

City Manager Update – 11/8/19

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 weather last week certainly played havoc on Amazon Studios' filming schedule for the TV series "Panic". The production company won't be back in town until the week before Thanksgiving. The transformation of Main Street is amazing with several "new" businesses popping up overnight. Of course, these are only temporary movie sets. The City will continue to post filming schedules and road closure dates 24-hours in advance on our Facebook page.

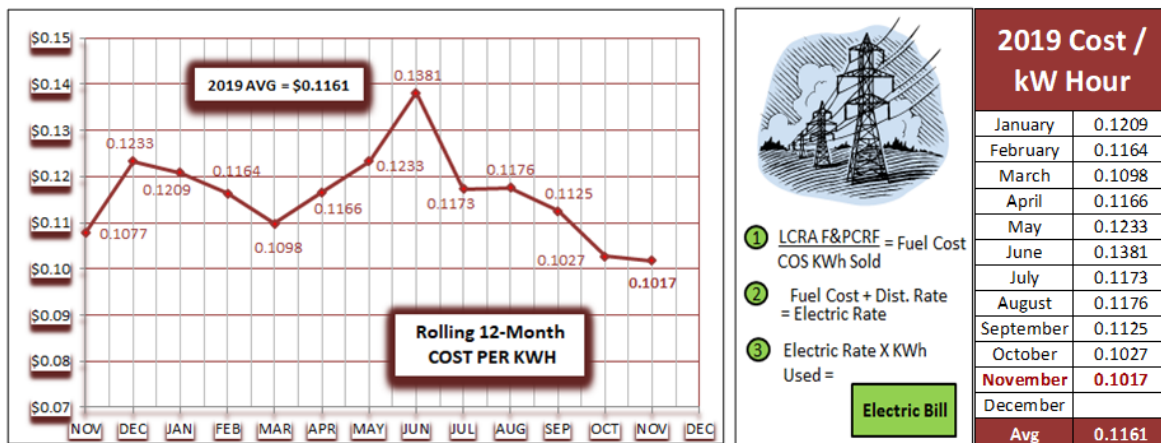
The 2019 Special Election was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. There were ten (10) constitutional amendments (propositions) on the ballot to consider. Proposition 1 (municipal judges holding more than one office) and Proposition 9 (precious metal exemption) were the only propositions that did not pass. Voter turnout in Precinct 3 (Smithville) was the highest in the County at 17.76% (1,508 ballots cast out of 8,602 registered voters). Click on the following link for voter turnout and election results → <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/TX/Bastrop/97813/web/#/summary>

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

1) Tiny Home Public Forum and Special-Called City Council Meeting Held - A Tiny Home Public Forum and Special-Called City Council Meeting were held on Monday, October 28, 2019 from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Smithville Recreation Center (SEE PHOTOS). The purpose of the Public Forum was to share Tiny Home survey information and obtain additional feedback from citizens regarding Tiny Homes within our community. Should Tiny Homes be allowed? If so, where? What requirements should the City adopt to regulate the design and placement of Tiny Homes? A panel of Tiny Home Industry experts provided information and answered questions regarding Tiny Homes. The public forum was facilitated by Sarah O'Brien and approximately 85 members of the community attended the event which included a tour of two tiny homes provided by Arnold Custom Builders and Creative Living Solutions, LLC. After listening to the panelists and general comments from the public, the City Council entered into a Special-Called Meeting to discuss and take action regarding Tiny Homes. The Council vote was split -- 2 in FAVOR and 2 AGAINST with the Mayor breaking the tie in FAVOR of directing the City Manager to pursue developing an ordinance to address Tiny Homes in Smithville. As such, additional research and benchmarking will be conducted over the next few months as necessary to develop a DRAFT ordinance for Council consideration. The Tiny Home Public Forum and Special Called City Council meeting were live streamed on Facebook → [FORUM](#).

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 \$0.0517. This represents a **1.88% DECREASE** in fuel cost compared to October's fuel cost of \$0.0527. Adding City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0517 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during NOVEMBER will be \$0.1017 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 – NOVEMBER 2019



City Manager Update – 11/8/19 (Continued)

- 3) **Wastewater Rates - Three Month Winter Water Average Begins December 1st** - 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 \$10.50 sewer base rate per month and \$3.85 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/city-departments/utilities/rates/>.
- 4) **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Held** - On Saturday, November 2nd, the City of Smithville partnered with the City of Bastrop, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Bastrop County, and Lee County to hold our Fall Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event. The HHW facility is located at SE 2nd and Taylor Street. Approximately 55 vehicles brought used paint, pesticides, and household chemicals for FREE disposal. Thirty-eight (38) volunteers helped make the event a success. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 5) **2019 Notice-To-Airman (NOTAM) Authorization for Smithville-Crawford 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, PAPI)
 - 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
- Mr. Gary Johnson

- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for November 2019 vs. November 2018 (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 \$57,870. This represents a **13.34% DECREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. I am uncertain as to what drove the decline but I am confident sales tax numbers will continue to improve as new businesses open and people begin shopping for the Holiday Season. Total year-to-date sales tax payments are \$527,498 and are currently 1.5% above what was collected last year. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - NOVEMBER 2019

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2019 Payments To Date	2018 Payments To Date	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$624,899	\$555,584	12.47%	\$6,922,782	\$6,622,472	4.53%
Elgin	1.50%	\$200,963	\$200,851	0.05%	\$1,973,420	\$2,019,448	-2.27%
Smithville	1.50%	\$57,870	\$66,784	-13.34%	\$527,498	\$519,669	1.50%
County Total		\$883,732	\$823,220	6.85%	\$9,423,701	\$9,161,590	2.78%

City Manager Update – 11/8/19 (Continued)

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

On **November 6, 2019** at 7:30 am, the City of Smithville and Smithville ISD will participate in **Walk to School Day** If you are available and have the inclination, there are two route locations:

- **Brown Primary** - SE 4th Street and Jones to walk to Brown Primary
- **Elementary/Jr. High** - NE 5th Street and Gresham to the Elementary/Jr. High campus

“Walk-to-School Wednesdays” will continue throughout the school year. The next monthly walk dates are: Dec 4th, Feb 5th, Mar 4th, Apr 1st, and May 6th.

The annual **Airing of the Quilts and Historic Home Tour** will be held on **Saturday, November 9, 2019** from 10 am to 3 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 at \$500, \$250 and \$100. Contact the Chamber at 512-237-2313 with any questions.

As a reminder, City Hall will be closed **Monday, November 11, 2019** in observance of Veteran’s Day. City Hall hours will be 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday to Friday. 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 November City Council meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm **Tuesday, November 12, 2019** at City Hall.

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 21, 2019** from 5-7 p.m. at 312 Main Street. Bring a new unwrapped toy to help our Smithville Police Association fill a police car with toys for their Blue Santa gift program. Toys for all ages are needed. Cash donations can be made at the event or at the Smithville PD. For the record, I do not plan to be tased this year.

The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving luncheon for all City personnel on **Friday, November 22, 2019** at 11:30 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 is truly thankful for their effort(s).

Friday, December 6th is the SVFD Christmas Party. They are having it in the Pavilion at Riverbend Park. Social starts at 6:00 p.m. with Dinner 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 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 – 11/8/19

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event - 11/2/19



Micellaneous Drainage and Sidewalk Repair Projects



City Hall Clock Repair



Halloween @ City Hall



Walk-To-School Wednesday



City Offices will be CLOSED on
Monday, November 11th in
Observance of Veterans Day

