

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager
Date: January 15, 2021
Subject: Weekly Memo, January 11 - 15, 2021



Personnel Updates

After 34 years of service with the City of Bastrop, Leocadio “Antone” Juarez is officially retired. His last day with the City is today. Curtis Hancock grilled hamburgers for the team during lunch today as Antone did not want a big celebration.

Communications Update

This week, the Office of Public Information continued to work on getting the word out about our City of Bastrop Recreation offerings. They will continue to push out the information on social media as well as update the website to make it as user-friendly as possible. The team also pushed out information about the CARTS NOW Ride On-Demand app opening day, our City Council Meeting, and Mayfest Park’s Open Ride Day. We also sent out press releases and shared information on social media about the promotions of both Rebecca to Assistant City Manager of Community Engagement as well as Bonnie to Director of our Library which were overwhelmingly positive.

While not finalized, we are processing a filming permit application for a commercial to be aired on Facebook. If approved, on Tuesday, January 19th, 2021, Main Street from Chestnut Street to Pine Street will be shut down from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm for permitted commercial filming. The filming crew will also be filming at Spin City Laundry (1104 Chestnut Street) from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are currently awaiting the sign-off from a few more business owners to consider the permit approved.

The Main Street Board held their monthly Board Meeting where the Board discussed the creation of Sidewalk Guidelines for the new Main Street sidewalks. It was decided that the Business Retention & Expansion Committees would bring back recommendations to the next Board meeting. The City got an enormous amount of feedback from our Main Street District business owners that loved the holiday lights and wanted to have some type of lights downtown year-round. The Main Street Board discussed their dream Downtown Lighting Plan with everything from up-lighting the trees, outlining the buildings in lights, and better lighting in the parking lots. Staff will gather quotes on the different costs of these projects and present them at the next Board meeting. The Board will then have an opportunity to decide if they would like to take any of the projects to Council during our Budget Meetings with a funding recommendation.

Next week, the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce is hosting a ribbon cutting for CARTS NOW on Thursday January 21st at 2:00 pm. Join them at 301 Hospital Drive to celebrate the remodel of the Bastrop Station and hear about their new on-demand transit service and electric cabs.

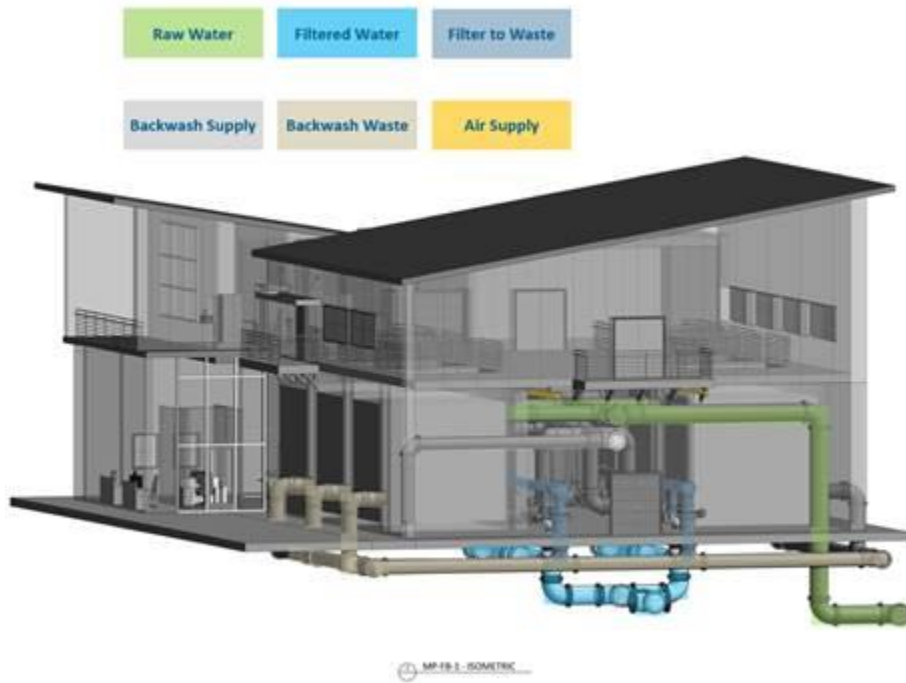
Judge Pape's Statement Regarding Increased Restrictions as Result of Executive Orders GA-32

On January 11, 2021, Judge Paul Pape released a statement that Bastrop County now meets the definition of a high-hospitalization area. As a result of crossing this threshold, more strict limits are now imposed on retail, restaurant, bar, and elective surgery procedures. The Judge asked that all businesses in the county comply immediately and do everything possible to slow the spread and reduce our region's numbers back below the threshold.

Construction Manager at Risk Procurement for Water Plant Project

The we received 7 statements of qualifications on Thursday January 14, 2021 for the construction manager at risk procurement. The selection committee members will be Tony Buonodono, Paul Hofmann, Curtis Hancock, and Trey Job. The Submitted CMAR Proposals for the project Simsboro Aquifer Water Treatment Plant, Well Field and Transmission Facilities.

Today we reviewed a 30% complete set of drawings for the water treatment plant and we will hold at 30% until a CMAR can be brought on board within the next couple of weeks. Below is a great 3D look at the pipe gallery design for the new water treatment plant.



Chief Nagy's Response to Email received by Mayor regarding Bastrop Crime

Chief Nagy was asked to respond to an email from a person concerned about crime in Bastrop. Chief Nagy's response follows:

Good evening, Mayor Schroeder forwarded me your emails and concerns. My name is Clint, and I am the Chief of Police in Bastrop.

Many websites such as Bestplaces.net have inadvertently given inaccurate crime statistics about the City of Bastrop. It appears that the websites are using inaccurate information posted on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) website. The FBI inaccurately reports that ninety-four violent crimes occurred across three categories in the city. However, the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) reports that we have forty-six violent crimes in the same three categories. The reporting by TxDPS of forty-six is accurate. When using the correct data, the City of Bastrop's rate of violent crime is significantly lower than is reported on the websites. The Bastrop Police Department took steps to ensure that these numbers are reported more accurately in the future. We will be forwarding our latest crime statistics in the coming months.

I noticed that our property crimes are high on Bestplaces.net. The Bastrop Police Department documents all crimes to include property crimes. Many other cities, particularly large ones, may not report all property crimes as a result of time constraints and higher priority incidents. An unfortunate result of this action is that it suggests that our city has a much higher property crime rate when it is compared to other cities.

I hope I have addressed your concerns.

I encourage you to review and friend the Bastrop Police Department's Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/bastroppd/> Here, you can get to know us a bit better.

The sender of the original email responded appreciatively and indicated that family members have recently purchased a home in Bastrop.

Bastrop Convention Center

We have created a Video Production Workstation at the Convention Center. Our new video station gives us the ability to record and livestream conferences and events from the Bastrop Convention Center as a consolidated, standalone setup. We have initiated the configuration and installation phase of the two camera, ten microphone recording/broadcast system. We are excited to begin training on the new equipment to offer our customers a new service while booking the Convention Center.

Skatepark Project to be Rebid

Unfortunately, we received no bids during our recent bid opening for the dirt work portion of the skatepark project. We are evaluating why the eight companies who picked up packets did not respond. We will likely rebid.

February 22 Joint Workshop with Bastrop Economic Development Corporation

Please mark your calendar for a Joint workshop session between the Bastrop City Council and the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation. We plan to discuss:

- Overview of the EDC/City relationship
- Presentation of EDC priorities and initiatives
- BEDC fund five-year financial projections
- The B3 Code objectives and implementation status
- City capital projects relative to economic development

- Joint discussion on priorities and future meeting planning

Future Agenda Items

January 26, 2021

- Resolution recommended by Cultural Arts Master Plan Working Group on creation of Cultural Arts Commission
- Resolution to apply for Justice Assistance Grant
- Quarterly presentations from Community Assets
- Quarterly update from BEDC
- Colony MUD Agreement
- Consider Resolution approving an interlocal agreement with TIPS allowing the City of Bastrop to participate in the TIPS purchasing program.

February 9, 2021

- Chief Nagy presents the required Racial Profiling Report
- Presentation of the FY2021 Quarterly Report for the period of October-December of 2020
- Proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month
- Resolution to apply for Homeland Security Grant

February 23, 2021

- City Manager Evaluation
- Contract for year 3 of the street maintenance project
- Approval of River Loop project
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit
- Reappointment of Presiding Judge

March 9, 2021

- Discussion on future direction of Recreation Programming

January 28, 2021 Joint Workshop with Planning and Zoning Commission

Attachments

- TML Legislative Update Number #02
- Texas Department of State Health Services Letter to Judge Paul Pape dated January 10, 2021