

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PROGRAM

City/Town of Smithers

2023
PROGRESS
REPORT


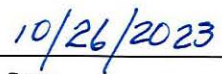
West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov.

A. General Information	
Name of Municipality: City of Smithers	
Certifying Official: D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D.	Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Teresa Dorsey	Title: City Administrator
Address: 2 Greyhound Lane, P.O. Box 489	
City, State, Zip: Smithers, West Virginia 25186	
Telephone Number: (304) 442-5282	Fax Number: (304) 442-4497
E-Mail Address: Tdorsey@smitherswv.gov	
2020 Census Population: 751	
B. Municipal Classification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class IV	
C. Attest	
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.	
	
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow identifying eyesores and dilapidated buildings.

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? **8/10/2020**

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The City of Smithers now maintains and updates monthly an inventory of dilapidated buildings; vacant dilapidated buildings; and properties that are not in compliance with relevant city ordinances. The Smithers Building Commission (SBC), City Attorney, and city employees who enforce related ordinances meet monthly with the mayor to discuss and determine legal and effective ways forward to address problem properties. This year the city established a Land Reuse Bank, which has had the opportunity to exercise the right to refusal to obtain dilapidated properties from the tax sales. Although we are still in the redeeming stage of the properties, we are hopeful to obtain ownership and demolish the dilapidated structures to help in our revitalization plan for the city. Through the REAP program, the city has been able to have several structures demolished and have several others in the process of being demolished.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

Because of this ability the city has been successful in having structures demolished that have been dilapidated and an eye sore to the city. This is given the city the opportunity to advance in the city's revitalization plan.

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at a regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) for the disposal of property without auction.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 8/10/2022
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The city has recently been able to exercise this action. An adjacent property owner advised the city of interest to purchase property owned by the city. The property is small and would be of no value to anyone but the adjacent owner. The city council voted to allow the adjacent property owner to purchase the said property at a fair market price.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. The ability to a allow the city this action is beneficial to the city and the citizens. It removes the burden of cost to maintain from the city and the citizens.

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at a regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) to enter into intergovernmental agreements.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 8/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The cities of Smithers and Montgomery are working closely together, by benefit of initiating this initiative, to share services and/ or the costs of services, to provide more and/or better services at better managed costs. Such examples include sanitary services and Fire Chief, previously both cities obtained separate fire chiefs. This allows better service coverage for both cities along with reducing the cost for both cities and the citizens.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. Intergovernmental services have allowed the City of Smithers to provide better and additional services through cooperation. This has shown the leadership of both cities that we can continue to look for ways to better utilize resources by working together.

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first Reading July 13, 2020) to allow 1% Sales Tax.

Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment or N/A

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 8/10/2020

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.

The City of Smithers reduced Manufacturing and Retail Business and Occupational taxes in exchange for the 1% Sales tax. Comparing the gain of the 1% Sales and reducing the Business and Occupational tax, the city continues to experience a loss. The City suspects this is due to underreporting of the 1% collected by businesses or that it is not being collected. The City requested from the WV Tax Department, Tax Accounting Administration Division in 2021 a list of the businesses which have submitted the 1% Sales Tax. The City is once again asking the State for this information so the City can get an accurate accounting of the 1% Sales Tax impact.

SUCCESES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The City has completed a sidewalk and ADA compliant curb cuts, and replaced outdated street signs and poles. The city continues the plan to improve streets, safety, business environment, and residential services. There has been tremendous and positive response from businesses, residents, and visitors to both removal of dilapidated, vacant structures, and improvement to city streets, signage, and lighting.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

It would be helpful if the city knew which businesses were implementing the 1% Sales Tax. As of this date, however, the city has no documentation supporting which businesses and which businesses have not. Please see Revenues Section above.