

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager  
Date: March 25, 2022  
Subject: Weekly Memo, March 21 – March 25, 2022



=====

## **Personnel Update**

James Hendrickson passed his Texas Commission on Environmental Quality exam and is now a Class C Groundwater Treatment Operator.

## **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 Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Interacting Constructively with the Media**

Date: April 14  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: webinar

### **TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Governing Ethically: Understanding Your Influence**

Date: April 26  
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Location: webinar

### **TML Small Town Conference**

Date: May 19– May 20  
Time: All Day  
Location: Fredericksburg

### **City Hall Essentials**

#### **Municipal Fundamentals Seminar**

Date: May 20  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Webinar

### **TML Budget and Tax Rate Workshops**

Date: June 30  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Bastrop

### **TML-TAMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation**

Date: August 11- August 12, 2022  
Time: All Day  
Location: San Antonio

## **Time out of Office**

My wife and I will be vacationing in Mexico next week. I will be checking emails periodically and call me if you need me. Please contact Trey or Rebecca if you need anything.

## **Table on Main Sponsorship Packages**

Table on Main sponsorship packages are being sent to local businesses. The committee is selling Table Sponsorships until April 5th. This is a very popular event, and the committee is hoping to sell out with Table Sponsorships. After April 5, individual tickets will be sold if there are any available. The promotion and marketing strategy will be dependent on how many general admissions are seats available. We are working with a local graphic artist for all promotional and on-site collateral.

## **Cultural Arts Commission**

The Cultural Arts Commission is gathering an email distribution list of local and distant audiences in the areas of art, music, dance, film, theater, and history/culture to help enhance Bastrop's creative culture. The goal is to engage with cultural arts lovers in Bastrop and create a robust artistic community across all disciplines. Last week, a link to sign up for the email distribution list was published on the City's Facebook page. The Cultural Arts Commission will use this list to promote partnerships and collaboration throughout all art sectors as well as the promotion of a bi-annual event that will enhance that collaboration. The event called The Gathering will bring artists together twice a year to connect them with resources, educate on grant opportunities, and promote collaborations. The first event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Bastrop Convention Center. To sign up for the email distribution list, follow this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-igZR74VXXNd4QYFaQAni9NvwY\\_h9LCsrB6xp2U0NTTsPQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-igZR74VXXNd4QYFaQAni9NvwY_h9LCsrB6xp2U0NTTsPQ/viewform).

## **Community Engagement Newsletter**

The City of Bastrop will send out its first Community Engagement Newsletter in April. This quarterly newsletter will feature public meetings, quarterly reports, podcasts, events hosted by the City, Assets, and Community Partners, as well as featured items like the Mayor's State of the City address. A link to sign up for the Community Engagement Newsletter was published on the City of Bastrop social media page earlier this week. A QR code that links to the newsletter distribution list will be showcased at events, in City Hall, and other high traffic areas. To sign up for the Community Engagement Newsletter, follow this link:

[https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/w301vom?utm\\_campaign=Community+Newsletter&fbclid=IwAR30sSMG2wpMgTnW71BeoRcWbNHOTk\\_XKnHmXTGqZ--QLn3zuS-Gnq--2fM](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/w301vom?utm_campaign=Community+Newsletter&fbclid=IwAR30sSMG2wpMgTnW71BeoRcWbNHOTk_XKnHmXTGqZ--QLn3zuS-Gnq--2fM)

## **Upcoming Workshops**

- April 5 at 4:00 p.m. – City Council Chambers  
Transportation and Water Planning
- April 19 at 4:00 p.m. City Council Chambers  
Comprehensive Plan, CIP, Fiscal Forecast
- May 12 – All day Pre-Budget Planning Session

## **Wildland Academy**

The City of Bastrop Fire Department in partnership with the Texas Forest Service will be hosting a “Wildland Academy” at the Bastrop Convention Center next week, March 30 – April 2. Participants from many surrounding counties will be trained on wildland fire fighting and prevention techniques. This could become a beneficial annual training event held in Bastrop.

## **BP&L**

The new 2022 John Deere 310L backhoe loader was received Friday, March 18, 2022. This will replace the 20-year-old 2002 John Deere 310G currently in the department’s fleet.



## **Disc Golf Course Ribbon Cutting**

The Disc Golf Course Ribbon Cutting will be held on April 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Bob Bryant Park. A formal invitation from Ann will be following soon.

## **Response to Joey Najera with Hunt Communities from March 22 City Council Meeting**

The City of Bastrop reviews and approves the subdivision infrastructure and plats for the development of the Colony MUDs, which is the only development submitted by Hunt Communities. The development is vested to the **development standards** as of July 1, 2019 (prior to the B<sup>3</sup> Code). However, the updated submittal process is applicable to the submittal and review of plans, which was necessitated by the adoption of House Bill 3167 during the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. Prior to H.B. 3167 the City’s process for subdivision review included four application submittals/processes.

Process prior to August 2019

1. Preliminary Plan
  - a. Preliminary Drainage
  - b. Preliminary Infrastructure
  - c. Preliminary Plat
2. Construction Plans

- a. Final Utility Plans
- b. Final Drainage Plan
3. Final Plat
4. Maintenance Bond/Fiscal Surety Process (undefined)

Under the updated submittal process adopted in August 2019, the process was broken into different submittals. This was due to the time restrictions within H.B. 3167, which applied to construction plans, subdivision plats, and site development plans. The recommendation from the City Attorney from his research with TML and other organizations was to break out the steps that were not bound to the time restrictions, which are the more time-consuming reviews that also tend to be delayed due to approvals from other entities, such as the Texas Department of Transportation or FEMA. Additionally, we implemented a Completeness Check for each application, which ensures that all items required for review are submitted with the initial application, and not coming in after plan review by the DRC has started or creating the need for multiple unnecessary reviews due to incomplete information.

Process after August 2019

1. Preliminary Drainage
2. Preliminary Infrastructure
3. Preliminary Plat\*
4. Final Drainage Plan
5. Public Improvement Plans\*
6. Public Improvement Plan Agreement (formalized the Maintenance Bond and Fiscal Surety process)
7. Final Plat\*

\*30-day review timeline mandated by H.B. 3167.

With the new process, if the applicant voluntarily waives the H.B. 3167 requirements and the Planning Staff case load permits, the applicant is allowed to submit some applications concurrently. In the list above, steps 1-3 may be submitted together, steps 4-5 may be submitted together, and the final plat submitted once all previous steps are complete.

Jennifer Bills has reached out to Mr. Najera and offered him the opportunity to submit a request for a code amendment. The cost of the review, code development and possible adoption is \$2,356 + professional fees (planning consultants/legal). He will need to provide the request in MyGov with a specific amendment to code sections for the city to consider. We can take the request forward to City Council for direction on the request and begin work on code edits with a consultant if directed by City Council.

### **Kudos to our Building Official**

Shirley Ellis was contacted by Round Rock City Manager, Laurie Hadley, who requested Shirley's assistance after they were hit by the recent tornados. Sharing an email, I received from Ms. Hadley:

*Good afternoon,*

*As I am sure you are aware, Round Rock was hit by the recent tornados that rolled thru central Texas. Our Chief Building Inspector, Mark Remmert, immediately spoke to the Building Officials Association of Texas, looking for assistance with inspections and documentation needed for State and Federal assistance. I wanted to take a moment and personally thank you for allowing your Building*

*Official . . . Shirley Ellis, to participate. Because of their efforts we will complete the inspections in record time, and the task was handled by true professionals.*

*Thank you doesn't seem enough. If there is a time when we can be of assistance to either of your cities, please do not hesitate to ask.*

Laurie

### **Certificates of Occupancy**

The Building Official issued the following Certificates of Occupancy for 3/17 – 3/23

- 747 W SH 71, A550 – Bastrop Family Eye Care
- 439 W SH 71 – Dollar Tree
- 402 Technology Drive – Pyrology Foundry and Studio

### **Stop Work Orders**

The Building Official issued the following Stop Work Orders for 3/17 – 3/23

- 803 Martin Luther King – Remodeling without a permit
- 1303 Pecan – Demolition of a Garage without a permit (National Register of Historic Places)
- 1101 Emile – Demolition of a porch without a permit

### **Future Agenda Items**

April 12, 2022

- Contract for resurfacing splash pad
- Bureau Veritas Contract
- Centerpoint Energy Resolution
- LCRA Resolution

### **Attachments**

- TML Legislative Update Number #12
- Bastrop County Health Fair Flyer



# it's GO time

SPONSORED BY:



## 2 DE ABRIL

11am - 3pm

**SALUD • DONACIÓN DE SANGRE • EXÁMENES • CLASES  
PRESENTACIONES • VENEDORES • ORADORES • & Y MAS**

### Temas Incluyen:

- SALUD DE MUJER
- APTITUD FÍSICA
- CUIDADO PERSONAL
- RECUPERACIÓN • SALUD MENTAL
- NIÑOS Y FAMILIAS (INCLUYENDO EL CUIDADO DE MASCOTAS)
- ATENCIÓN MÉDICA DOMICILIARIA



*Dos Localidades en Smithville  
Transporte disponible*

**Smithville Recreation Center 106 Royston, Smithville  
Bloque 100 de Main Street, Smithville**



it's GO time



SPONSORED

StDavid's FOUNDATION



SMITHVILLE TEXAS



APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

11am-3pm

BLOOD DRIVE • SCREENINGS • PRESENTATIONS  
VENDORS • SPEAKERS • CLASSES • & MORE

- Topics Include:
- WOMEN'S HEALTH
  - FITNESS • SELF-CARE
  - RECOVERY • MENTAL HEALTH
  - CHILDREN & FAMILIES INCLUDING PET CARE!
  - HOME HEALTH CARE



Two Main Locations

Transportation available

Smithville Recreation Center

100 Block of Main Street  
106 Royston, Smithville



# Legislative UPDATE

March 25, 2022  
Number 12

## **TML Leadership Meets with Senator Cornyn**

During the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference last week, TML President Martha Castex-Tatum, President-Elect David Rutledge, Past President Mary Dennis along with TML staff met with Texas Senator John Cornyn. At the meeting, TML officers thanked Senator Cornyn for sponsoring the [State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act](#). The bill would allow greater flexibility in the use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) toward emergency relief in response to natural disasters and for certain infrastructure projects beyond those currently specified in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The bill passed the U.S. Senate and has stalled in the House. Interested city officials are encouraged to talk to their representative about the impact of the legislation.



*TML President-Elect David Rutledge, Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager JJ Rocha, Senator John Cornyn, Past President Mary Dennis, President Martha Castex-Tatum*

## **Federal Infrastructure Bill Update**

*In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.*

*The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.*

### **Department of the Interior (DOI)**

Last week, DOI released [draft guidance](#) to states on how to apply for the first \$775 million in grant funding (of a total of \$4.7 billion) under the IIJA to create jobs cleaning up polluted and unsafe orphaned oil and gas well sites.

### **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

DOT is [seeking comments](#) on IIJA changes to the Capital Investment Program, which is a discretionary grant program that funds transit capital investments, including heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit. Comments must be received on or before April 14, 2022.

The deadline to apply for funding from the [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity](#) (RAISE) discretionary grant program is 4 p.m. CDT on April 14. The program is designed to assist communities in carrying out transportation projects with a significant local or

regional impact, which could include anything from bus lane improvements to highway and bridge repairs. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.5 billion in RAISE grant funding can be found [here](#).

The deadline for state and local officials to nominate areas that should be designated as “alternative fuel corridors” for purposes of IIJA grant funding is May 13. More information on this process can be found [here](#).

### **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**

The FCC recently released a [Notice of Inquiry](#) seeking comment on how to implement provisions in the IIJA that require the FCC to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service and prevent digital discrimination. Comments are due by May 16.

### **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

Applications for funding for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program are due by May 31. The Low-No program provides funding to state and local governments for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required facilities. The Buses and Bus Facilities Program is designed to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects. More information on these two grant programs and the application process can be found [here](#).

### **National League of Cities (NLC)**

NLC is regularly posting explainer videos that address what city officials need to know about the IIJA. These videos can be accessed [here](#).

## **Reminder: Annual Local Debt Reporting**

Local Government Code Sec. 140.008 requires political subdivisions, including cities, to annually report debt and other financial information to the comptroller. Under comptroller rule, the reports must be submitted within 180 days of the end of the political subdivision’s most recently completed fiscal year. For cities with a fiscal year ending on September 30, the 180-day deadline is March 29.

Cities are encouraged to visit the comptroller’s [local debt reporting page](#) to get more information on what is required in the annual report, and to access the electronic submission form.

## **PUC Adopts Penalties for Violations of Weather Emergency Preparedness Standards**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) [adopted](#) rules, effective March 17, 2022, increasing the maximum penalties to \$1,000,000 for failure to meet weather emergency preparedness reliability standards adopted in S.B. 3. The League previously reported on S.B. 3 [here](#). The increased penalties apply to: (1) electricity generators in the ERCOT power region; and (2) transmission and distribution providers in the ERCOT power region. The PUC adopted the rules after receiving public comments from various entities, including the Texas Public Power Association.

## **TDHCA Proposes Rules Changes for Homelessness Grant Program**

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has proposed rules changes to the existing Emergency Solutions Grants application process and the use of the funds. The proposed rules can be found on the TDHCA Public Comment Center [here](#). The rules are scheduled to appear in the March 25, 2022, edition of the *Texas Register* [here](#) which will constitute as the official version for public comment.

The public comment period begins at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022, and ends at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2022. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Homeless Programs Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941; or via email to [rosy.falcon@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:rosy.falcon@tdhca.state.tx.us).

## **Changes to Texas House and Senate Committee Chairs**

Speaker Dade Phelan named Representative Will Metcalf (R – Conroe) as the new chair of the powerful House State Affairs Committee last week after Rep. Chris Paddie (R – Marshall) announced his retirement effective immediately. The full committee membership can be found [here](#).

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced that Senator Brandon Creighton (R – Conroe) will replace Senator Larry Taylor (R – Friendswood) as new chair of the Senate Committee on Education. Senator Creighton is currently also the Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. It is the intention of the Lt. Governor to make the Committee on Higher Education a subcommittee of the Committee on Education in the 2023 legislative session.

*TML member cities may use the material herein for any purpose. No other person or entity may reproduce, duplicate, or distribute any part of this document without the written authorization of the Texas Municipal League.*