

City Manager Update – 6/9/23

June 1, 2023 marked my 9th year as Smithville's City Manager. It's hard to believe 3,285 days have passed since officially being hired for the position. Well, you know the old saying, "How time flies when you're having fun." We have dealt with pit bulls, golf carts, smart meters, JADE-HELM, fires, floods, freezes, hurricanes, bridge failures, litigation, legislation, COVID-19, and a host of other issues over the past 9-years---all while trying to improve our infrastructure, reduce debt, and manage growth. The pace has not slowed since stepping into the role back in 2014. However, I am pleased that we are making progress as a community. Also, June 1st marked the official start of the [2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season](#) which will run until November 30, 2023.

Summer is upon us and triple-digit temperatures are just around the corner. As we prepare for higher temperatures in Central Texas, take time to recognize and prevent heat-related illnesses while at work or home. Heat-related illnesses kill more people each year than earthquakes and hurricanes combined. Heat stress-related medical conditions occur when excess heat is allowed to build in the body over time. These include:

Sunburn: A reddening of the skin caused by excess sun exposure. Treatment: Avoid further sun exposure, cool area with water, use a non-oil-based moisturizer if needed.

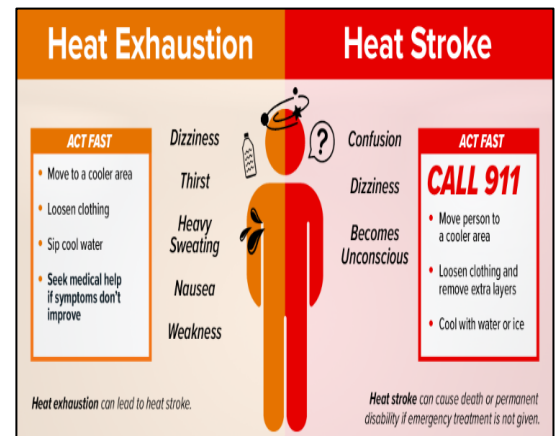
Heat Rash: Excess moisture on the skin causes sweat glands to become clogged resulting in a rash. Treatment: Cool and dry the skin.

Heat Cramps: Muscle pain due to the rapid depletion of body salts. Treatment: Rest in a cool area. Drink plenty of water. Seek medical attention if pain persists.

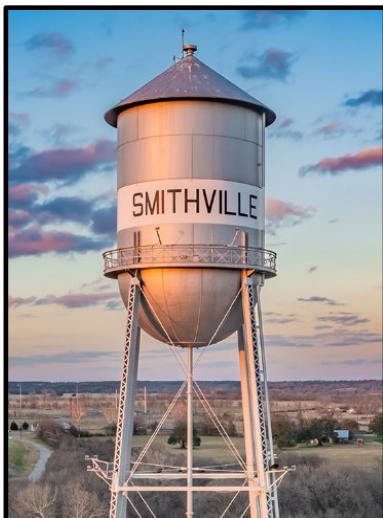
Heat Syncope: Fainting caused by heat exposure and transient vasodilation. Treatment: Lie down in a cool place. Elevate legs. If conscious, drink water.

Heat Exhaustion: Exhaustion brought on due to heat exposure and fluid loss. Symptoms include: heavy perspiration, extreme thirst, fatigue, headache, nausea, and sometimes diarrhea. A person experiencing heat exhaustion is going through severe dehydration. Treatment: Lie down in a cool area, drink cool water, slightly elevate legs, remove excess clothing, and sponge down with cool liquid. If no improvement is seen within 30 minutes, seek medical attention immediately.

Heat Stroke: Heat exposure causes malfunction in portion of the brain that monitors and controls internal body temperature. During heat stroke, the core body temperature of the victim is approximately 105-110 F. Symptoms include red or flushed skin that feels hot to the touch, altered mental status (may be combative), rapid pulse, and possible absence of sweating. Treatment: This is a very serious condition. Call "911." While awaiting medical assistance, rapidly lower a victim's body temperature through ice-water baths, cold compresses, fan, etc.



Recognizing the warning signs and symptoms of heat stress and taking preventive control measures can greatly reduce the risk of heat-related illness. For additional information, visit <http://firstaid.webmd.com/tc/heat-related-illnesses-prevention>. All City personnel working outdoors have been instructed to remain hydrated and take frequent breaks to prevent heat-related injury/illness. The hot temperature(s) combined with high humidity can elevate the heat index well above triple digits making outdoor working conditions hazardous. A cooler with ice-water and/or Gatorade is provided on each City vehicle. With the higher summer temperatures, citizens will be using more water to keep their lawns green and



more electricity to keep their houses cool (present company included). With respect to water use, the City has a [Drought Contingency Plan](#) whereby water use restrictions will be implemented based upon triggering events. Specifically, the cumulative use of 1.5 million gallons of water (or more) for three (3) consecutive days. I'm pleased to report that we are a long way from hitting the 1.5-million-gallon drought contingency plan action level. During the current calendar year, the peak daily water demand for the City of Smithville occurred on June 2nd with 516,025 gallons used. In comparison, the largest peak demand recorded in the past few years occurred on February 17, 2021 with 1,252,947 gallons used. The large amount of water used was attributed to busted / brokenwater lines due to the winter storm Uri. Our current city-wide water storage capacity is approximately 1.6 million gallons. The monthly base rate for residential water service in Smithville is \$18.00 (which includes the first 2000 gallons) plus \$3.50 for every 1000 gallons of water used thereafter. Note: An average family of 4 uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day and 12,000 gallons / month. With the \$18.00 base rate included, this equates to an average water bill of \$53.00 / month.

City Manager Update – 6/9/23 (continued)

Here is a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities since my last update:

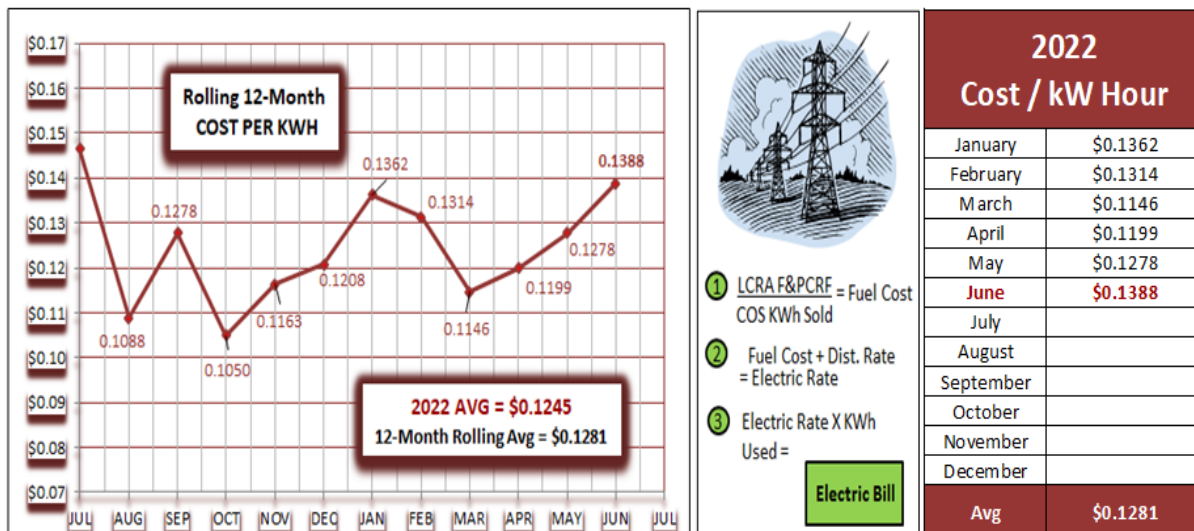
- 1) City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for June 2023 vs. June 2022 (retail sales made primarily in April). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for June was \$61,809. This represents an **8.01% DECREASE** in our net monthly payment compared to the same time last year. Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like the LIBRARY, FIRE DEPARTMENT, and POLICE. Total year-to-date payments are \$437,674 (approximately 0.35% lower or \$1.5k below last year's year-to-date performance). See below for a comparison. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation – JUNE 2023

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2023 Payments To Date	2022 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$905,039	\$959,465	-5.67%	\$5,964,665	\$5,516,064	8.13%
Elgin	1.50%	\$313,354	\$293,373	6.81%	\$1,920,353	\$1,739,001	10.42%
Smithville	1.50%	\$61,809	\$67,197	-8.01%	\$437,674	\$439,232	-0.35%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$656,288	\$631,402	3.94%	\$4,072,411	\$3,677,953	10.72%

- 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 June. 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 June is \$0.0870. This represents a **18.04% INCREASE** compared to May's fuel cost of \$0.0737. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0870 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during JUNE will be \$0.1370 (10.75% total increase compared to May). Fuel costs are typically higher during the summer months and the higher temperatures will increase both consumption and demand. As such, some citizens may not be able to pay or become angry that their bill "skyrocketed". Utility customers can make payment arrangements if their account is not over 30-days past due. Under no circumstance will the City disconnect power to an occupied residence when the temperature is above 100° F or below freezing (32° F). Please remember that the City of Smithville only charges customers for what they use and when the electrical demand is high --- so is the cost per kilowatt. The Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC) provides energy conservation tips → <https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/Save.aspx> to help reduce consumption which in turn will help citizens save money. 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 12-13 cents with a family of 4 paying \$167.52 per month for electricity (1,200 kWh).

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF – JUNE 2023



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 – 6/9/23 (continued)

- 3) City of Smithville Receives Authorization to Use Grant Funding (AUGF) for GLO-CDBG Flood Mitigation Projects** - The City of Smithville received notice from the General Land Office (GLO) authorizing the release of \$2.54M in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) funding for the NE/NW 2nd Street and 4th and 6th Street drainage improvement projects (re: Project 1 and 3 below). The release of the grant funding was contingent upon obtaining receipt of environmental clearance which was received during the second week of May. BEFCO will be finalizing the engineering design and publishing a project timeline in the very near future. The total GLO CDBG-MIT award that the City of Smithville received in May 2021 is \$12.9M with a 1% match. 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 multiple regional flood mitigation projects. These efforts (combined with multiple federally declared flood disasters) placed the City of Smithville in a very competitive position. There are four (4) projects that will be implemented utilizing a phased approach (see below). Note: Project 2 and 4 are still pending land acquisition and environmental clearance.

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

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

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.

Project 2: SE 4th Regional Detention Pond - \$5,388,250 – PENDING LAND ACQUISITION / ENV. CLEARANCE

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.

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

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.

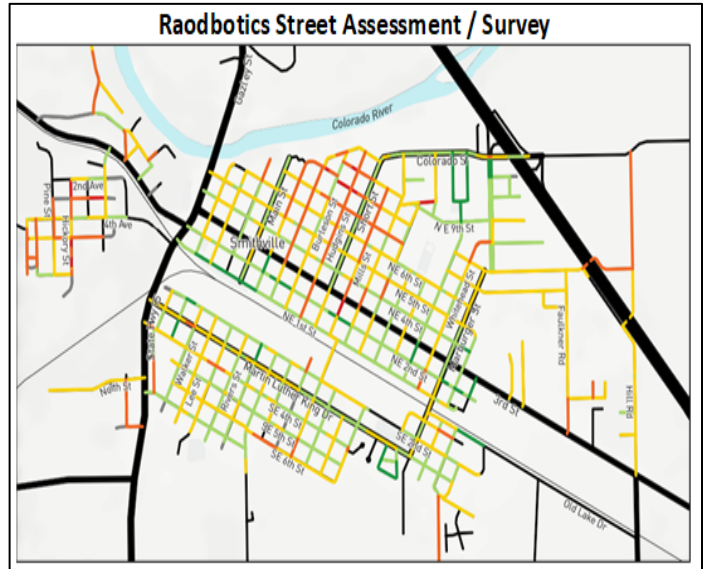
Project 4: Loop 230 Regional Detention Pond - \$2,618,500 – PENDING LAND ACQUISITION / ENV. CLEARANCE

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.

City Manager Update – 6/9/23 (continued)

4) **City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Project Update** - The City of Smithville contracted with Freeland Turk Engineering Group, LLC (FTEG) to conduct a [City-wide Street Assessment](#) and sign inventory. FTEG utilized [Roadbotics](#) technology to collect street and sign data back in December 2019. The city has approximately 40-miles of city-maintained public roadways and over 600 street signs within the city limits. Roadbotics provides a rating category at approximately 10' intervals along every roadway and assigns a level for each point. Each point is combined along a roadway segment, typically block to block, or intersection to intersection (such as alleys) and the collective segment is assigned an average rating. There are 806 street segments in the Smithville assessment. A description of the ratings along with the percentage of Smithville street segments falling into those categories are described below:

- **Level 1 "Green"** = 1.00 to 1.49 - 3.60% (29 of the 806 segments) were rated Level 1. No or very minor surface damage. This road may be a newly paved roadway.
- **Level 2 "Light Green"** = 1.5 to 2.49 - 39.95% (322 of the 806 segments) were rated Level 2. Minor surface damage, no critical issues. This road is starting to show typical wear and tear.
- **Level 3 "Yellow"** = 2.5 to 3.49 - 40.32% (325 of the 806 segments) were rated Level 3. Appearance of surface distresses. Important surface issues starting to show.
- **Level 4 "Orange"** = 3.5 to 4.49 - 12.41% (100 of the 806 segments) were rated Level 4. Significant damage or emerging critical failures. Damage beginning to intensify.
- **Level 5 "Red"** = 4.5 to 5.00 - 1.49% (12 of the 806 segments) were rated Level 5. Major surface damage and/or critical surface failures present on road surface.
- **Not Rated "Gray"** = No Score - 2.23% (18 of the 806 segments) were not rated. Unpaved or dirt roadways will fall into this category. Occasionally, a severely deteriorated paved roadway, or a chip sealed roadway with light colored or brown colored gravel will fall into this category.



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	YES	YES	COMPLETE
84R (Airport)	Runway / Ramp	SEALCOAT	YES	YES	COMPLETE
Bishop	1st and 2nd Street	Chip Seal	YES	YES	JUNE
Garwood	NE 5th to Loop 230	Chip Seal	YES	YES	
Harper	Webster to Hwy 95	Chip Seal	YES	YES	
Hudgins	NE 1st to Loop 230	Chip Seal	YES	YES	
5th Avenue	Live Oak to Hickory	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JULY
Ash	4th Avenue to 6th Avenue	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Walker	700 Block	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Burleson	NE 5th to Colorado	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
King's Way (RVICS)	Last Road on the Backside of RVICS	Chip Seal	NO	YES	AUGUST
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Entry Road & Circle around Gazebo	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Oak Hill Cemetery	Entire Cemetery	Chip Seal	NO	YES	
Uptown Drive	Old Upton Road to Pecan Shores	Chip Seal	NO	YES	

Level 4 and 5 rated streets have been prioritized for repair and included in the City's overall street maintenance plan. City-wide road paving and repair will continue throughout the community during the summer months. The roads listed above will be prepped, resurfaced, and repaved. The Bastrop County Maintenance Department (who owns the paving equipment) will be doing 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 identified. Citizens can report a pot-hole using the Smithville [SEE/CLICK/FIX](#) link on the City Website or by downloading the SCF app to their smart phones.

City Manager Update – 6/9/23 (continued)

5) **FAA Inspection Completed at Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport** – Aerologic, LLC conducted an inspection of the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport (84R) on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Aerologic, LLC is assisting the FAA and the State of Texas in updating safety critical information for non-air carrier airports in Texas. This is so pilots using the facility are informed of the conditions of the airport. The FAA uses this information to plan improvements at eligible airports and to produce the [84R Chart Supplement](#). The FAA certified inspector, (Randy Collier) stated the airport looks attractive and well maintained. The runway pavement and paint markings are in good condition. The following items were noted that will require attention:

- Airfield electrical vault door is rusted through. Vault unlocked. The door should be replaced and locked and a sign placed on the door, “DANGER-ELECTRICAL HAZARD” or similar.
- Fuel system:
 - a. Emergency shut-off not identified. A sign should be prominently displayed in the fueling area indicating the location of the emergency shut-off. Shut-off should have sign indicating “Emergency Shut-off (Push or Pull) off.”
 - b. Fuel tanks should be “sumped” for water daily.
 - c. Filter vessels should have last filter date change displayed.
- Trees inside the primary surface, 105 ft. from runway centerline should be removed. The primary surface is centered on the runway, 250 ft. each side of runway centerline and extends 200 ft. beyond each runway end. The primary surface should be maintained clear of any object not required for flight safety frangible runway lights and navigational aids.
- One runway light lens knocked off. Numerous runway lights are obscured by ant nests inside the lens. Recommend annual maintenance of the runway lights that would include cleaning, adjustment of aiming, gasket replacement if necessary.
- Concrete electrical boxes in a few locations are more than 3” above grade. The standard is anything that exceeds 1-inch above grade must be frangible. Fill around the concrete so that it is < 1 inch above grade.

Corrective actions will be implemented to address the deficiencies identified above within the next 30-45 days. In the interim, click on the following link for a copy of the complete report → [84R Inspection Report](#).

There are several meetings and events in Smithville scheduled the next few weeks:

Friday, June 9th - The Smithville Recreation Center is sponsoring a “[KIDS SUMMER CAMP INFO BASH](#)” event at 106 Royston from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Saturday, June 10th - The **17th ANNUAL SMITHVILLE FLY-IN** will be held at the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and or updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/Fly84R?fref=ts>.

Monday, June 12th: - The June **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held at City Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. Click for link to access the [COUNCIL AGENDA AND DATA PACKET](#).

Wednesday, June 14th: CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP will be held at City Hall beginning at 5:30 pm to review DRAFT subdivision and short-term rental ordinance(s). Click link for [WORKSHOP AGENDA AND DATA PACKET](#).

Thursday, June 15th: The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce MONTHLY MIXER will be held at THE FRONT ROOM WINE BAR (located at 116 Main Street) from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Monday, June 19th: - City Offices will be CLOSED in observance of JUNETEENTH. City Hall office hours Tuesday-Friday (after the Holiday) will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Sunday, July 2, 2023: Music, fun, food, and fireworks at Riverbend Park → [4th of JULY CELEBRATION](#).

Tuesday, July 4, 2023: City Offices will be CLOSED in observance of INDEPENDENCE DAY. City Hall office hours Tuesday-Friday will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

-- Robert --

PHOTOS (6/9/23)

New Railroad Park Pavilion Built with Union Pacific Grant



Smithville VFD Annual Fund-Raiser



HOME Grant Home Demolition / Rebuild @ 611 Gazley



Memorial Day Laying of the Wreaths at Veteran's Memorial Park and VFW Memorial Day Celebration

