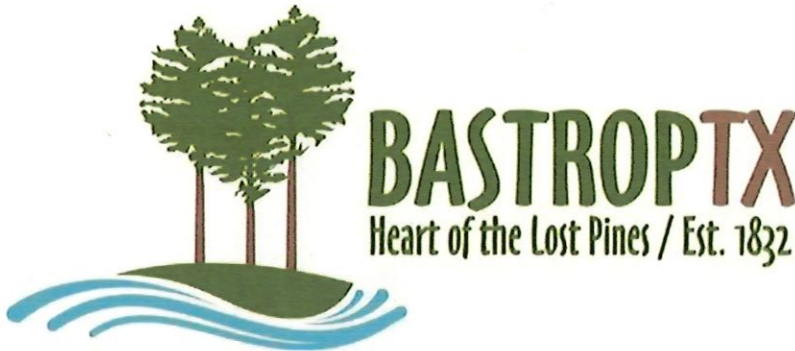


RECEIVED

JAN 14 2025

City Secretary Office (2)



To: Bastrop City Council
City Manager Sylvia Carrillo

From: Mayor Lyle Nelson

Re: Letter of Resignation

I was elected by the citizens of Bastrop as Mayor in June of 2023. My commitment was to serve the citizens of Bastrop.

Under the citizen developed Bastrop City Charter, the Mayor has three (3) primary responsibilities:

- o To appoint members to all City Boards and Commissions, subject to confirmation by the City Council,
- o To preside at all City Council meetings as Chief Presiding Officer with no vote except in a tie
- o To be recognized as head of the City for all ceremonial duties

From the outset, I and the Office of Mayor have been under attack by certain City Council members. They used public resources and taxpayer funds to prevent me from serving the citizens as their Mayor. They passed resolutions that restrict me from being able to respond to and represent our citizens. Unsubstantiated allegations led to unproven accusations that were later completely dismissed by the Bastrop County District Attorney. I was absolved of any misdeeds as Mayor by the City's own administrative investigator who stated, "The Mayor denied any knowledge of misuse of public funds and my investigation to date uncovered no evidence otherwise". A criminal investigation was conducted by the Texas Rangers and no-billed by a Bastrop Grand Jury. The evidence showed that there was no misuse of public funds and there was no criminal conduct by me or anyone else. Yet, attacks meant to embarrass and discredit me were continued by these self-serving individuals. Misleading information and, in some cases, outright lies were promoted throughout the community. Truth and corrections to the unfounded allegations were ignored by the accusers, their allies as well as the news media. Efforts to defend myself were met with even more attacks. During this witch hunt, my detractors have expended in excess of \$130K in public funds. In response to citizens' desire to end the political quarrelling, I extended an olive branch on multiple occasions to no avail.

Lies were used to draw a mob to a City Council meeting that was orchestrated to continue to deflect from City Council's responsibilities, discredit me, attack a well-respected Municipal Attorney as well

as silence an elected City Councilmember. From this meeting, more demands to end this squabbling have been voiced by the public.

I am greatly concerned with:

- The assault on Open Government by delaying or denying citizen and selected elected officials requests for public documents
- The use of public funds for personal attacks
- City employee turnover
- Intimidation of City employees
- Attacks upon as well as ignoring provisions of our City Charter
- Attacks upon citizen participation on Boards and Commissions
- Self-serving interests over public service
- Silencing opposing views from other Council members and the public
- Tyranny of the Majority to stifle the Minority
- Subversion of the elected Office of Mayor
- The abdication by the elected members of the City Council of its ceremonial duties to a paid City employee
- Appropriate oversight of the City's Financial issues and the fiscal sustainability of the City

The Office of the Mayor has been subverted by a voting block of three (3) on Council at the prompting of Mayor Pro Tem Kirkland who gains personal power through the subversion. There is every indication that the vicious and malicious attack on me and the Office of Mayor will continue. Additionally, there has been no effort by the voting block led by the Mayor Pro Tem to refocus on City business without the public nastiness.

I have no doubt that I can defeat the recall election in May. However, does our community need additional discord being publicly displayed till then? Even when I win, if those, such as Mayor Pro Tem Kirkland who have placed their personal agendas above their public obligations remain in office, our City still loses. I will no longer be a focal point for these self-serving interests to deflect from their actions to over promise and under-deliver to our community. I will no longer be a part of a group that chooses to bring embarrassment to our community for their selective indignation. I can no longer be associated with elected and appointed officials that place their self-interests above their public service obligations.

To that end, I am resigning as Mayor of the City of Bastrop effective immediately. While my detractors attribute this to an inappropriate recall, in reality it is my effort to mitigate the pettiness with hopes of moving our City forward. It is about public service not political gain. I thank the voters who elected me to serve as their Mayor. I also sincerely thank those friends who have maintained their staunch support for me during these trying times.



Lyle Nelson

Mayor – City of Bastrop