

November 8, 2011

The Bastrop City Council and the Bastrop Ethics Task Force met in Special Joint Workshop Meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at Bastrop City Hall, 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, Texas. Council Members present were Mayor Terry Orr and Council Members Bill Peterson, Julie Hart, Joe Beal and Kay Garcia McAnally. Ethics Task Force Members present were Honorable Judge Chris Duggan, Corporal Wuthipong Tantaksinanuki; Linda Seale, LPC; Reverend Lisa Hines and Reverend R.D. Smith..

1. CALL TO ORDER – BASTROP CITY COUNCIL.

At 4:30 p.m., Mayor Terry Orr called the meeting to order with all members present.

2. CALL TO ORDER – BASTROP ETHICS TASK FORCE

At 4:31 p.m., Chairman, the Honorable Judge Chris Duggan called the meeting to order with all members present, with the exception of Ethics Task Force Member Jack Clark who was absent.

3. JOINT WORKSHOP SESSION: THE BASTROP CITY COUNCIL AND THE BASTROP ETHICS TASK FORCE WILL MEET IN A WORKSHOP SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT ETHICS ORDINANCE PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE BASTROP CITY COUNCIL BY THE ETHICS TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN, THE HONORABLE CHRIS DUGGAN WITH INPUT FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE AND/OR STAFF.

Mayor Orr welcomed Judge Duggan and members of the Ethics Task Force. Mayor Orr stated that Council Member Julie Hart was the first person to mention the possibility of an Ethics Ordinance for the City Council. Mayor Orr stated I understood that we as a Council operated under the State's Ethics law.

City Manager, Mike Talbot stated the Ethics Task Force felt this workshop meeting with the Council should be an informal discussion of the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Judge Duggan addressed the Council. Judge Duggan stated it was a honor to serve on the Ethics Task Force with such a wonderful group of citizens. Judge Duggan stated the Ethics Task Force believes that they came up with the best ethics document for the City of Bastrop. Judge Duggan thanked City Manager Mike Talbot and City Attorney J.C. Brown for being such incredible resources.

Judge Duggan called everyone's attention to Page 2 of the proposed Ordinance explaining why the need for an Ethics Ordinance. Judge Duggan explained the process that the Ethics Task Force used to develop an Ethics Ordinance for the City. Judge Duggan stated the teeth of the Ordinance is in the enforceability. Judge Duggan stated the Ethics Task Force worked very hard on the development of the proposed Ordinance.

Joe Beal thanked Judge Duggan and the Task Force Members for the time and effort spent on the development of the proposed Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Beal stated he is convinced that what has been developed out of the process is probably the best there is. Mr. Beal stated in referring to the Mayor's comment that the Council operated under the State's Ethics law, in the beginning of

the Task Force meetings did the group ask: “Is there something wrong, is there something that needs to be fixed in Bastrop?” Mr. Beal asked if what is in place today, State law regarding ethics, is adequate for the City.

Judge Duggan stated the State law is bare minimum. Judge Duggan stated the Ethics Task Force felt state law was wholly inadequate to cover situations they discussed and addressed.

Linda Seale stated the one process they used was to check the proposed Ordinance against the State’s law and make sure they were not crossing into somebody’s else’s job, state law, and City employee rules. Ms. Seal stated they made sure they did not overlap something that has already been done.

Corporal Tantaksinanuki stated the State language is very broad and the Task Force wanted something specific for Bastrop. Corporal Tantaksinanuki stated this goes beyond ethics, some grant requirements look at the type of ethics policies in place for a City. Corporal Tantaksinanuki stated the Task Force looked at 13 surrounding cities and took strong points that would work for the City of Bastrop. Corporal Tantaksinanuki stated the Task Force consisted of a good selection of members, every one of them has an ethics policy in their own professions.

Bill Peterson stated he looked at the State ethics policy and it is very broad.

Judge Duggan then called the Council’s and Ethics Task Force attention to the Executive Summary prepared by City Attorney J.C. Brown. Judge Duggan reviewed the Executive Summary.

Discussion was held among the Council and the Ethics Task Force regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

It was the consensus of the Council and the Ethics Task Force that the proposed Ethics Ordinance be distributed to all City Boards and Commission Members, to all City Department Heads to share with their employees and put on the City’s web page. The City Council will schedule a public hearing for comments to be received from the public.

4. THE BASTROP CITY COUNCIL AND THE BASTROP ETHICS TASK FORCE WILL RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION TO DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ANY POSSIBLE ACTION(S) NECESSARY RELATED TO THE JOINT WORKSHOP SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., Mayor Orr reconvened the Bastrop City Council and Chairman, the Honorable Chris Duggan reconvened the Ethics Task Force into a joint workshop session to discuss, consider and take any possible action(s) necessary related to the Joint Workshop Session.

Council Member Julie Hart moved that the City Manager place a Public Hearing on the proposed Ethics Ordinance on the City Council Agenda for December 13, 2011 as well as the First Reading of the proposed Ordinance; that the proposed Ethics Ordinance be distributed to all City Board and Commission Members; the proposed Ethics Ordinance be put on the City’s web page and that the notice of Public Hearing be put into the Bastrop Advertiser. Seconded by Council Member Kay Garcia McAnally and carried unanimously.

5. ADJOURN – BASTROP ETHICS TASK FORCE AND BASTROP CITY COUNCIL.

At 5:41 p.m., it was the consensus of the Bastrop Ethics Task Force to adjourn the Joint Workshop Meeting.

At 5:42 p.m., Joe Beal moved to adjourn the Bastrop City Council Joint Workshop Meeting. Seconded by Julie Hart and carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Terry Orr, Mayor

Teresa Valdez, City Secretary