID-19 expenditures made for a very challenging year, revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$270k on a \$12.1M budget. Approval of the FY19/20 budget amendments will be an item for discussion and action during the October 19, 2020 council meeting.

4) 2020 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:

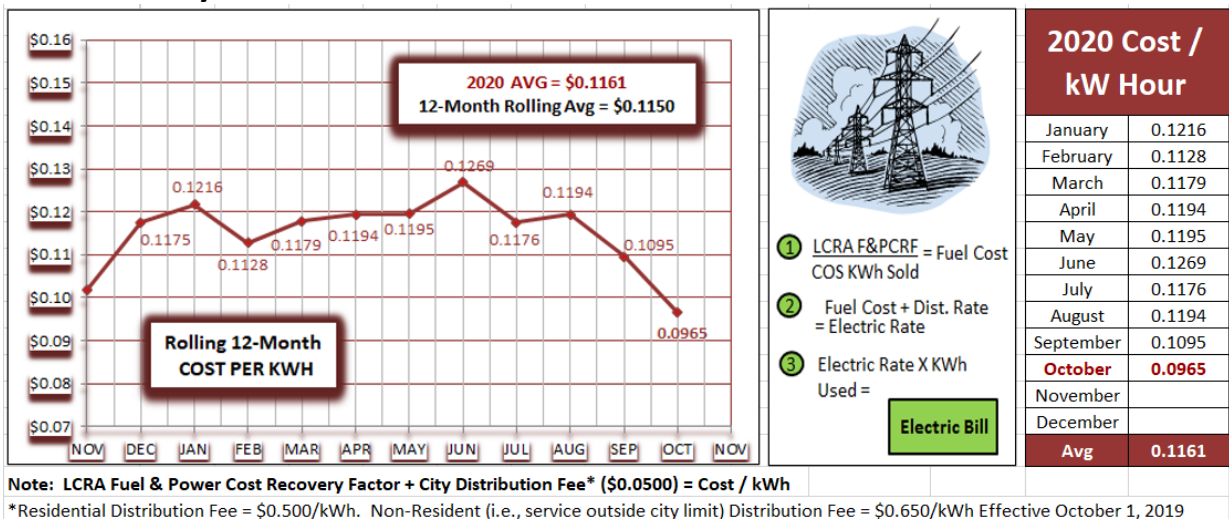
- Hazards such as air shows, parachute jumps, kite flying, lasers, rocket launches, etc.
- Flights by important people such as POTUS (sometimes referred to as Temporary Flight Restrictions, TFRs)
- Closed runways
- Inoperable radio navigational aids
- Military exercises with resulting airspace restrictions
- 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

5) 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 \$0.04645/kWh. This represents a **21.93% DECREASE** in fuel cost compared to September's fuel cost of \$0.0595. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0465 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during OCTOBER will be \$0.0965 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 11-12 cents.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh – OCTOBER 2020



City Manager Update (10-16-20) – continued

- 6) **St. David's Foundation "Parks With a Purpose" Project Update - MLK Playground Installation** – Earlier this year, the St. David's Foundation awarded the City of Smithville a \$100,000 grant for outdoor fitness equipment, sunshade, a water fountain, an adult/child swing, and swing designed for wheelchairs, as well as funding for program "Activation" through a partnership with the SISD ACE After School program. The goal of this project is to provide new all-abilities, inter-generational playground equipment, and more opportunities to encourage the community to go to MLK park for healthy activities outside. Installation of the new playground equipment and shade structure began last week. Pending any weather delays the project should be completed by the end of the month. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 7) **Smithville Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) New Officers Sworn-In** – Jennifer Lynch (City Secretary) and Robert Tamble (City Manager) participated in a ceremony to administer the pre-oath and oath of office for the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief(s), President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Smithville Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD). The officers serve one-year terms and are elected by the SVFD membership. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and professional group of individuals who volunteer to help keep our community safe. (SEE PHOTOS)

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

The next CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held on **Monday, October 19, 2020** via Zoom beginning at 6:00 pm. Citizens can access the meeting via YouTube → (www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVkJ4zWV9EvKcH5w). Click → [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda.

On **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**, the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is hosting a VIRTUAL LUNCHEON with their continued "State of..." Series. City Manager Robert Tamble will give a "State of the City" update. The luncheon is at 12pm and will be held via ZOOM. Click on the following link to Register → <https://business.smithvilletx.org/events/details/chamber-virtual-luncheon-series-october-2020-virtual-via-zoom-6357>

Bastrop County Early Voting ENDS on **Friday, October 30, 2020**

The Smithville CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will be holding their 2nd ANNUAL HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR downtown on **Saturday, October 31, 2020**. Businesses will hand out pre-bagged candy to kiddos wearing masks and following all safety requirements. Contact the Chamber for more info at 512-237-2313 or if you'd like to hand out candy or sponsor this event. Many thanks to First National Bank as the TITLE SPONSOR.

Daylight Savings Time ENDS **November 1, 2020** @ 2:00 am.

ELECTION DAY is **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Polls will be open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

The next P&Z meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 3, 2020** @ 6:00 pm via ZOOM.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Wishing you and yours a HAPPY and SAFE HALLOWEEN. As always, I am available by cell phone. Have a great weekend!

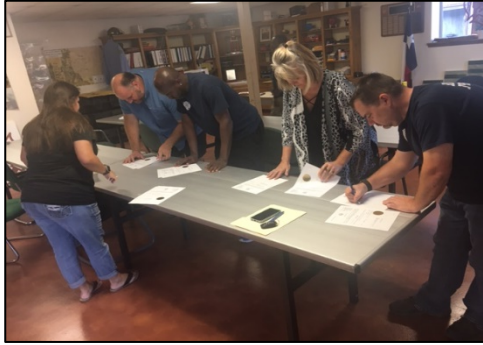
-- Robert --

PHOTOS – 10/16/20

Crack-fill, Sealcoat, and Re-stripping of Main Street and NW/NE 2nd Street



Smithville VFD Officer Swearing-In Ceremony @ Fire Station 1



Early Voting @ City Hall



Elevated Water Storage Tank Refurbishment, Sand-blasting, and Repainting



MLK Park Playground Equipment & Shade Structure Installation – \$100k St. David's Foundation Grant



PHOTOS – 10/16/20

Small Drainage Project on Webb St



Sidewalk Repair on Main St



City Crew Fixing Water Leak on MLK



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020