

## City Manager Update (8-6-21)

The FY21/22 budget cycle is well underway. I have been meeting with department heads to identify projects, plans, and preliminary budgetary needs. During our last staff meeting, I provided budget guidance and thanked the staff for their hard work over the past year. Budget workshops will be held on August 25, 2021 and September 8, 2021 at City Hall from 4:30-6:30 pm. Public Hearings for the FY21/22 Tax Rate and Budget have also been scheduled. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Click on the following link to access the City Calendar → <https://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/>.

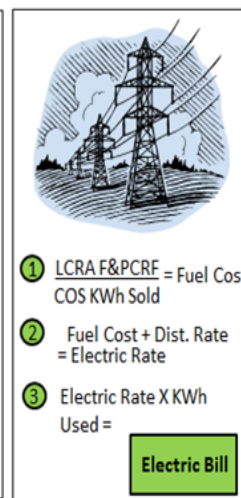
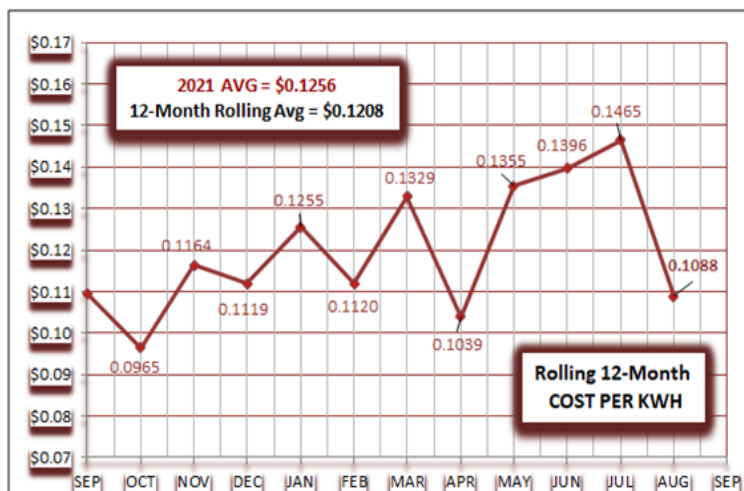
Multiple infrastructure projects are underway. The city-wide water tower refurbishment project is 75% complete. The "Tin Man" and two (2) pedosphere (golf ball) elevated storage tanks have been repaired and repainted as have the majority of the city's ground storage tanks. Work on the 100,000-gallon ground storage tank at Keilberg Park and refurbishment of the 600,000-gallon ground storage tank is still pending. Construction of the 1-Megawatt solar farm by the airport (on the west side of Loop 230) is progressing nicely. To date, 4,120 solar panels have been installed and the system should be operational by the end of the year. City-wide street repair / paving has started up again with fourteen (14) streets being prepped for resurfacing (see list on next page). City crews need 7-10 days of dry weather to before they can lay down asphalt. The NW 2<sup>nd</sup> drainage improvement (from Cleveland to Hwy 95) and at the city warehouse drainage improvements (1000 MLK Blvd) will begin in the early Fall. The NW 2<sup>nd</sup> drainage improvement project will provide additional flood relief to the some of the downtown businesses along 2<sup>nd</sup> street that are prone to flooding.

Construction of the M5 Subdivision has begun. The project is located on 10-acres between Webb Street and NE 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Thirty-two (32) new single-family homes will be built. The Grove (aka Seidel Estates) is a 29-home subdivision that will be located adjacent to Quail Run and Oak Meadows just off of Loop 230 East. Besides new housing developments, some of the other projects around town that are "in-the-works" include: a 179 space RV Park; a 69-acre mixed use development, Loop 230 water line extension, and the SH95 expansion from Loop 230 to the Smithville High School. Good things are happening within our community as we continue to grow. However, it is imperative that we continue to manage growth in a manner that preserves and protects our small-town look, charm, and feel.

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

- 1) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** - The utility bills were higher in July due to an increase in consumption and extra days on the billing cycle. An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in AUGUST. 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 August is \$ 0.0588. This represents a **39% DECREASE** compared to July's fuel cost of \$ 0.0965. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0588 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during AUGUST will be \$0.1088. Note: A recent ERCOT settlement helped reduce our monthly payment on the \$848K in surcharges the we owe to cover the cost of supplying uninterrupted power to the city during the 2021 deep freeze. 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 12-13 cents.

### City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh - AUGUST



2021 Cost / kW Hour	
January	0.1255
February	0.1120
March	0.1329
April	0.1039
May	0.1355
June	0.1396
July	0.1465
August	0.1088
September	
October	
November	
December	
Avg	0.1256

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 (8-6-21) - continued

- 2) **2021 Ad Valorem Tax Rate PROPOSED** - Property values increased approximately 12.25% in Smithville this year with the average home value calculated at \$185,281. We will be recommending a **PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE of \$0.54901 cents** per \$100 valuation --- no change from our current tax rate of \$0.54901. This rate includes a \$750k tax note that will be used to purchase capital equipment (patrol cars, wood chipper, radio equipment) and funded by the I&S portion of the total rate. During 2021, the average homeowner will pay \$1017 in property taxes (\$83 more than the average paid in 2020). The strategy we have followed in the past was to identify the maximum tax rate allowable without triggering the possibility of a rollback election then decide the amount of increase (if any) that is required to support the proposed budget. The FY21-22 effective tax rate (now called the “No-New-Revenue Tax Rate”) is 0.49401. The rollback rate (now called the “Voter-Approval Tax Rate”) is \$0.54901. The maximum increase the City can raise taxes in a given year without triggering a rollback election is 3.5% of the effective M&O tax rate. The effective tax rate is basically the tax rate that would generate the same amount of revenue in the current tax year as was generated by a taxing unit's adopted tax rate in the preceding tax year from property that is taxable in both the current tax year and the preceding tax year. The City Council will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the proposed tax rate in the coming weeks. In the interim, the City will publish the Notice of 2021 Proposed Property Tax Rate in the Smithville Times. There will be discussion and action during Monday night's Council meeting to adopt the Ad Valorem Tax Rate at the September 13, 2021 council meeting and public hearing on the budget. Note: This agenda item simply sets the date that the tax rate will be adopted - not the rate itself. See BCAD Property Valuation and City Tax Rate Comparison.

Year	Assessed Valuation	% Change in Value	Avg Home Value	Avg City Tax Paid	M&O Rate	I&S Rate	Total Tax Rate	% Change
<b>2021</b>	\$327,638,096	12.25%	185,281	\$1,017	\$0.4194	\$0.1296	\$0.5490	0.00%
<b>2020</b>	\$291,892,810	6.06%	170,086	\$933	\$0.4466	\$0.1024	<b>\$0.5490</b>	-3.52%
<b>2019</b>	\$275,208,274	10.97%	162,541	\$925	\$0.4525	\$0.1165	<b>\$0.5690</b>	0.00%
<b>2018</b>	\$247,999,239	4.63%	\$151,444	\$862	\$0.4455	\$0.1235	<b>\$0.5690</b>	5.57%
<b>2017</b>	\$237,025,717	13.85%	\$142,363	\$767	\$0.4166	\$0.1224	<b>\$0.5390</b>	-4.77%
<b>2016</b>	\$208,184,234	6.03%	\$128,688	\$728	\$0.4276	\$0.1384	<b>\$0.5660</b>	2.28%
<b>2015</b>	\$196,345,743	9.03%	\$115,725	\$640	\$0.4075	\$0.1459	<b>\$0.5534</b>	0.00%
<b>2014</b>	\$180,091,189	0.50%	\$108,206	\$599	\$0.3990	\$0.1544	<b>\$0.5534</b>	9.37%
<b>2013</b>	\$179,187,421	3.19%	\$105,948	\$536	\$0.3579	\$0.1481	<b>\$0.5060</b>	3.50%
<b>2012</b>	\$173,649,479	N/A	\$104,050	\$508	\$0.3320	\$0.1565	<b>\$0.4885</b>	1.07%

- 3) **Engineering Services Request for Qualification (RFQ) for FEMA DR-4586 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**— The City of Smithville published a Request for Qualification (“RFQ”) in the Austin American Statesman on July 1, 2021 for engineering services required to develop a budget, scope of work, and draft specifications for the preparation of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application. The city will be applying for FEMA HMGP funding to construct one or more flood mitigation projects (e.g., detention pond on NE 1<sup>st</sup>) in response to the federally declared disaster DR-4586 associated with the statewide winter weather event occurring in February 2021. Proposals for engineering services were reviewed by City staff on July 28, 2021. Experience, work performance, and capacity to perform were the criteria used by the City staff to evaluate / differentiate each engineering consultant's qualifications. Five (5) Engineering services consultants submitted their qualifications. **BEFCO Engineering, Inc.** received the highest total score (99) and will be recommended to the City Council on Monday, August 9, 2021 for consideration / selection.
- 4) **Management Services Request for Proposal (RFP) for FEMA DR-4586 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – The City of Smithville published a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) in the Austin American Statesman on July 1, 2021 for professional administration services to assist in developing an application(s) for funding under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The city will be applying for FEMA HMGP funding to construct one or more flood mitigation projects in response to the federally declared disaster DR-4586 associated with the statewide winter weather event occurring in February 2021. Proposals for grant management services were reviewed by City staff on July 28, 2021. Experience, work performance, capacity to perform, and cost were the criteria used by the City staff to evaluate / differentiate each grant management consultant's qualifications. **Langford Community Management Services (LCMS), Inc.** was the only administrative / management consulting firm to submit an RFQ packet. As such, it will be recommended to the City Council that LCMS be awarded the FEMA HMGP management services contract.

## City Manager Update (8-6-21) - continued

5) **COVID-19 Cases Increase Within Bastrop County** – Bastrop County is seeing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases including “break-through” cases involving individuals that have been fully vaccinated. The current vaccination rate (fully vaccinated) in Bastrop County is 47% compared to the State of Texas vaccination rate of 62.5%. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 109 fatalities, 7,930 confirmed cases, 2,686 probable cases, and 9,874 recovered cases of COVID-19 in Bastrop County. The current active case count is 633. As of 8/5/21, the hospitalization rate in our eleven (11) county Trauma Service Area (TSA-O) is 11.03% and there are currently only nineteen (19) ICU beds available for 2.3M people. Despite the increase in COVID-19 cases across the state, Governor Abbott has no plans to shut-down businesses, mandate masks, or force people to get vaccinated. Click on the following link for [Executive Order GA-38](#). Per the Executive Order, a municipality cannot mandate the wearing of masks, shut down businesses, or force people to get vaccinated. However, the city will continue conducting daily temperature checks of its employees, disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, and recommend wearing masks (indoors) where city personnel have close interaction with co-workers and/or citizens. The following links will provide additional information pertaining to COVID-19 in Bastrop County and Trauma Service Area (TSA-O):

- a. Go to this link for current case counts and press on Bastrop County:  
<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>
- b. Go to this link for hospitalizations and press on Trauma Service area O:  
<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0d8bdf9be927459d9cb11b9eae6101f>
- c. Go to this link for vaccination rates and press on Bastrop County:  
[https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?:origin=card\\_share\\_link&:embed=y&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y](https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?:origin=card_share_link&:embed=y&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y)

6) **City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Project Update** – City-wide street repair / paving has started up again with fourteen (14) streets being prepped for resurfacing. City crews need 7-10 days of dry weather to before they can lay down asphalt. 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 - SUMMER 2021					
Street	From / To	Paving Material	Prep Completed	Road Closure Required	Est. Paving Date
Whitehead	700 Block Whitehead to Charleston	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Tiger Lane	Tiger Lane	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Gentry Street	Woodress Lane to 300 Block	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Bunte Street	Woodress Lane to 300 Block	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Anderson Street	SE 4th to End of Anderson	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
SE 2nd Street	Taylor to Eagleston	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Reed Street	FM2571 to Front Street	Chip Seal	YES	YES	SEP
East Street	East Street to FM 2571	Chip Seal	YES	YES	SEP
Byrne	Loop 230 to 500 Block	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
8th Street	Short to Burleson	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
9th Street	Short to Burleson	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Bishop	Loop 230 to 9th Street	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Mills	500-900 Block	Chip Seal	YES	YES	AUG
Mills	200 Block	Hot Mix	YES	YES	SEP

## City Manager Update (8-6-21) - continued

7) **TXDOT Mowing Update** - TXDOT contractors finished mowing Hwy 71, Loop 230, and most of the arterial roadways last week to include FM 2571 and FM 2104. TXDOT only mows the Right-of-Way (ROW) twice a year (typically July and November) unless a line-of-sight hazard exists. Unfortunately, line-of-sight hazards must be called into the district office to resolve and it is often easier to have City crews just take care of the issue. Since TXDOT only mows twice a year, the city hired a local contractor to help keep the Loop 230 and Hwy 71 triangle (by the airport) mowed on a regular basis. This has helped the eastbound entrance to our community look more attractive and well-maintained. The same contractor also mows around the crepe myrtles at the airport and on Charleston Blvd.

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

The next SMITHVILLE CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held on **Monday, August 9, 2021** (6:00) pm at City Hall (317 Main). Citizens can access the meeting via YouTube → ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w)). Click → [HERE](#) for agenda.

The next QUARTERLY CHAMBER LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021** from 11am-1pm, First United Methodist Church, 400 Olive St. in Smithville. SPEAKER: Rep. John Cyrier will give a Legislative Update.

SISD CLASSES begin **Tuesday, August 17, 2021**. Drive careful!

The AUGUST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIXER will be hosted by Prosperity Bank (406 Main Street) on **August 19, 2021** from 5pm-7pm.

1ST BUDGET WORKSHOP – **Wednesday, August 25, 2021** at City Hall from 4:30-6:30 pm. Citizens can access the meeting via YouTube → ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w)).

The next monthly BEST BREAKFAST will be held on **Friday, August 27, 2021** at Your Mom's in Smithville (109 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) from 8:00-9:30 am.

The AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD (AAB) will meet on **Wednesday, September 1, 2021** in the Pilot's Lounge at Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport from 6:30-7:30 pm.

CITY OFFICES will be CLOSED on **Monday, September 6, 2021** in observance of Labor Day.

P&Z MEETING will be held on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021** at City Hall (6:00 pm).

PUBLIC HEARING on 2021-22 TAX RATE and BUDGET and 2<sup>ND</sup> BUDGET WORKSHOP will be held on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021** at City Hall (317 Main Street) from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Citizens can access the meeting via YouTube → ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7rJz0wVks4zWV9EvKcH5w)).



# PHOTOS – 8/6/21

New Wayfinding Signs Installed



Photinias (Red Tips) Installed at Gazley Wastewater Treatment Facility



City-wide Street Repairs



Electric Crew Repairing Service



Water / Wastewater Crew Fixing Broken Water Line on the Hill



Miscellaneous Drainage Improvement Projects (Whitehead and Loop 230 / 7<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond / NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street)



Smithville Solar One Solar Array



City Council Workshop



City Offices **CLOSED** Monday - 9/6/21

