SMITHVILLE
missouri

City Administrator's Report

October 29, 2026

School Funding Formula Resolution

North Kansas City Mayor Jesse Smith has contacted City staff requesting that the Governing Body join them in urging the Governor and the General Assembly to fully fund Missouri's school foundation formula, as required by state statue.

The Missouri Constitution states that the General Assembly shall establish and maintain free public schools to ensure a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence among its citizens. The Missouri School Foundation Formula, established under Chapter 163, RSMo, is the mechanism used to calculate the amount of state aid necessary to provide an adequate education for public school students throughout the state.

The Fiscal Year 2027 State Budget funded the Foundation Formula approximately $190 million below the amount calculated under state law, resulting in reduced state aid to public school districts across Missouri. For Fiscal Year 2028, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) calculated a State Adequacy Target of $7,145 per student and recommended full funding of the formula. However, the State Board of Education submitted a budget request maintaining funding at the Fiscal Year 2027 level of $4.283 billion, approximately $270 million less than the amount calculated by the formula.

The impact to Smithville School District for Fiscal Year 2028 would be more than $1,000,000. This represents a loss in revenue of 2.3% of the district's budget for Fiscal Year 2028. The cumulative impact of the State Foundation Formula being underfunded for more than three years is anticipated be at least $2,300,000 for Smithville School District.

The attached resolution adopted by the City of North Kansas City expresses the City's support for full funding of the Missouri School Foundation Formula in accordance with state law. The resolution recognizes the importance of public schools to the community, including their impact on families, neighborhoods, workforce development, property values, and economic growth.

The resolution further notes that when state funding falls below formula requirements, local school districts must address funding shortfalls through operational adjustments or increased reliance on local taxpayers.

Adoption of the resolution would formally encourage the Governor, General Assembly, and State Board of Education to fully fund the Foundation Formula and meet the State's constitutional and statutory obligations to Missouri students.

Additionally, the resolution supports the use of future education-related revenues, including revenue generated from sports wagering, as supplemental funding rather than as a replacement for full formula funding.

There is no direct financial impact to the City associated with adoption of the resolution. Staff have been in communications with school district administration and are prepared to coordinate timing of approval of a resolution by both bodies later this month, if appropriate.

Business License Process Update
Based on changes to City Code adopted by the Board this fall, the Business License Renewal process has begun. Staff is working to distribute renewal letters to be mailed prior to the week of November 16. The letters will include an overview of the changes to the licensing process, including the change to the license year to begin January 1.

City/School Meeting
On October 21, city staff including Cynthia Wagner, Jack Hendrix, and Mayra Toothman met with Drs. Mark Maus and Justin Collins with the Smithville School District for our monthly update. During the meeting, various development projects around town, including those on school property were discussed.

Employee Spotlight: Officer Kennedy Sutton
The City of Smithville is proud to recognize Kennedy Sutton, who was nominated by a coworker for her positive attitude, teamwork, and dedication to serving her community. Officer Sutton consistently goes above and beyond to support her coworkers and the residents she serves. Her willingness to step in when help is needed reflects her compassion, dependability, and commitment to her team. Whether supporting a coworker or assisting a resident, Kennedy approaches each interaction with kindness, professionalism, and a genuine desire to help others.

As her coworker shared through this nomination, Officer Sutton's positive attitude and willingness to put others first make a meaningful difference in the workplace. She exemplifies the spirit of public service and the importance of looking out for one another.

Thank you, Officer Sutton, for making a difference for your coworkers and the Smithville community!

Recruitment
We are currently recruiting for three positions in the Public Works Department

- Wastewater Plant Operator: 2
- Streets Maintenance Worker: 1

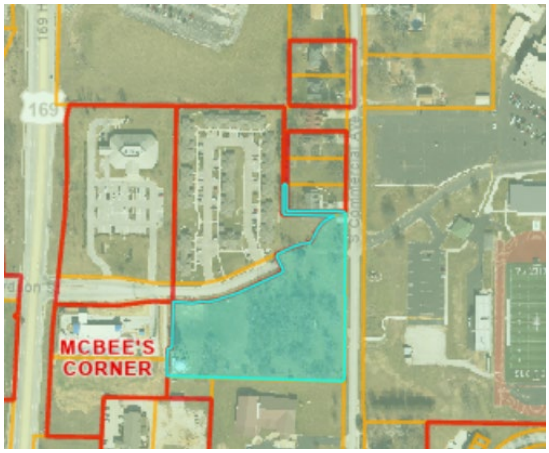
Community Conversations: Your City, Up Close
Staff has scheduled a second opportunity for residents to give residents a behind-the-scenes look at City operations and facilities. The next session, scheduled for Thursday, December 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 will introduce participants to City government and include a Budget 101 presentation highlighting the FY2027 Budget. Participants will learn how the City operates, explore the roles of the Board of Aldermen, City commissions, City staff, and gain an understanding of how City services and operations are funded.

Dinner will be provided. Advance registration is required. Participants can sign up here. The registration deadline is November 23.

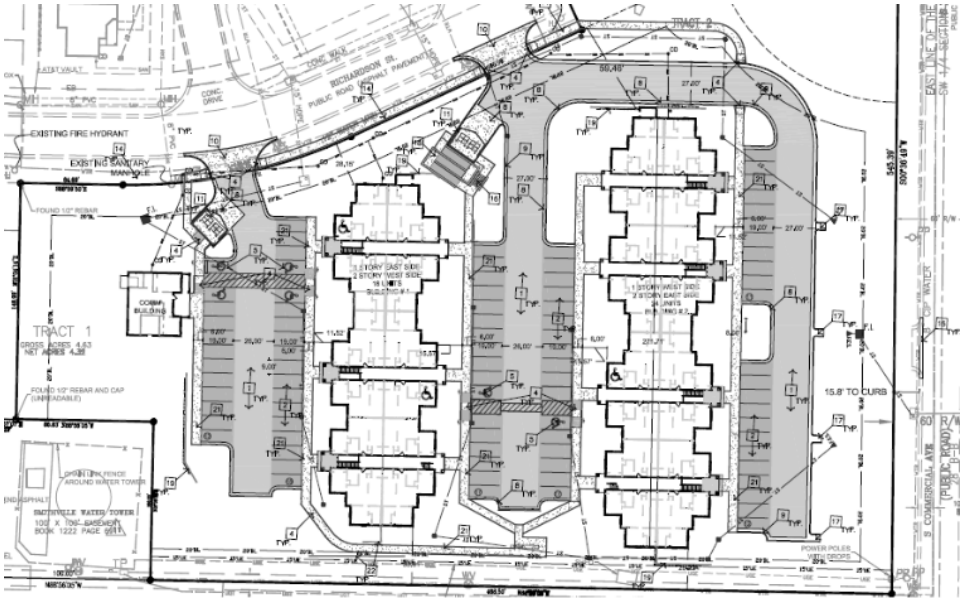
2024 ICC Building Code Adoption Process
The City currently operates building code enforcement using the 2018 code family from the International Code Council (ICC). Most of the region has moved to the 2021 family, or the 2024 family of codes. Smithville advertised the 2024 code adoption process on October 14, 2026, which, by state law must be open for 90 days.

Staff are completing the final review of the adoption ordinances which will be necessary to make amendments to the code for localized preferences. It is anticipated that the required public hearing will be held at the February 9, 2027 Planning Commission meeting, with presentation to the Board of Aldermen for First reading on February 16, and potential second reading on March 2, 2027.

Villas of Smithville Senior Housing
An application for the last phase of the Villas of Smithville Senior Housing (east of Mid-Continent Public Library) has been submitted for initial review. The applicant's proposal will be for 42 new residential housing units for seniors across the street from the existing facility. Staff review has begun. From this initial review, staff anticipates additional meetings and review with the development team to determine next steps.



It is anticipated this development will require extension of Richardson Road to Commercial Street, creating a direct link from Commercial to 169. A probable site layout is depicted below.



Smithville Haunted Campground

The Smithville Haunted Campground event took place on October 24, 2026. This annual event is organized by the Parks and Recreation staff alongside community volunteers, Angie Viebrock and Amanda Muck. This year, the event attracted more than 4,000 attendees within just three hours. The Smith's Fork Campers added to the festive atmosphere with impressive Halloween decorations! Camp Sites for this event open every year on the first Monday of August, and this year's event sold out in just eight minutes.

Strategic Plan Update

The draft plan will be presented at the Work Session November 3. An online survey will be available November 9 through 20 to gather community feedback.

In person community review sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

November 9:	6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Mid-Continent Public Library
November 10:	10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	City Hall – Board Meeting Room

The final plan will be presented at the December 15 Board of Aldermen meeting. Adoption of the new plan will follow.

Fall Recreation Report

The Parks Department has provided the following update on fall participation.

Youth Soccer

- Fall youth soccer had their last games on 10/17 – no rain outs this season!
- 22 total teams this season | 216 players | 31 volunteers

Youth Volleyball

- First week of games begin next week 8/27
- 10 total teams this season | 88 players | 14 volunteers
- We are maxed out on practice space, teams were extremely full, had to cap registration, will need to speak to the school district about next year getting more gym dates for the growth of this program
- Kearney had two total teams and Platte City was not able to offer a league due to school renovations.

Youth T-ball

- 6 total teams | 72 players | 8 volunteers

Little Kickers Soccer Clinic

- 30 players
- 4 week and 6-week registration options

Youth Basketball:

- Basketball practices start 11/9
- 18 total teams | 165 players | 25 volunteers

Little Hoopsters Basketball Clinic:

- Co-ed Clinic for grades preschool-2nd Grade
- Offering four sessions this year. Last year we offered two after both were full
- Registration closes Jan. 29, 2027

Spring sports online registration will open January 1

- Youth Soccer, Little Kickers Soccer Clinic, Youth T-ball, Youth Baseball, Youth Softball

State Petition Audit

As previously reported, the current timeline anticipates completion of the audit near the end of this calendar year or early in 2027. Results will be presented in an executive session to the Board of Aldermen, with an ability to provide response to the findings and a presentation of results to the public anticipated sometime in February 2027. Staff continue to provide information in response to requests for information and clarification from the auditing team.

City Hall and Board Meeting Schedule

City Hall will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day. The agenda for the November 17 Board of Aldermen meeting will be posted on Friday, November 13.

City Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27. The December 1 Board of Aldermen meeting has been cancelled.