

M E M O



TO:	Mayor and Council	CC:	Steve Commons	Andy Conyers
FROM:	Larry Stevens, City Manager		Jim Smith	Cinda Covell
DATE:			Steve Murdock	Natalie Evans
			Kathy Panas	Ryan Ochsner
			Casey Moore	Nicole Koehn
SUBJECT:	Monthly Progress Report –March, 2021			

1. AMI (Advance Metering Initiative)/Smart Meters

Several of our departments are still working through various mechanical communication/interface issues with the electric meters and water modules in the test area. The revised plan is to rollout 530 electric meters and 240 water meters in the test area by June. The beginning of the full city-wide rollout should occur by the end of this calendar year. This system will greatly improve our outage management system for both utilities, and it will allow our customers to monitor their water usage on a daily basis.

Our Electric and Water Departments are sharing the cost of the Smart Meter system, which will be around \$16M.

2. Traffic Signals & Turn Lanes for Exit/Entrance Ramps at I-35 & Covell

The City is providing all the funding for this project, and \$3M has been allocated from the 2000 capital improvements sales tax. We have not pursued state funding assistance in order to accomplish this project in a shorter time frame.

At this point we are waiting to advertise the project until the 2nd & Bryant intersection improvements are separately advertised in the very near future, which should result in more reasonable bid prices for both projects.

3. Sales & Use Taxes

This revenue information for the month of January is the ninth check of our current fiscal year. The trends for both revenue sources continue to be positive. Sales tax collections were up over 12% for the month. We are now cumulatively 4.3% above last year for the year to date, as compared to 3.5% a month ago and a zero growth budget projection. Although collections for use taxes was the lowest total for any month of the current budget year, this amount was over 71% higher than last year. The cumulative total for the year is now over 25%, compared to a 5% budget projection. The combined collections from both sales and use taxes was up 22% from the same period a year ago, and is now almost 8.9% for the year.

The 8-city comparison chart is also included.

4. Senior Center Programs at Mitch Park

This is a participation update on our programs since we began lifting some COVID restrictions in January:

- Meal service resumed on January 20 three days per week with a maximum of 20 participants. We have had steady daily participation at the maximum number.
- Our people also started “drive through” meal pick ups twice per week, with about 5 meals given out each day.
- Our people have re-opened the game rooms and several groups/programs have re-started on a limited basis, including sewing, exercise classes, woodcarving, etc.

We will continue to lift restrictions as appropriate. Our senior participants have enjoyed coming back, and our staff is glad to have them back as well.

Respectfully submitted

Larry Stevens
City Manager