



City Administrator's Report

March 30, 2023

Release of Water from Smithville Lake

Last Monday, March 20, the City began bypass pumping to the Raw Water Pump Station so that Irvinbilt could begin construction of the valve vault for the new Pump Station. Due to the amount of recent rainfall, the Corps of Engineers informed Utilities Superintendent Bob Lemley on Sunday, March 26, that they needed to release more water through the spillway. Water can be released through the spillway at different levels of the lake, however only so much water can be released through the different elevations. Typically, we draw water from the middle to the top of the lake. The low flow gate located at the top part of the water surface can only release 125 cfs. The Corps needed to release 500 cfs, the difference is coming off the bottom of the lake. The bottom of the lake is where a lot of organics and metals would settle. Several years ago, when the Corps did a release from the bottom of the lake, manganese levels necessitated a boil water order.

Working with the Corps, we have been able to get a blended scenario, taking 200cfs off the top and 300cfs off the bottom. Staff was on site with the Corps testing the water coming out of the spillway. Water Plant staff set up a small testing site at the Raw Water Pump Station and monitored the water every half hour on Monday. All water samples were good. Staff is continuing to test the water on a regular basis while the plant is running, and samples remain exceeding the minimum requirements of any drinking water standard.

While we remain vigilant, pulling water from the lake bottom is not consistent and a "slug" of undesirable materials/water could present itself at any time any. Staff will continue testing and monitoring. If poor quality water gets by before we know it, this could place us in a position to have to alert residents to boil water before consuming.

As noted, we continue to monitor and will keep the Board and public informed of any concerns.

COPS Grant Potential

The Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) has announced the release of approximately \$300 million in grant solicitations

for programs that advance community policing, keep school students safe, and add law enforcement officers to our nation's streets. This is a competitive award program designed to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Each award will support up to 75 percent of an officer's entry-level salaries and fringe benefits for three years within a five-year period of performance to accommodate time needed for recruitment and hiring.

There is a minimum 25 percent local cash match (cost share) requirement. The maximum federal share per officer position is \$125,000 over the three-year period, (not \$125,00 per year). Any additional costs for higher than entry-level salaries and fringe benefits will be the responsibility of the recipient agency.

Staff is exploring the possibility of applying for COPS Grant funding. The timeline is such that final applications would need to be submitted prior to adoption of the budget.

Water Leak Repaired

At the March 7 Board Meeting, Utilities staff provided an update to the Board regarding a water leak at the intersection of Second Creek and Lowman Road. Staff had contacted several contractors to obtain quotes to repair the leak and were proceeding with Menke Excavation. The proposal outlined two options depending on where the actual break was found and work necessary to make the repair. Fortunately, the break was located on the south side of the road and the repair cost is \$6,680. This is within the City Administrator's authority to approve payment.

Administrative Approval – Fireworks Display at White Iron Ridge

As the Board will recall, last year it was determined that approval of fireworks display requests submitted for one-time events could be approved administratively by the City Administrator. The most frequent use of this type of display is at White Iron Ridge, in conjunction with a wedding. This month, we received our first request for this administrative approval, which has been granted. The display will occur on Saturday, April 22 between 9:30 and 9:45. White Iron Ridge has the responsibility and a plan in place for notification of neighbors of this event.

Work Session Discussion - ESG

At the March 7 Board Meeting, Alderman Russell requested that a draft Ordinance divesting of any entities engaged in or related to ESG. Staff continues to research potential language, work with counsel and financial advisors on the potential impact of such language and is monitoring similar language at the state level for a model or applicability locally. Discussion of this as well as bid language/the bidding process is currently scheduled for a work session on June 6.

2022 Household Hazardous Waste

In 2022, the City of Smithville participated in the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program hosted by MARC. As part of the program, residents of Smithville safely disposed of over 18,000 pounds of hazardous household waste by attending HHW

mobile events and using the KC facility. The hazardous materials that were safely disposed of included paint, oil, batteries, and other similar substances.

The City has enrolled in the program again for 2023, ensuring that residents can continue to safely dispose of hazardous materials. Smithville is hosting an HHW mobile event on August 17, which will take place at Smithville High School from 9 am to noon.

Meeting Schedule

Just a reminder that a number of upcoming meetings have been cancelled or moved:

- The April 4 meeting is moved to April 3 due to the April 4 municipal election.
- The July 4 meeting is cancelled for the Holiday and City Hall is closed July 3 & 4.
- The August 1 meeting has been cancelled as Mayor Boley will be out of town.

Additionally, a meeting has been added to the planning calendar: May 9 has been identified for the Board of Aldermen Retreat/Budget Planning meeting. We have secured the same MCC facility space as used last year for this date. Please let me know if this date does not work for you and we will work to identify another date – we would like to complete this work in May.