

City Manager Update – 2/10/23

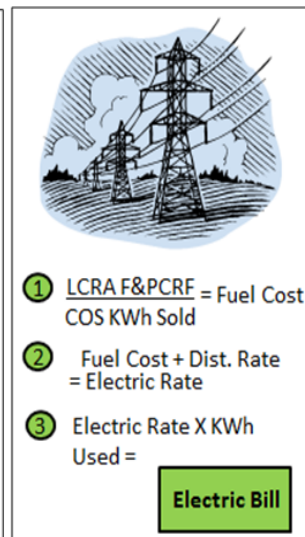
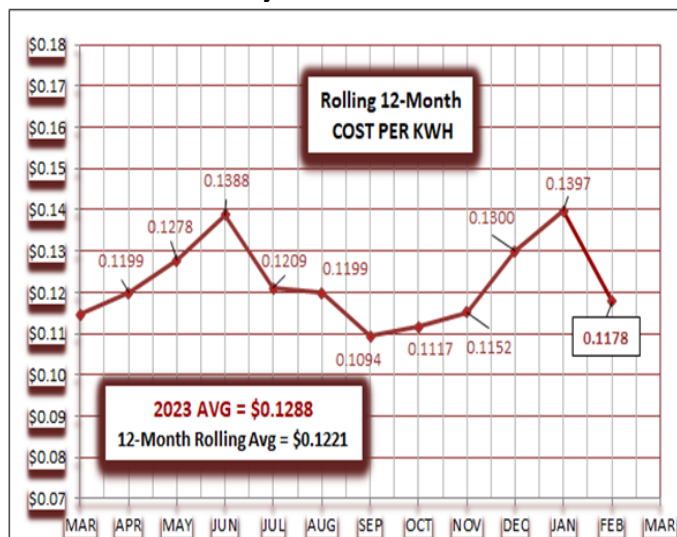
Winter Storm Mara came and went without significant impact to the City of Smithville. Smithville ISD and City offices either delayed opening and/or shut down during the 2-3 day event. We were fortunate not to lose as many trees as our Central Texas neighbors. The winter weather event passed and we returned to normal operations late Thursday, February 2, 2023. Special THANKS to the Smithville PD, Public Works, and Utility Departments for their quick response to water leaks and power outages in less than favorable conditions.

With less than a month to go, Smithville is still leading the competition in the “extra small” community category (population < 5,000) for the 2023 “IT’S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge”. La Joya and Stockdale are currently in 2nd and 3rd place behind Smithville. Each year, Texans compete in the free, state-wide competition to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living. The winning community in each size category will receive recognition for their health-related efforts, along with a trophy, school district banner, and Governor's certificate. Approximately 225 community members from Smithville have registered to participate. Thanks to all who are currently participating in this competition. If you have not yet registered, there is still time to participate → Go to <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com/> to register and join the challenge!

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, activities, issues, and/or future plans since my last report:

- 1) 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 utility rates in Smithville, click on the following link → <https://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/city-departments/utilities/rates/>.
- 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 February. LCRA fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The LCRA fuel cost per kWh for February is \$0.0678. This represents a **24.40% DECREASE** compared to January’s fuel cost of \$0.0897. Adding the City’s distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA’s \$0.0678 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during FEBRUARY will be \$0.1178. Below you will find a “rolling” 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart. Generally speaking, it costs more to heat a residence than it does to cool it as there is a greater outdoor temperature difference to make up to achieve what most folks consider “comfortable” inside.....68°F in winter and 78°F in summer. The Texas PUC has energy-savings tips on their website→<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 - FEBRUARY



2023 Cost / kW Hour	
January	\$0.1397
February	\$0.1178
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
Avg	\$0.1287

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

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- 3) **City-Wide Clean-up / Used Tire Collection / Electronics Recycling Event Scheduled** - On Saturday, February 18, 2023 (from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm), the City of Smithville will partner with the City of Bastrop, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Bastrop County, and Lee County to hold a [USED TIRE and ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT](#) at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street in Smithville. In addition, the City will be sponsoring its annual [CITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP](#).
- 4) **February Utility Billing DELAYED due to Winter Storm Mara** – Local Post Office operations were significantly impacted by Winter Storm Mara due to multi-day power outages and road closures in Austin. As such, the City of Smithville utility billing was delayed. Utility customers should have received their utility bill by Wednesday, February 8, 2023. Normally, payment is due by the 10th of the current month for the previous month's usage. Due to the Post Office delay, utility customers will have until Tuesday, February 21, 2023 to make payment without incurring any late penalty. This applies to the current billing cycle only. Customers with PAST DUE accounts will still be charged a penalty for any PAST DUE amount greater than 30-days. Customers who have set-up auto-draft payments through e-billing were not impacted. For additional information, please contact City Hall on (512) 237-3282, Option 1 to speak with a Utilities Department representative.
- 5) **City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Project Update** - City-wide road paving and street repair will commence in the spring and early summer timeframe. The streets and roads listed below will be prepped, resurfaced, and repaved. The Bastrop County Maintenance Department (who owns the paving equipment) will be doing the majority of the work with support from the City of Smithville. This project will require partial and temporary street closures with notification of area residents and business owners 24-48 hours in advance. Pot-hole repairs will continue throughout town as pot-holes are reported and/or identified. Citizens can report a pot-hole using the Smithville [SEE/CLICK/FIX](#) link on the City Website or by downloading the SEE/CLICK/FIX app to their smart phones.

City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Schedule - 2023

Street	From / To	Paving Material	Prep Completed	Road Closure Required	Est. Paving Date
City Warehouse	Back Parking / Staging Area	Hot Mix	YES	YES	COMPLETE
Main Street	1st to 7th Street	SEALCOAT	YES	YES	COMPLETE
NW/NE 2nd	Olive to Ramona	SEALCOAT	YES	YES	COMPLETE
NW 1st Street	Main Street to Hwy 95	SEALCOAT	NO	YES	MARCH
84R (Airport)	Runway / Ramp	SEALCOAT	NO	YES	
Bishop	1st and 2nd Street	Chip Seal	NO	YES	APRIL
Garwood	NE 5th to Loop 230	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Burleson	NE 5th to Colorado	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Hudgins	NE 1st to Loop 230	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
5th Avenue	Live Oak to Hickory	Chip Seal	NO	YES	MAY
Ash	4th Avenue to 6th Avenue	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Walker	700 Block	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Harper	Webster to Hwy 95	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
King's Way (RVICS)	Last Road on the Backside of RVICS	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Entry Road & Circle around Gazebo	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Oak Hill Cemetery	Entire Cemetery	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JUNE
Uptown Drive	Old Upton Road to Pecan Shores	Chip Seal	NO	YES	

- 6) **2023 State-of-the-City Presentation Provided at Quarterly Chamber Luncheon** – On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, a State-of-the-City presentation was provided during the Smithville Chamber of Commerce quarterly luncheon. Accomplishments, issues, projects, and future plans were shared with approximately 200 attendees. During 2023, the city will face many challenges with respect to managing growth. Infrastructure improvement, economic development, and fiscal performance remain the City's key areas of focus. Drainage improvements, WWTF expansion, road repairs, ordinance updates, housing development, business recruiting, and updating the city's Comprehensive Plan are among the top priorities. Going forward, there will be multiple opportunities for community engagement and involvement. Citizens are encouraged and welcome to attend all future public meetings, workshops, and/or stakeholder feedback sessions. Good things are happening within our City and I look forward to what the future holds. Click the following link for a copy of the [2023 State-of-the-City](#) presentation.

City Manager Update – 2/10/23 (continued)

- 7) **Smithville City Council and Smithville ISD Candidate Filing / Election Schedule** – Smithville City Council and Smithville ISD candidate filing for the upcoming election in May began Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Persons interested in filing to run for City Council (Place 1, Place 2, or Place 3) or SISD Trustee (Place 1 or Place 2) can pick up a candidate packet at City Hall or the Smithville ISD administrative building accordingly. The deadline to file is **February 19, 2023**. Early voting starts April 24, 2023 and ends May 2, 2023. Election Day is Saturday, May 6, 2023 (7:00 am to 7:00 pm). A list of candidates, polling locations, voting times, and sample ballots (by precinct) are available on the bastropvotes.org website. In the meantime, please see matrix below for a list of candidates that have filed as of 5:00 pm 2/10/23. Good luck to all candidates!!!

City Council / School Board Election Candidates – As of 2/10/23

	Position	Candidate	Term Lenth	Term Expires	Election Type	Candidate Status
City of Smithville	Alderman - Place 1	Mitch Jameson	2-Years	May 2023	General	Challenger
		TBD				Challenger
	Alderman - Place 2	Tom Etheredge	2-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Alderman - Place 3	Jimmy Jenkins	2-Years	May 2023	General	Challenger
		Monica Poss				Challenger
SISD	Trustee - Place 1	Chris Hinnant	3-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
	Trustee - Place 2	Grant Gutierrez	3-Years	May 2023	General	Incumbent
		TBD				Challenger
Note: Joanna Morgan (Place 1) and William Gordon (Place 2) are not seeking another term in office.						

- 8) **2021-22 Fiscal Year Financial Audit Scheduled** – The 2021-22 fiscal year annual financial audit will begin Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Last year, the City received a “clean” financial audit for our prior fiscal year’s performance and compliance with government accounting standards. This year’s annual audit is being conducted by Singleton, Clark & Company over a 2-week period. The focus of the audit will be on internal financial controls, payroll, procurement, HR, accounts payable, and accounts receivable, etc. Reconciliation of multiple federal, state, and local grants for infrastructure improvement has triggered the requirement to conduct a single audit. The Code of Federal Register Regulations (CFR), Title 2, Chapter II, Part 200, Subparts A through F requires Federal grant recipients to submit a Single Audit report if, in the fiscal year, \$750,000 or more was expended in Federal Grant Awards (all sources combined). Approximately \$1.2M in federal and state grants were awarded to the City of Smithville during 2022 for sidewalks, bullet-proof vests, drainage improvements, and ARPA funding. The results of the annual financial audit will be presented by Jack Clark during the April 10, 2023 Council meeting.
- 9) **Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) Rate Increase to be Considered by City Council** - Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) is requesting an 8% increase in the current residential and commercial garbage rates. Contract rate increases are based upon the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Energy Information Administration of the US Department of Energy ("EIA/DOE") diesel fuel adjustment compared to the prior year. Per Section 8.03 of the current contract, there is a 5% cap on annual rate adjustments. The current residential garbage rate that the City charges customers is **\$38.50 / month**. WMI currently charges the City \$29.35 / month per residential customer. The new monthly residential rate charged to the City (at 5%) will be \$30.81. The difference in the monthly rate between what the City charges and what the City pays helps cover the cost for providing leaf and limb service. At this time, I do not recommend passing any increase onto residential and/or commercial accounts as the 5% annual increase has already been included in the FY22/23 budget. However, given the current rate of inflation, raising solid waste rates should be considered during the next budget cycle. We are one of the few municipalities in the Central Texas area that still offers 2X per week garbage service, bulk service, AND leaf / limb pick-up service. This will be an item for discussion and action at the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting.

City Manager Update – 2/10/23 (continued)

10) City of Smithville Sales Tax Update - Below are the sales tax allocations for February 2023 vs. February 2022 (retail sales made primarily in December 2022). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for January was \$94,558. This represents a **2.75% INCREASE** (\$2,534) in our net payment compared to the same time last year. As a reminder, revenue from local sales tax is used to offset expenses for community services like fire, police, leaf/limb pick-up, garbage pick-up, and the public library. Remember --- Shop Local....it makes a difference!"

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - FEBRUARY 2023

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2023 Payments To Date	2022 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$1,173,677	\$1,063,051	10.40%	\$2,152,214	\$1,994,849	7.88%
Elgin	1.50%	\$371,413	\$334,090	11.17%	\$687,061	\$607,243	13.14%
Smithville	1.50%	\$94,558	\$92,024	2.75%	\$157,418	\$156,250	0.74%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$797,107	\$694,269	14.81%	\$1,455,728	\$1,315,051	10.69%

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **February 13th**, 6:00 pm – City Council Meeting @ City Hall (317 Main)
- **February 14th**: Valentine's Day
- **February 18th**: City-wide Clean-up / Used Tires / Electronics Recycling Event @ 109 Taylor (9-noon).
- **February 20th**: President's Day. City offices will be CLOSED. Hours will be 8-5 Tuesday to Friday.
- **February 24th**: BEST Breakfast in Smithville @ Your Mom's (8-9:30 am)

As a reminder, City Hall will be CLOSED – **Monday, February 20, 2023** in honor of President's Day. Office hours will be 8-5 Tuesday through Friday (Feb 21-24).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend. Stay warm (or warm at heart) and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

--Robert--

Happy
VALENTINE'S
➡ DAY ➡