



KENNY MATASSA
Parish President

Parish of Ascension

OFFICE of COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ascension Floodplain Ordinance Public Meeting

Ascension Parish Planning and Development Department and Department of Public works will hold a public meeting on proposed changes to the Parish floodplain ordinance.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, May 8, from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm in the conference room at the Ascension Parish Governmental Complex, 615 East Worthey Street, Gonzales.

The Parish is seeking input on the following proposed changes:

Floodplain Management Ordinance:

- Mitigate flooding in floodplain by:
 - Limiting fill to 3 feet in both 100 year and 500 year floodplain (FP) – Compromise from not allowing any to unlimited. That will push foundation to pier and beam above 3 feet.
 - Require lowest floor elevation to be 2 feet above 100 year BFE in 100 year FP and at 500 year BFE for those areas only in 500 year FP.
 - Have zero net fill in all areas of 100 year and 500 year floodplain. Leave exception for lots less than ½ acre.
 - Require mitigation facilities to have annual operational inspection by professional engineer.
 - Follow our current ordinances by requiring fill permits in the parish and enforcing ordinance 60.3(c). Limit to one foot all effects of new development.
 - After adoption:
 - Need to identify potential conveyance areas (Floodways)
 - Need to identify where emergency services need to be located and elevated.

P. O. Box 1659, 615 E. Worthey Rd., Gonzales, Louisiana 70707

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- Check for necessary changes to other ordinances for consistency.
- Also, how changes would affect CRS.

Implementation:

- Provide a 30 day period for individual lot owners who have had plans drawn for them to apply for a one time exemption to the new rules.
- Subdivisions with submitted or approved preliminary plats or a pre-application submittal in accordance with 17-404 will be allowed to complete as approved.
- Ordinance will be effective as soon as adopted.

Quick Review of our Ordinances

- Our current proposed revision is to the Land Development Code (LDC) Appendix V Drainage (17-501 thru 17-5091).
- In Section 9.5 Flood Damage Prevention of our Code of Ordinances there is a repeat of much of the language at Appendix V.
 - 9.5 specifically requires Development Permits.
 - It also specifically requires control of filling in the floodplain.
 - 9.5-32(1). Lowest floor shall be elevated to or above the BFE.
- In the LDC Section IV Drainage
 - 17-4045 A. All drainage design shall be based on the 10 year 24 event.
- 17-4044 K. All primary buildings in any subdivision in FEMA Flood Zone A, or A1 – A00 shall be constructed with a minimum elevation of one (1) foot above the base flood elevation.

The full ordinance, with highlighted proposed changes, can be seen on the Parish website: www.ascensionparish.net.