

City Manager Update – 3/6/20

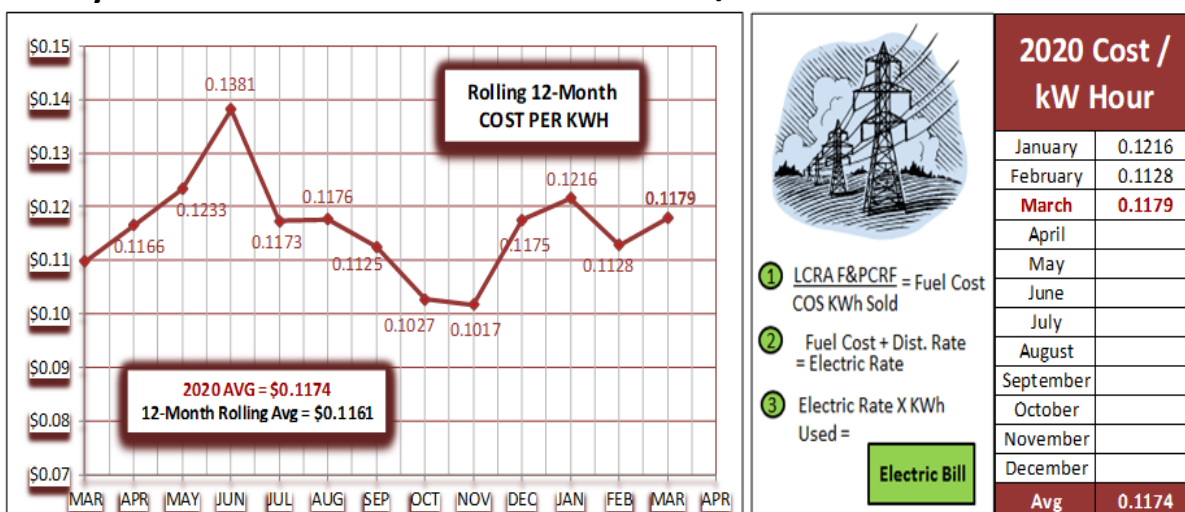
Daylight Savings time will begin on **Sunday, March 8, 2020**. Be sure to move your clocks ahead one (1) hour. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”. It’s also a good time to check/change out the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Congratulations are in order for all those who participated in the “**IT’S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge**”. Smithville came in 1st PLACE in the “extra small” community category (population between 1-5000) dominating Liberty Hill and Wilmer logging 685,850 points with 266 community participants. This is the 3rd year in a row that Smithville has won the competition. H-E-B sponsored the free, state-wide competition in which Texas communities compete to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living! The winning community in each size category will receive an \$1,800 community grant to put toward future health-related efforts, along with a trophy, school district banner, and Governor’s certificate. Bastrop and Elgin placed 9th and 41st in the “small” community category (population between 5,000-40,000) earning 282,700 and 16,450 points respectively. Click on the following link for the results → <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com/en/home>

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities since my last update:

- 1) FY18-19 Financial Audit Completed** - Singleton, Clark & Company, PC completed the annual audit of the City of Smithville's 2018-19 financial statements. The results of the audit indicate the assets of the City exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$12,866,924. The total net position of the city increased by \$324,772. The City's governmental fund reported a combined fund balance of 1,815,538, an increase of \$291,452 in comparison with the prior year. The City's proprietary fund reported a fund balance of \$5,222,538, a decrease of \$8,822 from the prior year. The City's total debt increased by \$2,355,000 as of year-end. The reason for the increase was the issuance of \$2.975 million in new certificates of obligation for water, wastewater, street, and drainage improvements. In addition to the one new debt issuance, the City issued \$1.2 million in general obligation refunding bonds to refinance previously outstanding general obligation bonds reported in governmental activities. This refinancing was done to take advantage of favorable interest rates. The result is expected to be a decrease in future debt service payments of approximately \$43,000. Overall, we received a “clean” financial audit. Jack Clark (of Singleton, Clark & Company) will be presenting the results of the audit during the March 9, 2020 council meeting.
- 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 March. 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 March is \$0.0598. This represents an **8.01% INCREASE** compared to February’s fuel cost of \$0.0628. 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 MARCH will be \$0.1179**. 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 electric service in Smithville is between 11-12 cents with the average household using 1,200 kW per month at a cost of \$142. ERCOT provides energy conservation tips → <http://ercot.com/about/conservation/> to help reduce consumption which in turn will help citizens save money.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF - MARCH 2020



Note: LCRA Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor (See Table Above) + 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) **Bastrop County Juvenile Boot Camp Advisory Board of Director's Meeting** – The semi-annual Bastrop County Boot Camp Advisory Board Meeting was held in Elgin on March 4, 2020. As part of an inter-local cooperative agreement signed in 2001, the City and School Districts of Elgin, Bastrop, and Smithville formed an eleven (11) member advisory board to govern the activities of the Bastrop County Juvenile Boot Camp (BCJBC). As the Smithville City Manager, I am serving as one of the eleven members. The BCJBC is a nonprofit organization which provides behavioral and educational services for court-ordered adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17. Last year, forty (40) students from the County participated in the 90-day program. The length of stay depends upon the duration and severity of school expulsion. Smithville ISD had 1 student enrolled last year compared to Bastrop ISD's 35 students. The program is funded on a pro-rata basis with the City of Smithville contributing approximately \$5k per year.
- 4) **Bastrop County BEST Breakfast Meeting** - City officials and School District representatives from Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville, the Bastrop County Appraisal District (BCAD) and several Bastrop County officials met for the monthly Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville, Texas (BEST) Breakfast Meeting at the Elgin Rec Center (361 N HWY 95). The meeting provided a forum for informal discussion of accomplishments, events, and issues from each municipality and school district within the County. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the potential impact of the CoVid-19 (Coronavirus) in Bastrop County and the preventative measures people should be taking which include washing hands, covering cough, disinfecting surfaces that are frequently touched, and staying home if sick. The City will continue working with the Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to monitor the CoVid-19 situation. Updates will be shared with the public as conditions warrant. Click on the link below for the latest update on the Coronavirus from the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDHS) --> <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- 5) **2020 LCRA "Steps Forward Day" Project Approved** – The City received notification that our 2020 "Steps Forward Day" application was approved. Volunteers from LCRA will gather on **Friday, April 3, 2020** 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 fifty (50) ornamental light poles on Main Street and NW 1st around the Gazebo area. They also painted the Gazebo steps and ADA accessible ramp. This year, LCRA will be painting the interior and exterior of the Smithville Community Gardens Building on 107 SW 2nd and Lee Street. LCRA volunteers and City workers will be meeting at the facility at 8:30 am for a safety briefing with painting taking place between 9:00 am and noon. Lunch will be provided to all who volunteer. 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.
- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for February 2020 vs. February 2019 (retail sales made primarily in December). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for February was \$72,422. This represents a **20.85% INCREASE** (\$12,496) in our net payment compared to the same time last year. This is the largest monthly sales tax allocation in 5-years and can be attributed directly to Holiday sales, Festival of Lights, and the Amazon Studios TV production "Panic". Since October 2019, Amazon Studios has spent an estimated \$375k in our community on city facility rentals, private property rentals, merchandise, food, lodging, gasoline, film permits, and hiring local trades professionals. 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 - February 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%	\$838,208	\$722,870	15.95%	\$1,483,878	\$1,262,705	17.51%
Elgin	1.50%	\$243,157	\$196,513	23.73%	\$437,776	\$362,965	20.61%
Smithville	1.50%	\$72,422	\$59,926	20.85%	\$115,770	\$99,251	16.64%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$530,813	\$426,990	24.31%	\$931,464	\$785,547	18.57%

City Manager Update – 3/6/20 (continued)

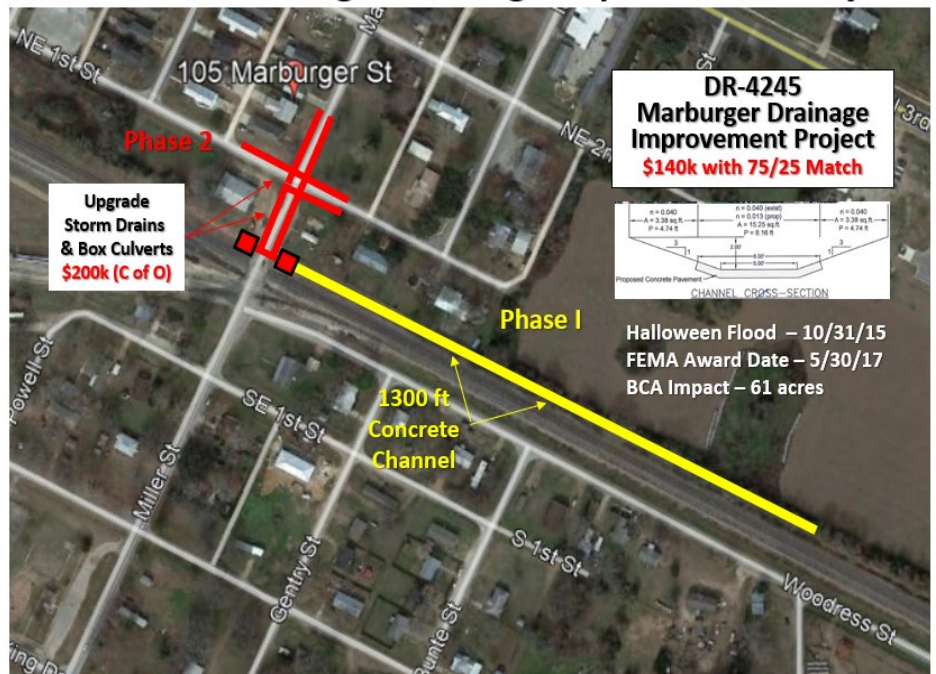
- 7) **EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Report Submitted** – Rosie Johnson and Nadine Harris completed the 2019 Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report." The annual report identifies the revenue generated, Megawatt Hours (MWh) used, and the number of customers for whom the City of Smithville provided power during 2019. Here is a summary of electricity usage from 2015-2019:

EIA-861 Annual Report					
City of Smithville Electric Power Use	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue (\$USD)	\$4,983,000	\$4,847,000	\$4,695,000	\$5,053,000	\$4,959,000
Megawatt Hours (MWh)	39,606	37,430	38,568	39,798	38,299
# of Customers	2132	2155	2169	2194	2221

As you can see by the data, we had a slight increase in the number of utility customers served in 2019. We added 27 new customers for a total of 2,221. The City's consumption in megawatt hours (MWh) was 3.8% lower in 2019 compared to 2018. In addition, there was an 1.9% DECREASE in revenue of \$94k compared to the prior year. EIA Electric Surveys are mandatory under the authority of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275), as amended. Despite numerous problems with the on-line database, the report has been compiled and submitted well before the April 30, 2020 deadline. Nice work Rosie and Nadine!

- 8) **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMG) DR-4245 - Marburger Drainage Improvement Project Update** - As previously reported, the bid opening for the Marburger drainage improvement project (HMG DR-4245) was awarded to 304 Construction, LLC during the February 10, 2020 council meeting. Phase I of the project involves the installation of a 1300 linear foot concrete valley gutter to provide drainage relief on Marburger and NE 1st street. If you recall, the City applied for (and was awarded) a \$140k FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMG) for drainage improvements on and around Marburger Street shortly after the October 2015 flood event. The existing terrain on Marburger and NE 1st Street is extremely flat and numerous homes have flooded over the past several years. The primary means of storm water collection is through a combination of open ditches (there is no curb and gutter in this area) and a shallow underground storm sewer system that feeds into an existing ditch that is located parallel to the railroad tracks. This ditch begins at Marburger Street and extends southeast approximately 5,900 feet where it outfalls into Willow Creek. A pre-construction meeting with 304 Construction, LLC will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020. The estimated construction start date is March 30, 2020. The project will take 60-90 days to complete. Phase 2 of the project involves drainage upgrades to storm drains and culverts running parallel to NE 1st and Marburger. The bid opening for the Phase 2 project was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. The City received two (2) bids ranging from \$193,985 to \$225,637 with **304 Construction, LLC** submitting the lowest bid. The selection of the Phase 2 construction contractor will be on the March 9, 2020 Council agenda. Once a contractor is approved by the Council, BEFCO Engineering, Inc. will prepare the necessary contract documents. We will then hold a pre-construction meeting and issue the notice to proceed with an estimated construction start date of April 20, 2020. The project will take 60-90 days to complete.

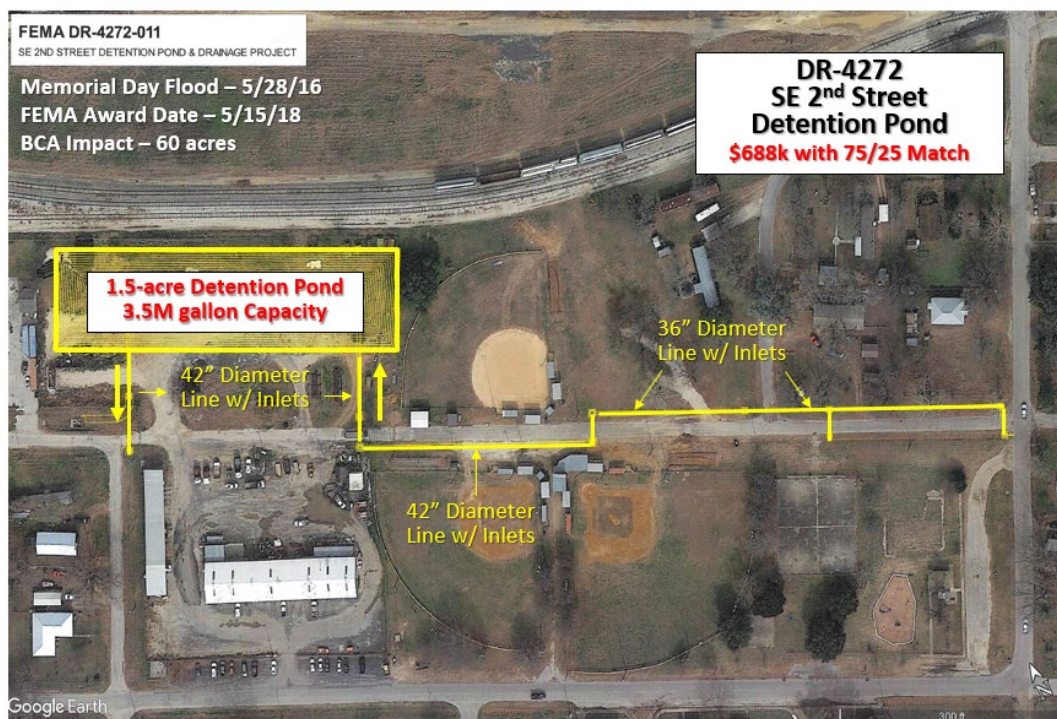
DR-4245 Marburger Drainage Improvement Project



City Manager Update – 3/6/20 (continued)

- 9) **Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) Funding** - An Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for CDBG-DR Funding is being proposed between Bastrop County and the City of Smithville. The City of Smithville, in partnership with Bastrop County, was awarded \$1.5M in 2017 CDBG-DR set-aside funding (Hurricane Harvey) for county-wide infrastructure improvements. Pending approval by the City Council, the ILA will be effective on the date of execution and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. It is expressly agreed and understood that grant funds to be paid by Bastrop County under this ILA shall not exceed \$574,520. The CDBG-DR funding will be used for the design and construction of drainage improvements along NW 2nd Street from Cleveland to SH95. The ILA will require the City hire a qualified engineering firm to design and manage the project.
- 10) **Engineering Services Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for CDBG-DR Drainage Project** - Proposals for engineering services (Request for Qualifications (RFQ)) for the City of Smithville CDBG-DR 2nd STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT were received by 3:00 pm on 2/26/20 and reviewed by City staff on 3/4/20. Experience, work performance, and capacity to perform were criteria used by the City staff to evaluate / differentiate each engineering consultant's qualifications. Four (4) Engineering services consultants submitted their qualifications. **BEFCO Engineering, Inc.** received the highest total score (98) and as such will be presented to the City Council on Monday, March 9, 2020 for consideration / selection.
- 11) **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (DR-4272) SE 2nd Street Detention Pond Project Update** - After the 2016 Memorial Day flood, the City applied for and received a \$688k FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMG) to upgrade drainage lines on SE 2nd Street and construct a detention pond behind the City Warehouse located at 1000 MLK Drive. The 1.5-acre detention pond will hold approximately 3.5M gallons of water that will help alleviate flooding at the City Warehouse and along SE 2nd Street (see diagram below). Both the detention pond and new storm water collection system have been sized to mitigate up to the 10-year, 24-hour storm event. The project match requirement is 25% of the total grant amount or \$172k. The City match is a budgeted expense that will be paid using dedicated C of O funds. The bid opening for the SE 2nd Street Detention Pond and Drainage Project was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The City received eight (8) bids for the project ranging from \$512,509 to \$754,557. The low bidder for the project was **WJC Constructors, LLC** of Smithville in the amount of \$512,509. The selection of a construction contractor will be on the March 9, 2020 Council agenda. Once a contractor is approved by the City Council, BEFCO Engineering, Inc. will prepare the necessary contract documents for our attorney's review. We will then hold a pre-construction meeting and issue the notice to proceed with an estimated construction start date of June 1, 2020. The project will take 180 days to complete.

DR-4272 - SE 2nd Street Drainage Improvement Project



City Manager Update – 3/6/20 (continued)

12) HWY 71 Digital Billboard Installed on Dorothy Nichols Lane - The Media Choice digital billboard installation was completed on 2/21/20. If you recall, the Smithville City Council approved a variance request to allow placement of a 14'x48' digital billboard in front of Subway at 1509 Dorothy Nichols Lane back in May 2019. The billboard is located 110' from the NW property line and oriented so that both eastbound and westbound traffic on Hwy 71 can read the display (SEE PHOTOS). The property is zoned Highway Commercial (C3). Digital billboards are computer-controlled electronic displays that rotate ads and/or messages in a slide show fashion every 6 to 8 seconds. There are seven advertising "flips" that can be programmed. The owner of Subway offered one (1) flip to advertise city-sponsored events (e.g., Festival of Lights, Jamboree, Photo Festival, etc.) and/or emergency messages at NO COST as part of a development agreement the City Council considered before approving variance request. During times of emergency (e.g., Amber alerts, fires, floods, tornados etc.) all advertisements will cease and whatever information that needs to be communicated to alert citizens and/or the general public will take precedence. The digital billboard will automatically adjust to ambient light conditions to ensure the brightness of each display does not exceed .3 foot-candles over ambient light levels measured at a distance of 250 feet. Local shop owners who would like to advertise their business on this billboard should contact **Media Choice LLC / Acme Partnership LP** at (512) 693-9905. The special rate for Smithville business owners is \$500 per month with a 3-month commitment.

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

The next **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held on **Monday, March 9, 2020** at 6:00 pm (City Hall).

The next Chamber of Commerce COFFEE CHAT will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020** from 7:30-8:30 am at Olde World Bakery (112 Main). The guest speaker(s) will be the City Council and School Board candidates.

The Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Smithville Public Library will be hosting a **JOB FAIR** on **Thursday, March 12, 2020** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston).

The March **CHAMBER MIXER** will be hosted by DOUG'S PLUMBING and SMITHVILLE HEATING & AIR on **Thursday, March 12, 2020** from 5:00-7:00 pm at their location on 301 Bishop Street. Food and beverages will be served.

The Brown Booster Club is hosting "**RAFFLEMANIA 2020**" on **Thursday, March 12, 2020** from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Brown Primary Cafeteria. This is their largest fundraiser for the year. The organization pays for all field trips for Brown Primary students Pre-K through 2nd grade, playground equipment, early literacy material for teachers and students, and other supplies for the school.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 is **ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!**

The monthly **BEST BREAKFAST** will be held in Bastrop on **Friday, March 27, 2020** at 8:00 am. Location TBD.

The next **AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD (AAB)** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020** at the Smithville Crawford Municipal Airport Pilot's Lounge from 6:00-7:00 pm.

The next **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)** collection event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 4, 2020** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The HHW facility is located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street in Smithville. This will be a full hazardous waste and used paint collection event that will require vouchers. Contact Jill Strube at (512) 237-3282 extension 2109.

The Spring **COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 4, 2020**. Visit Chamber website for details.

Just a reminder that **CITY HALL** will be **CLOSED Friday, April 10, 2020** in observance of **GOOD FRIDAY**. Office hours will be 8-5 Monday through Thursday (April 6-9).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend!

--Robert--

PHOTOS - 3/6/20

Digital Billboard @ Dorothy Nichols and Hwy 71



Ribbon Cutting for Playground Equipment @ Riverbend Park



Drainage Improvement Project (400 & 500 Block of Short Street)



FEMA ICS/EOC Training




Happy
St. Patrick's Day