

**SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
WORK SESSION  
March 3, 2026 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Boley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present: Marv Atkins, Kelly Kobylski, Melissa Wilson, Leeah Stone, Chelsea Dana and Dan Hartman.

Staff present: Cynthia Wagner, Gina Pate, Chief Lockridge, Chuck Soules, Jack Hendrix, Rick Welch and Linda Drummond.

City Attorneys present: Padraic Corcoran.

**2. Citizen Survey Results ETC Presentation**

Robert Heacock, ETC Institute presented the City of Smithville, Missouri 2025 Citizen Survey results. He noted the survey provides insights into residents' satisfaction with city services, perceptions of safety, parks and recreation, maintenance services, communication, and future priorities. The survey, conducted in winter 2025, achieved 323 responses with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of 5.2%.

**Key Findings**

- **City Services:** Residents expressed high satisfaction with solid waste services (85%), police services (78%), and customer service from City employees (72%). Overall satisfaction with city services was 65%.
- **Public Safety:** Public safety is a major strength, with 80% satisfied with local police protection and 98% feeling safe in their neighborhoods during the day. 93% of respondents reported feeling safe overall in Smithville.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Residents are highly satisfied with the maintenance of city parks (88%), walking and biking trails (85%), and city trails (83%). Clean streets (78%) and well-maintained city property (76%) also contribute to the city's appeal.
- **Community Engagement:** Events like the Haunted Campground (25% participation) and youth sports programs are popular. Facebook (59%) and the City newsletter (55%) are the preferred communication channels.
- **Future Investments:** Many residents support increased taxes or fees for amenities like a community center with an indoor competition pool (49%) and an outdoor swimming pool (43%).

**Trends (2018-2025)**

- Satisfaction with city services has declined in areas like water/sewer utilities (-19%), traffic flow (-22%), and community planning (-16%).
- Public safety satisfaction remains high but has slightly decreased in areas like police visibility (-7%) and crime prevention (-6%).
- Parks and recreation satisfaction has dropped in areas like playground equipment (-9%) and public restrooms (-12%).
- Maintenance services satisfaction has declined for major city streets (-8%) and water/wastewater systems (-12%).

**Benchmarking**

Smithville outperforms both national and regional averages in most areas, with significant differences in safety, solid waste services, and overall quality of life.

## Survey Results Summary

Smithville is a community where residents feel safe, enjoy high-quality city services, and take pride in their city's image and quality of life. While satisfaction remains high in many areas, there are opportunities for improvement in city maintenance, communication, and recreation programs. Residents are engaged and supportive of future investments in community amenities.

Cynthia thanked Robert for the information and noted that it is helpful to better understand current trends and community concerns. While earlier years showed significant improvement, we want to avoid drawing conclusions about long-term trends until more data is available. The survey information will play an important role in the upcoming strategic planning process that is already budgeted for this year.

Staff will be meeting to review detailed departmental data, including open-ended survey responses, to identify key focus areas. Communication remains a major priority, both in getting information to the public and ensuring department-level discussions about survey results. Customer service continues to rate highly, and staff take pride in maintaining strong regional and national comparisons.

This information will be taken into consideration as the budget process moves forward, related topics such as the citizen newsletter distribution method. Currently, newsletters are included with water bills, but this misses residents whose bills go to landlords. Staff will continue refining communication methods and will bring related recommendations to the board in the coming months.

### **3. Discussion of 3- Month FY2026 Budget Review**

Finance Director Rick Welch presented the three-month FY2026 Budget Review.

The FY2026 budget update includes two approved amendments, \$26,000 for a City Hall sewer line replacement and \$26,944 for the OK Railroad Trail Project.

The senior property tax freeze is expected to have minimal impact on FY2026, and interest income will be allocated with 45% to the General Fund and 55% to the CWWWS Fund.

A utility rate study is scheduled for presentation on April 7, 2026.

The General Fund has budgeted revenues of \$7,143,408, with \$2,081,504 collected to date (29.1%), partly delayed due to a property tax deadline extension by Clay County.

Expenditures total \$1,801,195 (22.7%) of the \$7,922,536 budget and are tracking as expected. Key revenue sources include property tax at 83% of budget due to large January disbursements, sales tax slightly below historical averages at 22.5% of budget, use tax at 31.3% showing moderate growth, interest income slightly above historical averages at 24.2%, and building permits at 23.5% with a positive outlook due to increased development.

The Public Safety Sales Tax Fund personnel and benefits costs are projected at \$91,000, which includes the January step increase. The LAGERS amount will decrease slightly because the implementation will not begin until July 1. Equipment and training expenses are expected to come in as budgeted.

Animal Control expenses are projected to come in slightly below budget as implementation of this program and hiring the position is delayed.

Although the total currently shows we have collected 14.9%, it is important to remember that this sales tax only began generating revenue in November and December of 2025. Because of that, collections start slowly and then build over time. We are still projecting \$700,000 in revenue for 2026.

The projections were based on the historical first-year performance of our other sales taxes. Staff will continue to monitor the collections closely, and at this point the numbers are tracking in line with those projections.

The LAGERS implementation has been delayed until July 1. We have also received confirmation that the animal control vehicle should be available soon, and once it arrives, we will begin recruitment for that position.

In addition, police union negotiations will begin soon, and any contract changes that result from those negotiations will require budget adjustments.

The CWWS Fund shows operating revenues of \$1,919,025 (25.7%) and grant revenues of \$1,022,771 (68.2%) of their respective budgets, while operating expenditures are at 10.8% and CIP expenditures at 8%, with further discussion planned alongside the rate study in April.

Other funds, including Capital Improvement, Transportation, Park and Stormwater, and Public Safety Sales Tax Funds, report revenues between roughly 14% and 23% of budget with relatively low expenditures so far, reflecting early fiscal-year spending patterns.

The Sanitation Fund revenues and expenditures are each around 25% of budget, while the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund has begun expenditures but has not yet received revenue.

Overall, property tax revenue timing has been affected by the county extension, while sales and use tax revenues remain close to historical trends. General Fund spending is consistent with projections, and capital expenditures are expected to increase as projects progress throughout the fiscal year.

#### **4. Adjourn**

Alderman Hartman moved to adjourn. Alderman Kobylski seconded the motion.

Ayes – 6, Noes – 0, motion carries. The Mayor declared the work session adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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Linda Drummond, City Clerk

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Damien Boley, Mayor