

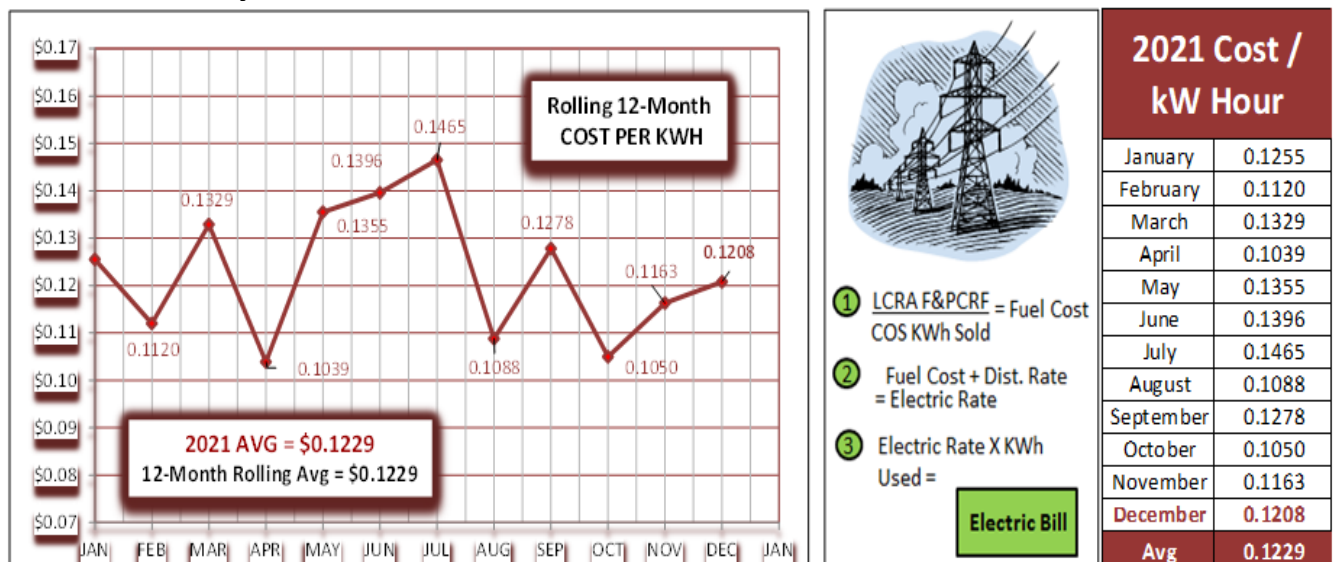
City Manager Update – 12/10/21

TGIF! Well, there are only fifteen (15) days left until Christmas! It's hard to believe the year has come and gone so quickly. Last Saturday's [Festival of Lights](#) was a huge success. The decorations in Gazebo Park and on Main Street looked awesome. There must have been 7000+ in attendance. Thanks to all who helped make the event happen.

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

- 1) 2022 LCRA "Steps Forward Day" Project Application Submitted** – The City of Smithville submitted our 2022 "Steps Forward Day" project application(s) to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for consideration. Volunteers from LCRA will gather on Friday, April 1, 2022, to work on community projects throughout LCRA's service territory. Examples of potential projects include cleaning parks, painting pavilions, planting trees or doing carpentry work. Last year, LCRA volunteers painted the Smithville Community Gardens building (a city-owned facility) located on SE 2nd Street. This year (if selected), LCRA volunteers will help the Smithville Police Department install new landscape timbers, trim bushes, and repaint the curbs around the building. A second project was also submitted to paint the restrooms (exterior) at Riverbend Park. The City will provide the supplies and equipment necessary to support the projects with LCRA providing the manpower (20-25 volunteers who will work 4-6 hours).
- 2) Wastewater Rates - Three Month Winter Water Average** - 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 City of Smithville utility rates click on the following link → <https://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/city-departments/utilities/rates/>.
- 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 December. 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 December is \$0.0708. This represents a **20.7% INCREASE** over November's fuel cost of \$0.0663. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0708 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during DECEMBER will be \$0.1208. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas has published cold weather energy-savings tips → <https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/Save.aspx>. On average, the cost per kWh for residential electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh – DECEMBER 2021



Note: LCRA Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor + City Distribution Fee* (\$0.0500) = Cost / kWh

*Residential Distribution Fee = \$0.500/kWh. Non-Resident (i.e., service outside city limit) Distribution Fee = \$0.650/kWh Effective October 1, 2019

City Manager Update – 12/10/21 (continued)

- 4) **2022 HEB It's Time Texas Community Challenge** - Each year, H-E-B sponsors the free, state-wide competition in which Texas communities compete to see who can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living. The winning cities in each size category typically receive an \$1,800 community grant to put toward future health-related efforts, along with a trophy, school district banner, and Governor's certificate. The City of Smithville has won the competition the past 4-years in a row and came in 1st PLACE last year in the "extra small" community category (population between 1-5000) dominating Liberty Hill and Reno logging 273,050 points with 100 community participants. Bastrop and Elgin placed 42nd and 97th in the "small" community category (population between 5,000-40,000) earning 13,300 and 1,250 points respectively. During the FREE eight-week Challenge (January 3rd - February 27th), citizens can utilize the ITT Community Challenge app (available late December) to log healthy activities, such as drinking water, exercising, and nutrition. Compete against friends, family members, fellow workplaces, school districts, and against other communities across Texas! Click on the following link to register and receive up to 750 points → <https://register.ittcommunitychallenge.com/>
- 5) **Loop 230 Water Line Expansion Construction Bid Selection** - The bid opening for the City of Smithville Loop 230 Water Line Extension project was held on Friday, November 19, 2021. The bid documents were provided to approximately ten contractors as well as six plan rooms. The project was also advertised to bid in the Smithville Times newspaper on 11/4/2021 and 11/11/2021. The City received three (3) bids for the project ranging from \$376,174.00 to \$468,884.00. After reviewing the pricing, the lowest base bid was submitted by **WJC Constructors Services, LLC** in the amount of **\$376,174.00**. WJC is also the lowest bidder for the alternate bid items. WJC was responsive to all bid requirements with one exception on project cost experience. Per the bid requirements, the Contractor was to submit three (3) references for successful experience constructing water system projects that included distribution lines with a minimum \$175,000 project cost. WJC's water line experience is all for projects less than the \$175,000 project cost. WJC has multiple projects completed in excess of \$175,000 for non-water line projects including a recently completed drainage pond and storm sewer project for the City of Smithville in the approximate amount of \$606,539. Additionally, WJC's foreman who will lead the installation in the field has 19-years of experience installing water lines. Although WJC does not meet the \$175,000 threshold, they do appear to be both qualified and capable of completing the work based on reference checks, recent completion of a water line extension for the City of Smithville and WJC staff experience installing water lines. Should the City choose to award the project to WJC in the amount of \$376,174.00, the City Council would need to waive the reference requirement in the bid package. Should City Council choose not to waive the reference requirement, then the second low bidder is Supak Construction, Inc. of Orchard, Texas in the amount of \$386,554.50. Per the bid document and our General Counsel, the City has the right to waive formalities, reject any and all bids, accept bids based on alternate items and quantities specified, and/or accept the bid most advantageous to the public interest. This will be an item for City Council discussion and action on Monday, December 13, 2021.
- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for December 2021 vs. December 2020 (retail sales made primarily in October). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for December was \$63,415. This represents a **27.56% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Smithville's year to date sales tax payments total \$767,654. The data indicates a positive trend (17.64% increase) year over year with Smithville coming in 2nd place for the greatest percentage increase among the Bastrop County "municipal pack". Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. With Christmas only 2-weeks away.... please remember to SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Tax Allocation - DECEMBER 2021

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2021 Payments To Date	2020 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$839,693	\$721,007	16.46%	\$9,987,649	\$8,206,875	21.69%
Elgin	1.50%	\$247,651	\$225,087	10.02%	\$3,056,926	\$2,746,335	11.30%
Smithville	1.50%	\$63,415	\$49,714	27.56%	\$767,654	\$652,541	17.64%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$559,651	\$446,581	25.31%	\$6,503,945	\$5,368,172	21.15%

City Manager Update – 12/10/21 (continued)

- 7) **City of Smithville Receives \$12.9M GLO CDBG-DR Mitigation (MIT) Grant** - The City of Smithville's application for the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Mitigation (MIT) funding was approved in June of 2020. The total award / funding is \$12.9M with a 1% match (\$131k). Subrecipient agreements, proclamations, and resolutions were approved by the City Council during a Special-Called meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Back in 2015, the city partnered with Bastrop County and the Texas Water Development Board to conduct flood-plain protection studies of Gazley and Willow Creek(s). In 2017, the city conducted 2- Dimensional (2D) Flood Plain Modelling to determine base flood elevations of our entire community and identified several regional flood mitigation projects. These efforts (combined with multiple federally declared flood disasters) placed the City of Smithville in a very competitive position. Langford Community Management Services, Inc. (LCMS) was selected by the City Council to manage the GLO grant/administration process with BEFCO Engineering responsible for designing the drainage projects. There are four (4) projects that will be implemented utilizing a phased approach:

Project 1: NE / NW 2nd Street from Gresham to Hwy 95 Drainage Improvement - \$1,752,500

The scope of work includes upgrading the existing storm sewer system along NE/NW 2nd Street from Gresham Street to SH-95. The scope of work also includes re-constructing the existing streets to properly drain to the improved system. These improvements will help mitigate the risk of stormwater flooding existing businesses, residences, and streets in the downtown area. Est. Completion: Dec 2022

Project 2: SE 4th Regional Detention Pond - \$5,388,250

The scope of work includes constructing a regional detention pond at the east end of Martin Luther King Drive and SE 4th Street and building a new storm sewer system to the proposed pond along SE 4th Street, Martin Luther King Drive, Bunte Street, SE 2nd Street, and Gentry Street. These improvements will help mitigate the risk of stormwater flooding the adjoining neighborhood and existing city streets. Est. Completion: Dec 2024

Project 3: 4th- 6th Street Drainage Improvements - \$786,350

The scope of work includes extending the existing storm sewer system from Short and NE 5th Streets east to Garwood Street. From Garwood and NE 5th Streets, the storm sewer would then be extended north along Garwood to NE 6th Street and then east to Bishop Street. From Garwood and NE 5th Streets, the storm sewer would also be extended south along Garwood to NE 4th Street and then east to Turney Street. Finally, this part would include enlarging the existing storm sewer line along Byrne Street from NE 5th to NE 6th Street. These improvements will help mitigate the risk of stormwater flooding the existing residential neighborhoods within and near this area. Est. Completion: Jul 2023

Project 4: Loop 230 Regional Detention Pond - \$2,618,500

The scope of work includes constructing a regional detention pond adjacent and to the north of railroad right-of-way south of Loop 230 and approximately 2,000 linear feet southeast of the intersection of McSweeney Street and NE 1st Street. It also includes constructing a new storm sewer system from the proposed pond north to Loop 230, east to Faulkner Road, north to Oak Meadows Drive, and east to Lueders Lane. These improvements will help mitigate the risk of stormwater flooding the adjoining neighborhoods north and west of the proposed pond. Est. Completion: Dec 2025

CDBG-DR Mitigation Grant for City-wide Drainage Improvements			
Project	Project Description	Timeline	Cost
1	NE / NW 2nd Street from Gresham to Hwy 95	2022	\$1,752,500
2	MLK and SE 4th Regional Detention Pond	2023	\$5,388,250
3	4th-6th Street Draining Improvements	2024	\$786,350
4	Loop 230 Regional Detention Pond	2025	\$2,618,500
Other Costs	Engineering / Admin / Environmental	N/A	\$2,551,411
	Minus 1% City Match		-130,970
		TOTAL	\$12,966,041

The City of Smithville will be working with GLO, LMCS, and BEFCO over the next several years to design and complete construction of these flood mitigation projects. The 1% match requirement (\$131k) will be spread over several budget cycles with minimum impact to taxpayers. Additional information about the [GLO-CDBG MIT](#) grant is available on the City Website.

City Manager Update – 12/10/21 (continued)

- 8) **City Council Approves American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Funding** – The American Rescue Plan Recovery Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress on 3/11/21. As a municipality with < 50,000 population, the City of Smithville will receive \$1,118,752 in funding administered by Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM). There is no match requirement. The first distribution of \$559,377 (50%) was received on 8/19/21. The second distribution of funding is scheduled for 8/1/22. Eligible expenses include: 1) COVID-19 Expenses; 2) Infrastructure – Water / Sewer / Broadband; 3) Tourism, Travel, Hospitality; and 4) Small Business Assistance. During a Special-Called Meeting on December 8, 2021, the City Council authorized funding for the following projects:

Smithville American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding – Round 1

Project	Amount
Tourism	\$ 90,000
Smithville Workforce Training Center	\$100,000
Small Business Grants	\$115,000
Holiday Shopping Event	\$ 40,000
Smithville Community Clinic	\$ 95,000
AV System for City Council Chambers	\$ 40,000
Wastewater Expansion Feasibility Study	\$ 75,000
Langford (GA Services)	\$ 30,000 * 1st Tranche; Remaining \$30,000 in 2nd
Funds Potentially Allocated	\$585,000
Funds Remaining	\$533,753.56

Langford Community Management Services, Inc. (LCMS) was hired to help the City navigate the ARPA grant requirements. The City will continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce, the Smithville Community Clinic, and community stakeholders to develop processes for distribution of ARPA funds. Specifically, eligibility and award criteria for small business grants still need to be developed. Progress reports will be provided in future City Manager updates and on the City's website / Facebook Page.

- 9) **City of Smithville Awarded a \$13,900 LCRA Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) Grant** – The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) presented the City of Smithville with a \$13,900 check to help cover the cost of a new roof and ceiling tiles and remove mold at the Smithville Community Gardens facility located on SE 2nd and Lee Street. After the roof and ceiling tiles are replaced, the facility will receive a deep cleaning. 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 program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves. Work will begin after the first of the year. The City 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 in our community.

There are several events going on in Smithville and it is going to be a very busy couple of weeks:

The City will be holding a HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE (all day) at City Hall on **Monday, December 13, 2021**.....nothing fancy but we will have cookies, punch, and cider during the day. The public is welcome to attend.

The next SMITHVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING will be held on **Monday, December 13, 2021** (6:00) pm at City Hall (317 Main). Citizens can access the meeting via YouTube → (www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w). Click → [HERE](#) for agenda.

The next CHAMBER MIXER will be held on **Thursday, December 16, 2021** from 5:00-7:00 pm at Milton's Furniture Store, 206 NW Loop 230.

City Manager Update – 12/10/21 (continued)

Below you will find the City of Smithville Holiday schedule. This information will be communicated on our City website, Facebook Page, and inside the 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.

CHRISTMAS:

- Thursday, December 23rd – (Close at Noon)
- Friday, December 24th – Holiday
- Monday, December 27th – Holiday

NEW YEARS:

- Friday, January 31, 2021 – Holiday

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-- Robert --



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PHOTOS – 12/10/21

New Construction – 205 McSweeney St



New Construction - 406 Jones Street



1423 NE 8th Street @ Faulkner Road



Gazley WWT Plant Tour



City Hall Staff on the DDT



Gazley WWT Clarifier



First United Methodist Church Thanksgiving Lunch for City Staff



SPL XMAS Decorations



City Hall Christmas Decorations



Rec Center XMAS Decorations

