



BUILDING BASTROP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BASTROP CITY COUNCIL TAKES BOLD ACTION TO CREATE FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE
STANDARDS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

*City Council Calls for Temporary Moratorium on New Development, Enacts Emergency
Drainage Ordinance*

BASTROP, TEXAS – August 15, 2018 – The Bastrop City Council last night called for a temporary moratorium on new development in Bastrop based on the city’s current land-use regulations. Council Members also voted to enact an emergency drainage ordinance to evaluate the potential impact of development on stormwater flow throughout the city.

The basis for this action was a special workshop held on February 20, 2018, in which City Council studied Bastrop’s drainage patterns alongside new FEMA data and updated floodplain maps. Bastrop has a unique ecology with many geographies meeting in one place – the piney woods, the coastal plains, the hill country and more – that makes it imperative to create regulations that ensure development respects these differing ecological challenges.

The temporary moratorium and emergency drainage ordinance will initiate the strategic and holistic reform of Bastrop’s land-use regulations, creating geographically-sensitive development standards and improving infrastructure to address the city’s long-term needs.

“The only way to keep Bastrop as we know and love it is to control our own destiny by updating our land-use regulations to promote fiscally sustainable development that we know works,” said Bastrop Mayor Connie Schroeder. “The actions taken by City Council last night are the first steps of an initiative called Building Bastrop, which the City is undertaking to guide responsible development that honors our authentic past and prepares for our sustainable future.”

Drainage and stormwater planning is one of the most critical elements to building a resilient city and ensuring new development doesn’t negatively impact the existing population or environment. Building Bastrop will allow the City to develop appropriate systems to prevent small area flooding in the future and create a new set of tools that will support the community in a responsible manner for generations to come.

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“By stepping back to assess the city’s needs, we will make appropriate changes to all our land-use regulations to ensure Bastrop is fiscally sustainable moving forward,” said Bastrop Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Nelson. “This is the responsible next step based on the strategy we’ve already started to implement; this effort is in line with the City’s comprehensive plan.”

Under Council’s direction, the City has expanded its planning team to include industry experts, Simple City Design. In collaboration with the community, developers and staff, Simple City Design will initiate the Building Bastrop effort by mapping the DNA of the city.

City staff will meet regularly with the development community to ensure they are kept up to date throughout this initiative. There will be some qualified exemptions and exceptions, which the City will work through as defined by the approved ordinances. Developers are invited to stop by City Hall every Thursday at 9.am. throughout the temporary moratorium to discuss any concerns or questions at a project level.

The City has also scheduled a public open house for Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bastrop Convention & Exhibit Center. Community members are encouraged to attend, and to share feedback and questions at any time by contacting the Building Bastrop hotline at 512-588-8181 or by email at buildingbastrop@cityofbastrop.org.

For the most up-to-date information on Building Bastrop, visit www.CityofBastrop.org/BuildingBastrop.

About The City of Bastrop:

The Mission of the City of Bastrop is to continuously strive to provide efficient and proactive services that enhance our quality of life and achieve our vision.

For more information on the City of Bastrop, visit www.cityofbastrop.org and follow us on social media via Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Residents can also tune in to BTXN TV via Time Warner Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99, or watch online at www.btxn.tv.

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