



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2024

TITLE:

Consider and act on the second reading Ordinance No. 2024-37, Amending Chapter 1 “General Provisions”, Article 1.02 “Administration”, Section 1.02.003 “Official Newspaper; Posting of Notices in lieu of Newspaper Publication” to Declare the ELGIN COURIER as the Official Newspaper for Required Newspaper Publications by the City; Providing for Findings of Fact; Providing for Repealer; Providing for Severability; Providing for Proper Notice and Meeting; And Establishing an Effective Date.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Submitted by: Victoria Psencik, Assistant City Secretary

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 52 requires the city council to designate its official newspaper for General Law cities but is silent on Home Rule Cities. the Code of Ordinances for the City of Bastrop had designated the BASTROP ADVERTISER as the official newspaper. Government Code Sections 2051.044 provides that a newspaper be used to convey official notices and must as a general matter:

- (1) devote not less than 25% of its total column lineage to general interest items;
- (2) be published at least once each week;
- (3) be entered as second-class postal matter in the county where published; and
- (4) have been published regularly and continuously for at least 12 months before the governmental entity or representative publishes notice; and

The BASTROP ADVERTISER was declared to be the official newspaper in the Code of Ordinances; however, that newspaper no longer exists after the AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN purchased it. Bastrop County has designated the ELGIN COURIER as the County’s official newspaper for their official notices. The city desires to designate the ELGIN COURIER, which is published in Bastrop County, as the City’s official newspaper.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown at this time but it will be a substantial savings.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council approved the Ordinance to declare the ELGIN COURIER as the official newspaper.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ordinance No. 2024-37