

## City Manager Update - 11/10/22

TGIF! The time change has definitely messed with my circadian rhythm. I hope everyone took the opportunity to check / change the batteries in their smoke detectors before moving the clocks back an hour. It is hard to believe the Holiday Season is already upon us. Airing of the Quilts, Blue Santa kick-off, Gingerbread Man adoption, Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving, Festival of Lights, and Christmas will come and go before you know it.

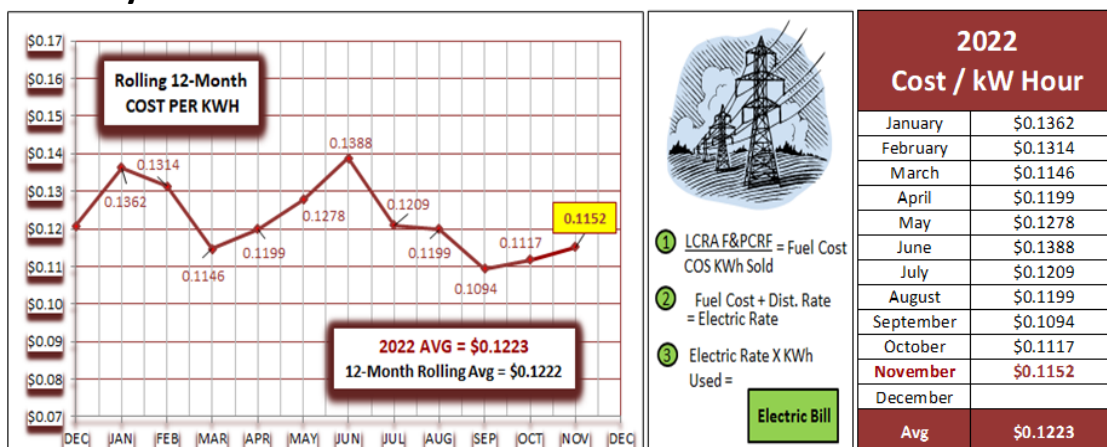
The 2022 General Election was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Voter turnout was 52.34% with 29,315 ballots cast out of 56,010 registered voters. Congratulations to all the successful candidates. Click on the following link for additional information → [Bastrop County Election Results](#). As a reminder, all political signs on private property within the Smithville City limits must be removed within 7-days after the election per City of Smithville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3 – Building Regulations, Article 3, [Section 3.05.003](#) (Ordinance 2811-461 adopted 11/17/08).

Sealcoat Specialists will continue to crack-fill, sealcoat, and re-stripe Main Street, NW 2nd, and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Work is being done in sections per the following diagram → [MAIN STREET SEALCOAT PROJECT](#). Roads will be closed to “Thru-Traffic” up to 48-hours to allow the new base material and freshly-painted parking lines to dry/set. Business owners and residents will still have access to their property. However, parking in front of downtown buildings and residences on Main Street will be limited and/or temporarily unavailable to accommodate the section (block) under repair. Note: “Airing of the Quilts” on Saturday, November 12, 2022 will not be impacted. The estimated cost of the sealcoat project is \$55-65k and is being funded by a \$1.25M Series 2021 tax note. The work completed to date really looks amazing and will complement the new holiday lighting being installed in advance of Festival of Lights.

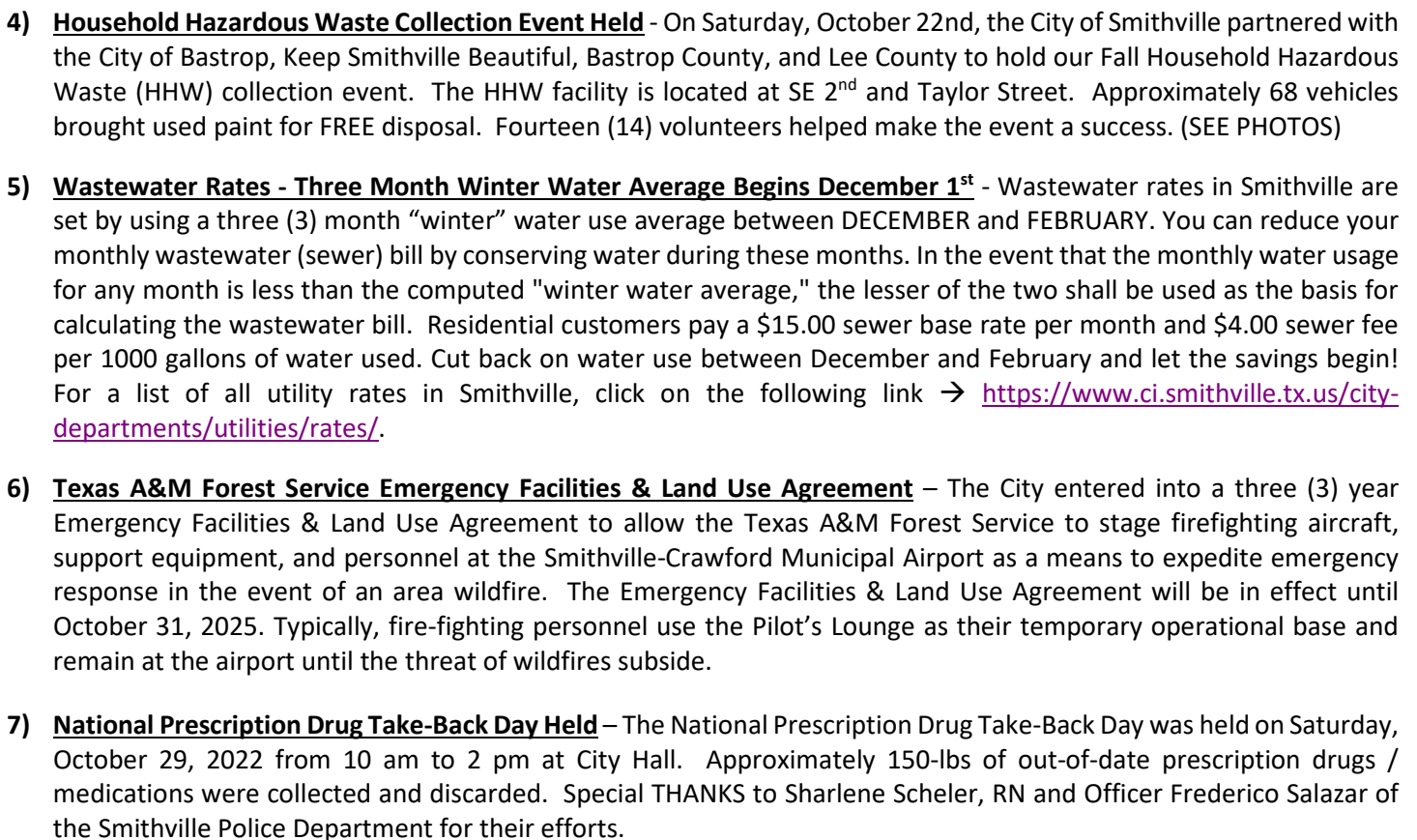
Here is a list of significant accomplishments, events, and activities since my last report:

- 1) TXDOT Funding Requested for Parallel Taxiway and Lighting Upgrade at Smithville Municipal Airport** – The City submitted a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the TXDOT Aviation Division for \$3.5M in funding to construct a 2,890-ft parallel taxiway and upgrade the airport’s Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI) lighting with a high-efficiency LED system. A parallel taxiway extension will greatly improve the overall safety of the Airport by meeting standards established in FAA AC 150/5300-13A. This capital improvement project has been identified on our TXDOT-approved Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and will be added to the 2023-2025 TXDOT Aviation Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP). If funding is awarded, this would be a 90/10 grant with the City of Smithville responsible for \$350k.
- 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 NOVEMBER. LCRA fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon electric utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The LCRA fuel cost per kWh for November is \$0.06518. This represents a **3.12% INCREASE** in fuel cost compared to October’s fuel cost of \$0.06117. Adding City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.06518 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during NOVEMBER will be \$0.1152 per 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 2022



3) **City of Smithville Awarded a \$25,000 LCRA Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) Grant** – The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) awarded the City of Smithville a \$25,000 grant to help cover the cost of a lighted sign at Riverbend Park (see concept drawing below). The city match is \$25,000 which will be paid using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Riverbend Park is a mutual asset for both the City of Smithville and LCRA. Approximately 70,000 vehicles on Hwy 71 pass the park every day. Adding a lighted entry sign would greatly enhance the aesthetics of Riverbend Park and attract visitors who would not otherwise know the park existed. The community grant is one of 32 grants awarded recently through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP), which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit organizations fund capital improvement projects in LCRA's wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. 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. Construction / installation of the sign will begin after the first of the year.



## City Manager Update – 11/10/22 (Continued)

- 8) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for November 2022 vs. November 2021 (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 \$89,312. This represents a **4.96% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Total year-to-date payments are \$828,828 or 17.69% higher than 2021. Smithville is currently leading “municipal pack” with the greatest Year-To-Date percent (%) increase. As a reminder, sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

### Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation – November 2022

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2022 Payments To Date	2021 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$962,220	\$955,667	0.68%	\$10,388,261	\$9,147,956	13.55%
Elgin	1.50%	\$310,017	\$319,308	-2.90%	\$3,276,500	\$2,809,275	16.63%
Smithville	1.50%	\$89,312	\$85,087	4.96%	\$828,828	\$704,239	17.69%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$690,565	\$655,418	5.36%	\$7,199,808	\$5,944,295	21.12%

- 9) **City Council to Consider Modification of Go Big Solar 380 Economic Development Agreement** – Pursuant to Item 10 below, Go Big Solar (aka Pentric / Smithville Solar One, LLC) is requesting the 380 Economic Development Agreement (approved by the City Council on December 14, 2020) be extended two (2) years beginning 2023 and ending 2027. Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes municipalities to offer incentives designed to promote economic development. The terms of the 380 Agreement required Pentric and Smithville Solar One, LLC to voluntarily annex a 20.93-acre tract of land into the city limits for construction of a solar array. In return, the City of Smithville will provide services (e.g., fire, police, garbage, water, and sewer) and offer approximately \$30k of performance-based incentives in the form of property tax reimbursements (city only) over the next 5-years. The solar array must perform at 95% or better to qualify for the tax reimbursement incentive (see below). The cost of the incentives will be offset by the savings generated from the PPA. This will be an item for discussion during the 11/14/22 Council meeting.

#### CURRENT

Year	Solar One Performance Requirement	Percent (%) Rollback Tax Reimbursement	Percent (%) Property Tax Reimbursement
2021	Construction Complete	100%	100%
2022 to 2025	95% or >	N/A	100%
	90% - 94.99%	N/A	75%
	85% - 89.9%	N/A	50%
	<85%	N/A	0%

#### PROPOSED

Year	Solar One Performance Requirement	Percent (%) Rollback Tax Reimbursement	Percent (%) Property Tax Reimbursement
2022	Construction Complete	100%	100%
In-Service 2023 to 2027	95% or >	N/A	100%
	90% - 94.99%	N/A	75%
	85% - 89.9%	N/A	50%
	<85%	N/A	0%

- 10) **City Council to Consider Amendment to Go Big Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** – In December 2019, the City Council approved a 25-year solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with [Go Big Solar, LLC](#). Since then, Go Big Solar, LLC built a 1-Megawatt single axis photovoltaic solar array on annexed property located next to the Smithville Municipal Airport on the west side of Loop 230. Our current wholesale power agreement with LCRA allows the City of Smithville to purchase up to 15% of alternative energy through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. The solar array will generate 2.9 Megawatts of clean energy per year (or approximately 6.8% of our annual usage). The City of Smithville will save approximately \$350k over the 25-year term --- double this amount if battery storage is added in the future allowing the City to sell power back to LCRA / ERCOT during the summer 4CP (4 Coincident Peak) and/or the city exercises its “first right of refusal” to purchase additional solar power (Phase 2). Go Big Solar, LLC is seeking additional tax credits and requesting an amendment to the current PPA to remove reference(s) to the “early termination” and “option to purchase” clause(s). In addition, Go Big Solar is requesting modification of the PPA to adjust (extend) the 25-year term by two (2) years. Due to supply chain issues associated with the global pandemic, it took the City over a year to acquire and install an electric meter capable of reading kilowatt generation at 15-minute intervals as specified by LCRA. As such, this delayed commissioning and operation of the solar array. The 15-minute interval meter was received and installed in October and the solar array is functioning properly. The requested modifications / amendments will not place either entity at risk nor reduce the anticipated benefit / revenue the City expects to receive over the amended 25-year PPA term. This will be an item for discussion and action during the November 14, 2022 Council meeting.

## City Manager Update – 11/10/22 (Continued)

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

As a reminder, City Hall will be closed **Friday, November 11, 2022** in observance of Veteran's Day. **VFW Post 1309** is hosting their annual Veteran's event in Smithville. 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.

The annual **Airing of the Quilts and Historic Home Tour** will be held on **Saturday, November 12, 2022** 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. This is a free event. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Contact the Chamber at 512-237-2313 with any questions.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm **Monday, November 14, 2022** at City Hall. Click for [AGENDA](#).

The Smithville Police Department, the Chamber of Commerce, and First National Bank invite you to kick-off the Smithville Holiday Season during the Chamber mixer on **Thursday, November 17, 2022** 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 17, 2022** 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 26, 2022** at 8:30 am.

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the SVFD 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.

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 23rd – (Close at Noon)
- Thursday, November 24th – Holiday
- Friday, November 25th - Holiday

### CHRISTMAS:

- Thursday, December 22nd – (Close at Noon)
- Friday, December 23rd – Holiday
- Monday, December 26th – Holiday

### NEW YEARS:

- Monday, January 2nd – 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 – 11/10/22

### Halloween @ City Hall



### Main Street Sealcoat and Re-stripping Project



### National Take-Back Rx Drug Day



### TAMU / TFS Blackhawk @ 84R



### Christmas Light Installation / Extension in the 300 Block of Main

