



City of Kosse

TOWN CRIER

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THE OFFICIAL CITY OF KOSSE NEWSLETTER

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Kosse Medical Clinic Construction

The Construction on the New Kosse Medical Clinic has finally begun. Champco, INC has been working everyday to get the building up and ready for Limestone Medical Center to move in and start operations in the fall. They have put in the plumbing and have already poured the slab. The construction of the Building its self will start in the next couple weeks. This Medical Clinic will be a great asset to the Community. The clinic will provide many services to local residents including wellness exams, physicals, immunizations, primary care visits, pediatrics, sleep study, geriatrics and walk-in medical care needs. The medical clinic was paid for mostly with a grant of \$500,000.00 and Kosse paid 25,000.00 in matching funds which we had saved up over the past couple years since the project was applied for.

Water Well Project Construction

The Water Well Project construction is in full force. The water plant site construction is well underway. Currently, the foundation for the ground storage tank has been started, the slab for the pump building has been poured and the Hydro pressure tank has been delivered and set. The construction of the waterline that supplies the water to town from the well-sites has been contracted out and that portion of the project should be starting in the next month. There has been some misinformation given out about the funding for this project. This is a 2.5-million-dollar project. The funding for this project is half low interest, long term loan and half grant. The grant portion is about 1.1-million-dollars, and we do not pay that back. So, the only part of this project that is financed (at a low rate) is 1.4-million-dollars. We currently purchase our water from Tri-County for about \$13,000 dollars a month. When we no longer have to pay Tri-County and have our own water source, we will then just be paying back the low-interest rate loan. So instead of the current \$13,000.00 a month to Tri-County, we will be paying approximately \$9,000.00 a month back on the loan for our own water system. We will be immediately saving money when the water system goes online AND we will own our own water system which will provide better water pressure and more dependable water service. The cost of the new water system is much less of a financial burden than we currently have with purchased water and will better serve our community. There is absolutely no new financial burden to the City of Kosse with this project.

Utility Accounts Need Updating

If we could get everyone to update their contact phone numbers on their water accounts, that would be great! You can call the City Office, or simply send it in with your next payment. We need to be able to contact our customers in case there is an emergency water issue, and we want our customers to be notified in a timely manner if the need to do so should arise. Also, a friendly reminder that water bills are always due on the 10th. Often, they do get lost in the mail, if you're unsure of your amount just call us at the office and we will be glad to assist you.

New Equipment

Through a military program, the Kosse Police Department was able to acquire 2 large generators. One is a 30kw to operate the Kosse Community Center in the event of emergency or power outage and a 10kw to operate to the City Hall. The combined value is about \$65,000. They were acquired through the military surplus at no cost to the city. After the power outage a couple weeks ago, we want to be ready for whatever comes at us.

Election May 4, 2019

The City Council ordered a general election for May 4. On the ballot will be two city council seats along with two propositions. One proposition is voting on a measure to increase the street maintenance sales tax by 1/8th of one percent. This increase will be for city street maintenance and repair. The second proposition is voting on a measure to increase the economic development sales tax by 1/8th of one percent. This increase will provide the Kosse Economic Development more funds to increase the economic development within the City of Kosse. If the propositions pass, the sales tax rate will be 8.25%, which is consistent with most areas in Texas.

About the Proposed Sales Tax Rate Change

On May 4, 2019, a vote will be held to increase the City of Kosse Sales Tax rate from 8% to 8.25%, which is equal to most other cities in the area, including Groesbeck and Mexia. The ¼th of a cent increase will be equally divided between the street maintenance fund and the Kosse EDC. This will result in a funding increase of approximately \$600 per month each to street improvements to the EDC. An example of the impact of the increase is: You make a purchase of \$100. With sales tax you pay \$108.00 at checkout. Under the new rate you would pay \$108.25 at the register, 25 cents more than before. It should be noted that the vast majority of sales tax revenue comes from people passing through and stopping at our filling stations and restaurants. The recent street work that was done throughout the City is being paid for by the current street maintenance fund from sales tax revenue. There were a small number of streets that were not resurfaced yet due to lack of funds and this small increase will help to get all the streets resurfaced and assist with ongoing maintenance of the streets. Please note, sales tax money is strictly designated for specific purposes only, by state law. Funds collected from sales tax can only be used for limited purposes and have to be used only for the reason they are collected for. This money cannot be used to pay debts or for any other purpose.

Sales Tax Revenue Increase in Kosse

According to the state comptroller, Kosse had an increase of 9.68% in sales tax revenue. Year to date is \$27,980.79 as compared to 2018 of \$26,276.24. It's a positive 6.48% up from last year.

What does an Economic Development Committee do?

The Kosse Economic Development Committee (EDC) supports our parks, public facilities, and infrastructure, and works to stimulate and support our local economy. New businesses will be welcomed while existing business shall be supported to remain strong and viable. Our funds come from a portion of the sales tax in Kosse. The City Council appoints the board members of the EDC and oversees its operation. One major EDC achievement was getting the "Family Dollar" in Kosse. Other projects included the Kosse Café expansion and the new Tire Shop building. Recently, the EDC was notified that the "Ballpark grant" we applied for has been approved. Details about the project are in this newsletter. The EDC has helped other local businesses to improve their infrastructure as well. The EDC is working to make Kosse a better place to live and work with a more stable and sustainable economy.

Spring Cleaning Roll Off Dumpster

The big dumpsters for City Wide Cleanup will be here on May 1st. They will be placed near the fire station. They will be here for the month. Get your spring cleaning done and out of the way!

City Response to Power Outage

The Kosse city staff are quite simply, THE BEST!!! During the recent power outage City staff were all called to action, many working around the clock to maintain security of the town, and to keep the water and sewer services functional. The Kosse Police were in force around the clock during the outage to keep the town safe and assist with the needs of the city. The police were assisted by the Limestone County Sheriff's Office which provided an overnight deputy in Kosse on the first night of the outage. The Groesbeck Police Department provided coverage in Kosse the second evening and Constable Scott Smith assisted with extra patrol during the incident.

County Judge Richard Duncan spent a lot of time in contact with our Mayor Eno assisting any way he could and Limestone County Emergency Management Coordinator Matt Groveton responded to Kosse and assisted throughout the evening on Saturday.

Kosse Public Works Director Charles Dickerson spent the entire 36 hour long incident pumping down sewer stations one at a time with a generator on a trailer and managing all of the other operations around town in between. A large generator was loaned to the city from our great friends at Luminant Mine to power the pumps at the water plant enabling us to pump water up into the water tower so we could maintain water pressure during the incident. All of the city services remained operational throughout the incident and we are so proud of all the work and help from the community. Several volunteers assisted with the generators, electrical work and numerous odd jobs throughout the town. Special thanks to Randy Hunter, Jimmy O'Neal, Roy Terrell, Kelli Eno, Brooks and Linda Valls, Jimmy and Vicki Pate, Brandon Funderburk, Brian Valentine and all of the Kosse Staff.

During the second day of the incident, it was time to eat a hot meal. With the electricity off and all of the restaurants closed Kosse resident Brooks Valls and Councilman Jimmy Pate took to cooking a meal for the whole town at the Kosse Community Center. The meal was well received by many local residents and hungry city workers. Thank you, thank you, thank you. It's the people that make this community great!!!



We Need Volunteers

The Kosse Community Center/Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to making Kosse a better place to live. We are always looking for volunteers for dances, events such as Homecoming and other activities that benefit Kosse. If you have suggestions or want to get involved, please come out to the Community Center meeting or call Brooks Valls at 832-773-8361. The meetings are usually following the City Council meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Awards Matching Grant

On March 20th TPWD awarded a Small Community Matching Grant to the City of Kosse/Kosse Economic Development in the amount \$75,000. Which means \$150,000 in improvements and new construction to the old Kosse Ballfields. Details on the improvements and timelines will be published in the near future as they are finalized.

Meet the Police



Kosse Police Department, from left to right Officer Paul Ensminger, Officer Ricky Morris, Chief Mark Morris, Officer Brett New and Officer Robert Koch.

A meet the police night was held at the Kosse Community Center on April 22, 2019. The event was a good time and provided a way for the people of Kosse to get to know the law enforcement community that serves our area. Representatives from the State Police, State Game Wardens, Limestone County Sheriff's Office and Constable Scott Smith were all present to speak and answer questions. The Limestone County District Attorney Roy Defriend was also present and gave a moving speech about the good people of our community and how interaction between the police and the citizens of our community is what keeps towns like ours safe.

Police Chief Morris spoke of the importance of communication and good relations between the police and the community. "We all have to work together to keep our community safe." Chief Morris acted as the moderator of the event and introduced the guests bringing each one up to the podium to address the crowd and answer questions.

Sheriff Dennis Wilson gave the opening prayer and then spoke of the importance of safety on the job. "There are people that want to hurt us" he said and then went on with a touching story of local Hero and State Trooper Damon Allen, who was killed in the line of duty. Trooper Allen was a gifted officer of the law and friend to all of us and our communities.

Refreshments were provided for the event, including a large cake adorned with the Kosse Police Patch, donated by Kelli Eno. It was a fun evening with a relaxed atmosphere to get to know the law enforcement officers and ask questions. Hopefully this will be a yearly event.

The Kosse Police Department consists of two full time officers, Chief Mark Morris and Officer Brett New, one part time officer, Paul Ensminger and two reserve officers, Ricky Morris and Robert Koch. Together they provide many more hours of police protection to the residents of Kosse than we have had prior. They are committed to enhancing the services they provide for Kosse, and being available whenever they are needed. To date this year, there have been zero high level crimes in our area, meaning no thefts, robberies, assaults or any violent crimes. The police have been dealing with large amounts of class C misdemeanors (mostly traffic crimes) with some disorderly conduct and public intoxication mixed in here and there. The police department also handles code compliance and animal control violations.

If you have questions or concerns for the police department please feel free to email them to kossepolicedepartment@gmail.com.