

Our Home Town

FEBRUARY 2019

Newsletter of the City of *Smiley* Texas



Website: SmileyTx.com

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

A lot has happened over the last few months. 2018 has gone and now we are in 2019 and it is going to be a year filled with great things for Smiley. I want to let you know what the City Council has done in the past few months.

They approved the Engagement letter from Donald Goldman for the October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 audit. The proposed budget and proposed property tax rate of \$0.3600 per \$100 value was approved for the 2018 tax year. Laura Schroeder, Municipal Court Clerk, had her hours increased by 20 hours. She will also be helping our City Secretary at City Hall with her duties. Michael Scherrer, our wastewater operator, was appointed as the Animal Control Officer for Smiley. The contract for Judge Gary J. Schroeder was approved. The wastewater treatment plant improvements for the effluent reservoir were completed on October 2018. City Council approved to apply for a TxCDBG for water/sewer improvements for the 2019-2020 year. TDA has completed and awarded Smiley the 2017-2018 TxCDBG for \$275,000 for new automatic water meters and a new storage tank for Smiley. The Council approved Southwest Engineers and Langford Community Management Services for the project. George P. Bush, Commissioner of Texas General Land Office (GLO) awarded the City with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds for Hurricane Harvey for the amount of \$595,907.00. The money we receive will go towards our streets and any other damages that occurred from the hurricane.

The City was conducting a survey for Smiley for the past few months. You may have received a phone call, had a home visit or were asked the questions when you came in to pay your bills. We were trying to get the information needed to complete the application for a community grant (s). Your answers were important to our community improvement effort. The City wishes to replace its water meters for a more accurate water usage which would make your bills more accurate. We also need to build a new ground storage tank to provide you with better water pressure and to have enough water stored in case the City's only storage tank goes down. The new water meters will include a system for automatic reading and billing by the city which will free up the city's maintenance staff to address other problems that happen with the city's water/sewer systems. I would like to THANK all the citizens who participated in the survey for the City of Smiley. I am happy to say that we were able to reach the percent needed and that it was completed by the deadline date. I really appreciate the effort we all made to get it done. The survey helps the City receive grants for most improvements and will be good for 5 years, if approved.

Brush pick-up has been changed from quarterly to monthly. There will be brush pickup every 1st Friday of the month beginning on March 1st. Please have your brush in a location where the operator can get to it. Also, Republic Services can pick up tree, shrub and brush trimmings or newspapers, magazines securely tied together forming an easily handled package not exceeding four (4) feet high or thirty five (35) lbs.

The Smiley Marshals' Office had a great turnout for their National Night Out. The Blue Santa was a huge success! They were able to deliver gifts to all the elementary students and to those students at DAEP in Smiley. Thank You Marshal Soto and Deputy Reserves!! WE ARE SO PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Thank you all for joining us at our Holiday Open House....It was AWESOME and very MERRY! There was so much good food and plenty to go around. A great time was had by all.

Election time is coming up in May. There will be three council seats available up for grabs. Elisa Douglas, H. Wayne South and Linda Warzecha are up for re-election. If you would like to file an application for a place on the General Election ballot, please come by City Hall. Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (noon). The deadline date to file is on February 15, 2019 and City Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. that day only. For further questions, please call City Hall at 830-587-6220 between the hours of 8:00-12:00 (noon).

Important Notice - All past due accounts over 30 days must be paid by February 20, 2019. If account is not paid by that date AND WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, your services will be cut-off. Reminder....Payments must be received by the due date to avoid a late fee. A \$25 late fee will be applied to your account effective immediately. Bills are due on the 20th of each month. A late fee will be added on the 21st of that month. If the bill is not paid by the 9th of the following month, your services will be cut off on the 10th.

If your water is turned off for any reason, please contact City Hall before you turn it back on. It may be due to a water leak or non-payment. If we turned it off due to no payment and you turn it back on, you may have theft charges filed. All charges will be turned into our City Marshal, Mark Soto. Also, if there is a water leak and you are losing a lot of water, we will do our best to make the best decision possible, if we cannot reach you. A City employee will try their best to reach out to you to let you know what the problem was.

Please read the City Dog and Zoning Ordinances and become familiar with our City policy.

If you have any issues, questions or concerns, please call City Hall and speak with our City Secretary during regular business hours. Rebecca will share and forward it to the right person. If our office is not notified, it will be hard to address anything that arises. When anything comes through City Hall it will be documented and there will not be any confusion as to who it was told to. We would like everything to come through City Hall where records will be kept and stored.

I feel like I need to express how important it is to let our community know that the City of Smiley has a Zoning Ordinance. The City of Smiley, Texas adopted a Comprehensive Zoning Plan and Zoning Map on July 15, 2010. This City Plan mapped out business, residential and agricultural districts as they existed at the time. If you are thinking about buying property or making improvements to property that you own, you'll need and want to know how zoning laws fit your plan. If you fail to find out what uses are allowed first, it can cost you more in the long run. You may be forced to remove any improvements made to the property that violate regulations. This also includes all manufactured homes (mobile homes). A copy of the Zoning Ordinance and Permits are available at City Hall. Please come by before making any additions to your property.

City Permits - \$100

Here is a Valentine's quote for all to share....."There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." ~Thomas Aquinas

Happy Valentine's Day, My Friends!!

We are sending you a copy of this month's newsletter in your bill. We wanted you to have one since there has not been one available to you with all the busyness here at City Hall. A newsletter will be available for you when you come pay your water bill or there will be one posted on the City website for your convenience. Website: **smileytx.com** If you would like to add anything to the newsletter, please bring it by City Hall at your convenience or email it to us at smileytx@gvec.net

The next City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Citizens of Smiley are invited to attend all public meetings.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael K. Mills ☺