
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

AGENDA ITEM:

DATE: 9.14.2026

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDER 1st READING OF UPDATES TO THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

The City's current Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was adopted in 2014, which amended the original ordinance adopted in 1987. The current ordinance was based upon The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Calhoun County and incorporated areas, dated October 16, 2014.

Staff has worked with Baxter & Woodman and their work to update our Comprehensive Plan, using funds from a GLO Community Resiliency grant, to update this ordinance to match the currently recommended Model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance from the State. This updated ordinance further reflects the most current FIS which was dated August 2, 2018.

The proposed changes were reviewed at the Council Workshop on August 24. Most of the changes are adding in new definitions and text as presented in the current Model ordinance.

The most significant change is we are changing the minimum allowed elevation to construct in the flood zones to be **2 ft above** the cited base flood elevation. The previous ordinance required this elevation to be "At or above the Base Flood Elevation."

By increasing the allowable elevation to construct in a flood zone, it provides an additional buffer to minimize the chance of flooding in a severe storm event. In addition, we can reasonably expect that flood insurance rates in the City will be reduced as a result.

Most of the City of Port Lavaca sits on a bluff, with elevations of 18-20 ft and is not within a flood zone. Areas immediately along Lynn's Bayou and Chocolate Bayou and of course the area right along the waterfront are generally in a flood zone and would be subject to this ordinance.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the 1st reading of this ordinance.