

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager
Date: August 19, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, August 15 – August 19, 2022



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Personnel Updates

Lane Arrendell began his employment with the City on Monday, August 15 as the Project Manager in Engineering, we are glad to have him join the team.

Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of the trainings, please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

TML – Annual Conference and Exhibition ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED

Date: October 5-7, 2022
Time: All Day
Location: San Antonio

TML Economic Development Conference

Date: November 17-18, 2022
Time: All Day
Location: Hyatt Lost Pines

Special Events

This weekend the Convention Center will be hosting The Big Tex Gun Show. Vendors will move in on Friday and the show will begin Saturday morning and run through Sunday afternoon.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

August 19 at 2:00 pm *Greater Texas Credit Union*. Location is 115 Hunters Crossing Blvd
August 30 at 11:00 am *Sandy's Southern Spice*. Location is 453 Hwy 71 W
September 2 at 4:00 pm *Homespun Wisdom*. Location is 1002 Chestnut St

Library News

The library celebrated our many volunteers and their invaluable work at the library with a Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Lunch this Tuesday. The Friends of the Bastrop Library provided brisket, ham, and sausage for the meal. More than thirty people attended the volunteer celebration.

The Lower Colorado-Lavaca Regional Flood Plan Draft is available for public viewing at the library. Everyone is invited to review the flood plan, learn about flood risk, flood management studies and

strategies, and flood mitigation projects in our community. A link to the information has been posted to the library's Facebook page.

<https://www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/>

Certificates of Occupancy

The following Commercial Certificates of Occupancy were issued August 12 - August 18:

- 303 Martin Luther King Drive – SAB Bastrop Properties (Gym)

New Assistant Director of Planning & Development

The Planning & Development Department will be welcoming Keehren Baah as the new Assistant Director of Planning & Development. Ms. Baah has most recently worked in the Houston area and has over 15 years of experience in the urban planning field. She will be starting on September 12, 2022.

Police Department

In August 23rd's City Council meeting, Davarjaye "DJ" Daniel will be sworn in as an honorary City of Bastrop Police Officer by Chief Nagy. He will say the pledge of allegiance alongside Sergeant Sanford. DJ is ten years old and is battling brain and spine cancer. DJ has been sworn in by hundreds of law enforcement agencies from around the country in his effort to bring awareness to childhood cancer.



Well E Update

Approximately two weeks ago Public Works Director Curtis Hancock contacted Acting City Manager Job to update him on Well E (located in Fisherman's Park) and let him know it was down. Well D was put into service, ensuring adequate water production would continue over the weekend. The new pump/motor assembly for Well E was installed today after emergency repairs with a contractor. The City is now awaiting bacteriological sampling results before placing Well E back into normal operation.

Asset Management Grant Applications

The City of Bastrop Engineering and Capital Project Management Department submitted two grant applications to the Texas Water Board Development (TWBD) for the Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS). One grant application was for the water system, and another, for the

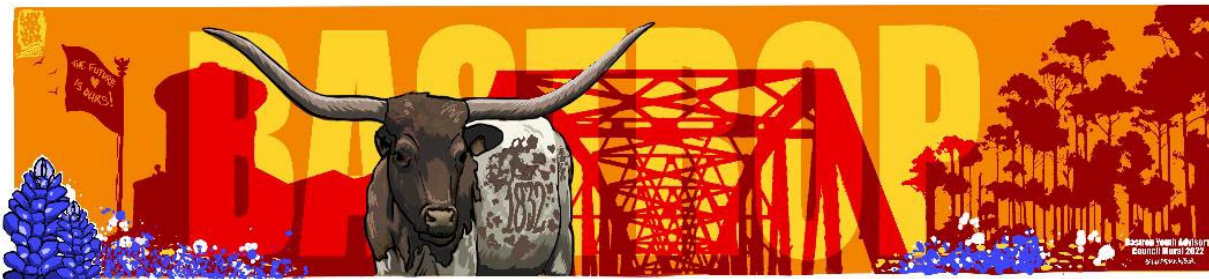
wastewater system. The AMPSS is a funding opportunity offered by TWDB to assist small water and wastewater systems to develop an asset management plan for managing the systems for the short, medium, and long-term. If selected, a participating city can choose a pre-qualified contractor through TWDB to work with and develop the asset management plan at no cost to the city. The grant funding can be up to \$100,000. The City of Bastrop serves 5,086 water connections and 4,626 wastewater connections. The response on the selected participants is expected in October 2022.

Main Street's Heritage Bench Program

The benches for phase two of Main Street's Heritage Bench Program have been placed along Main Street with the exception of two benches that need a cement slab poured. Phase two of the program included the placement of seven additional benches along Main Street from Pine Street to Ferry Park. These benches are eligible for sponsorship, but first preference will go to individuals who are on the Heritage Bench waiting list. Phase three benches have also been ordered and will be ready for placement at the end of September at various locations along Spring Street and Main Street. If you know individuals who are interested in joining the waitlist, please have them reach out to our Community Impact Manager, Mrs. Candice Butts.

Youth Advisory Council Mural

The artist has begun installation of a mural on the side of 1112 Main Street. The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) along with the building owner selected the art rendering for the project at the July 18 YAC meeting. The mural's name is "The Future is Ours," and is being installed by artist Aaron Darling. Mr. Darling is a central Texas resident and has painted murals in small towns around Texas for the last fifteen years. He loves to work with the local community to bring beautiful and accessible art to the public. The mural will be installed using artist grade mural spray paint. The YAC worked with the Planning Department to ensure all regulations were followed.



Bastrop Youth Advisory Council Mural 2022 - artwork by Aaron Darling

Main Street Advisory Board Crosswalk Mural Project

The Main Street Advisory Board has created a Crosswalk Mural Program and has created an art call for the installation for crosswalk murals along Main Street. The project will begin with two crosswalks on Main Street at the intersections of Chestnut Street and Spring Street. Installation for the project will be in conjunction with October's First Friday Art Walk Festivities on October 7, 2022. This will be the first phase of the project. The goal is to install 2-3 crosswalk murals for the next three years for a total of eight

crosswalk murals. Crosswalk's murals typically last between 3-4 years, so in FY2026 we will revisit the phase one crosswalks to update the designs.

The mural theme is "Uniquely Bastrop" – Crosswalk art should maintain and enhance our historic community feel by leveraging the unique combination of community, parks, cultural, and recreational assets that make Bastrop a special place to live and work. The Public Works Department and Engineering will be helping with the specifications to ensure the crosswalks are safe and meet all necessary standards. Sherwin-Williams generously donated for this project.

Here is the link to the art call: [CROSSWALK ARTISTS CALL.pdf \(cityofbastrop.org\)](https://www.cityofbastrop.org/CROSSWALK_ARTISTS_CALL.pdf)

Bastrop Power & Light

An 18-wheeler hit and broke a power pole at Chambers Street and Cypress Street on August 11. Ninety-two customers were affected by the power outage, seventy-two of which were without power for forty-five minutes. Twenty customers were out of power for 6.5 hours while the broken pole was removed, and a new pole and transformer were set.



Our Bastrop: Quality Development

The Our Bastrop community engagement series featured the topic of Quality Development this month. Presentations were made by Director of Engineering and Capital Project Management Fabiola de Carvalho and Acting City Manager Job. Video of the presentation and question and answer session will play on the City's government access tv channel.



City Hall Selfie Day

The City once again participated in City Hall Selfie Day! This online event, organized by an organization called Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), is a worldwide celebration of local government service. It showcases pride in local government institutions. Local government employees, elected officials, media, and community members participate on #CityHallSelfie Day. Over twenty City of Bastrop employees submitted selfies that were posted to the City's facebook page. Our post was also shared on the ELGL's social platforms.



Future Agenda Items

September 13, 2021

- First Reading Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- First Reading Adopting Tax Rate
- Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2022

September 20, 2022

- Second Reading Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Second Reading Adopting Tax Rate
- Financial Report
- Ordinance Amendment – Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges
- World Migratory Bird Day Proclamation
- National Night Out Proclamation
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation
- Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

Attachments

- TML Legislative Update Number #33

TML LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



August 19, 2022
Number 33

NLC Launches Program for Small- to Mid-Sized Cities to Help Access Federal Infrastructure Dollars

The Local Infrastructure Hub, sponsored by NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others, launched the [Grant Application Bootcamp](#) to help cities with populations of 150,000 or less take advantage of the grant opportunities available through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). There is no cost associated in participating in the bootcamps.

The Hub will offer at least 30 bootcamps in the next two years that are tied to a specific category of funding available. The first five bootcamps include:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (\$1 billion)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (\$550 million)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants (\$3.5 billion)
- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program (\$500 million)
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (\$2.5 billion)

Registration for the bootcamps close on August 31, 2022. Spots are limited to the first several hundred cities that register, so cities are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration can be found [here](#), and more information on the program can be found [here](#). Cities that have additional questions can email LocalInfrastructureHub@nlc.org.

Governor’s Office Announces Law Enforcement Grant Opportunities

On August 17, Governor Abbott [announced](#) the availability of \$3 million in funding for travel assistance to local law enforcement agencies to travel to take the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) training program, as well as \$50 million for the Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program for fiscal year 2023.

According to the governor’s press release, ALERRT is designed to equip first responders with effective strategies to respond to active attack events. Local law enforcement agencies can apply for ALERRT travel assistance only after receiving confirmation of registration for an ALERRT training course. The deadline to submit and certify an application for travel assistance is August 31, 2023.

The deadline for local law enforcement agencies to apply for grant funding under the Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program is September 16, 2022. All peace officers provided with a grant-funded ballistic shield must have either attended 16 hours of ALERRT training within the past two years, or committed to attend the training in the next two years.

The funding announcements for both programs can be found [here](#).

Comptroller to Send \$760M to Cities in Sales Tax Revenue

Last week, Comptroller Glenn Hegar [announced](#) that he will send cities, counties, transit systems, and special purpose taxing districts \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for August 2022. Of that, cities will receive \$760.5 million – a 9.8 percent increase from August 2021. The allocations are based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly and on sales made in April, May, and June by quarterly filers.

State Energy Conservation Office Programs for Cities

The [State Energy Conservation Office](#) (SECO) in the comptroller’s office partners with local governments to reduce utility costs and maximize efficiency by offering programs to assist cities in those efforts. SECO provides a variety of [programs](#) to cities including a [free preliminary energy assessment](#) which details recommendations for cost-effective resource efficiency measures that could be implemented to reduce utility consumption or utility costs. The free assessment applies

to public, indoor administrative or teaching facilities, and infrastructure owned and operated by the city requesting the service.

In addition, SECO administers the Texas LoanSTAR (Saving Taxes and Resources) Revolving Loan program which provides low-interest loans to cities by financing their energy-related, cost-reduction retrofit projects. The current LoanSTAR application period closes August 31, 2022. Loan sizes can range from \$3 to \$8 million per application. A new application period will open soon after the current one closes on August 31. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

Last Call: Resolutions Due MONDAY, August 22 for 2022 Annual Conference

Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Conference are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on **August 22, 2022**. The TML Constitution provides that resolutions must be submitted by any member city, TML region, or TML affiliate to the TML headquarters 45 calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.

The League's advocacy efforts are based on a legislative program that is developed by member city officials in two ways.

First, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's Annual Conference. Each city is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The representatives will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to discuss and vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative program. The resolutions form the basis of a fixed legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will be made only if needed.

Second, member city officials can participate in the League's Municipal Policy Summit during the summer of 2022. The report of the Summit takes the form of a resolution that is submitted to the Annual Conference in interim years. The summit participants have been appointed by the TML President based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large.

Details on the submission process can be found [here](#).

Mandated Cybersecurity Training and Reporting Due August 31

Cybersecurity training is mandated by Texas Government Code Section 2054.5191 for city employees, elected officials, and appointed officials who have access to a local government computer system or database and use a computer to perform *at least 25 percent* of their duties. The training must be certified by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR). Cities must

certify their compliance by **August 31, 2022** by using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Governments](#) form.

The Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) has three DIR-certified options available free of charge. TMLIRP's free cybersecurity training program can be assessed [here](#). Other DIR-certified training programs are listed on the agency's [website](#).

DIR has developed an optional tool, Texas by Texas (TxT), for cities to track compliance of individual employees and officials training compliance. For any city using TxT, employees will report their training completion and DIR will send reporting from the TxT application to each city to verify training compliance. Interested cities must submit the [Texas by Texas Self Reporting Form](#).

More information on training requirements can be found [here](#).

House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has a newly posted notice and was not included in last week's edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate water right holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Examine the condition of Texas' water and flood mitigation infrastructure capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and make

recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply.

Note: the desalination portion of this charge will be held at a later date.

Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:

- Promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
- Provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
- Further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells; and
- Promote conservation and waste prevention.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services

The committee will meet on Thursday, August 25 at 11:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charge:

Review the impact of investments by public retirement systems of their endowment and other trust funds in businesses and funds owned or controlled by the Russian government or Russian nationals, and determine the need for investment restrictions. Consider the impact of any proposed investment restrictions on fund performance.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

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