

Order No. 2025-07

ORDER/ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RULES FOR  
JUNKYARDS AND AUTOMOTIVE WRECKING AND SALVAGE YARDS

Whereas, the prior Bastrop County Junkyard Ordinance was signed on August 27, 1992, and changes to the law have occurred since that time; and


Whereas, with the growth of Bastrop County it is more important than ever to ensure the growth in the County is managed to benefit and ensure the health and safety of the citizens of Bastrop County in accordance with current law; and;


Whereas, Texas Local Government Code 234 and Texas Transportation Code 396 are the primary laws regulating Junkyards and Automotive Wrecking and Salvage yards in the County, and this Order is entered to update the current Bastrop County Order/Ordinance Establishing Rules For Junkyards And Automotive Wrecking And Salvage Yards to comply with said statutes and other law.


Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered: that we, the Bastrop County Commissioners Court, as authorized by Texas Local Government Code 234 and Texas Transportation Code 396, do hereby adopt this Order/Ordinance Establishing Rules For Junkyards And Automotive Wrecking And Salvage Yards, to replace the 1992 Order and to be effective on this date.


Resolved and Ordered on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

BASTROP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

DocuSigned by:  
  
21962DA448E44E4...  
Gregory Klaus, County Judge

Signed by:  
  
05026819157B420...  
Charles Carmack  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Clara Beckett  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

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Mark Meuth  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

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David Glass  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**AN ORDER/ORDINANCE  
ESTABLISHING RULES FOR  
JUNKYARDS  
AND AUTOMOTIVE WRECKING AND  
SALVAGE YARDS  
Effective September 8, 2025**

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## ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS

### 1.01 Definitions

In these rules:

- 1.01.01 "Applicant" means any person who is preparing or has filed an application for a license pursuant to these rules.
- 1.01.02 "Automotive wrecking and salvage yard" means any person or business that stores three or more wrecked vehicles outdoors for the purpose of dismantling or otherwise wrecking the vehicles to remove parts for sale or for use in an automotive repair or rebuilding business.
- 1.01.03 "Commissioners Court" means Bastrop County Commissioners Court.
- 1.01.04 "Completed renewal application" means an application that contains all of the information and documents required by Article 6.04 through 6.07 of these rules.
- 1.01.05 "County" means Bastrop County Government or its authorized agents.
- 1.01.06 "Department Head" means the Department Head of the Bastrop County Department of Health and Sanitation.
- 1.01.07 "Interested party" means any person who may be affected by the issuance of a license pursuant to these rules and would include not only owners in fee simple, life tenants, lessees for years, lienholders, easement holders, and residents of a proposed yard, but also any person with these interests in land situated within one thousand (1000) feet of a proposed yard.
- 1.01.08 "Junk" means copper, brass, iron, steel, rope, rags, batteries, tires, or other material (other than a wrecked vehicle) that has been discarded or sold at a nominal price by a previous owner of the material.
- 1.01.09 "Junkyard" means a business enterprise that owns and is operated to store, buy, or sell junk, all or part of which is kept outdoors until disposed of.
- 1.01.10 "Person" means any natural person, trust, estate, partnership, limited partnership, association, company or corporation.
- 1.01.11 "Proposed yard" means the land to be occupied by a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard if a license is granted pursuant to these rules.
- 1.01.12 "Recycling business" means a business enterprise that is primarily engaged in the business of:
  - 1.01.12.01 Converting ferrous or nonferrous metals or other materials into raw material products having prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value;

- 1.01.12.02 Using raw material products of that kind in the production of new products; or
- 1.01.12.03 Obtaining or storing ferrous or nonferrous metals or other materials for a purpose described by Paragraph 1.01.12.01 or 1.01.12.02 of this subdivision.
- 1.01.13 "Wrecked vehicle" means a discarded, abandoned, junked, wrecked, or worn-out automotive vehicle, including an automobile, truck, tractor-trailer, or bus, that is not in a condition to be lawfully operated on a public road.

## ARTICLE 2 – ESTABLISHMENT AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 2.01 Authority

These rules are adopted by the Commissioners Court acting in its capacity as the governing body of Bastrop County. Bastrop County adopts these rules under the authority of the Texas Transportation Code Chapter 396 and Local Government Code Chapter 234.

### 2.02 Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by requiring junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards to be licensed by Bastrop County.

### 2.03 Area of Jurisdiction

- 2.03.01 These rules shall apply to all of the areas of Bastrop County except for the areas within the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns of Bastrop County.
- 2.03.02 These rules shall also apply to those incorporated cities or towns or villages that have adopted these rules and executed cooperative agreements with Bastrop County for their enforcement.

### 2.04 Effective Date

These rules shall become effective upon adoption by the Commissioners Court.

### 2.05 Construction, Precedents, and Interpretation

- 2.05.01 These rules shall be construed liberally to accomplish their purpose.
- 2.05.02 The Commissioners Court shall resolve any question regarding any interpretation of these rules.
- 2.05.03 In the event of any conflict between the rules and a State law, a rule adopted under a State law, or a Municipal Ordinance, the stricter of the two provisions prevails.

2.05.04 The masculine, feminine, and neuter genders shall be construed to include the other genders as required. The singular and plural shall be construed to include the other numbers as required.

2.06 Severability

If any provision of these rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of these rules and the application thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

ARTICLE 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

3.01 Exemptions From Compliance With These Rules

3.01.01 These rules do not apply to the following:

3.01.01.01 A recycling business;

3.01.01.02 A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that is located entirely within an incorporated city or town and that is subject to regulation in any manner by the city or town, unless the city or town has adopted these rules; or

3.01.01.03 A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that legally began operation before June 1, 1987 is exempt from Texas Transportation Code Section 396.041.

3.01.01.04 A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that is operating on the date of this order becomes effective shall have 30 days to comply with this Order, except if they were in compliance with the screening requirement in existence on August 26, 1991, they are exempt from a screening requirement adopted under Local Government Code 234.

3.01.02 A person desiring an exemption from compliance with any requirement of these rules shall file a written request with the Department Head stating the nature of the exemption requested, the reason that justifies granting the exemption, and any additional information that the Commissioners Court requests. The Department Head shall notify the Commissioners Court of all requests for exemption within fourteen (14) days of the date on which the request is filed. Within forty-five (45) days after the filing of a request, the Commissioners Court shall review the request and notify the person, in writing, of their decision. If the request is denied, the Commissioners Court shall include the reasons for denial in the notice. If the Commissioners Court does not give notice of their decision within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the request, the exemption is automatically granted.

3.01.03 Notice Procedures

3.01.03.01 In any notice of a hearing pursuant to Article 8 of these rules, the Department Head shall state the nature of the approval sought, the location for which approval is sought, the date, time, and place of the hearing, any additional information the Department Head may consider necessary, and the right of interested parties to

be heard on the questions of approval and conditions to be imposed.

3.01.03.02 At least ten days prior to the date set for any hearing pursuant to Article 8 of these rules, the Department Head shall mail notice of the hearing by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the applicant, to the owners of the proposed yard and to the schools, churches, and interested parties included in the lists of these groups attached to the application for the license pursuant to Article 6.01.07 of these rules.

3.01.03.03 The Department Head shall post a notice of hearing pursuant to Article 8 of these rules in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, on the site of the proposed yard or expansion or change of location of a licensed junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard in a place that is visible from the adjacent roads or highways. This notice of hearing must be posted at least ten (10) days before the date set for the hearing.

3.01.03.04 Any notice required to be given pursuant to these rules, other than a notice of hearing pursuant to Article 8 of these rules, shall be considered given by depositing same in the U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, addressed in accordance with the information given by an applicant

### 3.02 Fees

To defray the reasonable costs of administering these rules, the Department Head shall require a fee of \$25.00 to be paid. Such fee shall be paid with the filing of an application for a license and with the filing of an application for renewal of a license. The license shall cover a period of one year from the day on which the license was approved. The fee for issuing a duplicate license for one which is lost, destroyed or mutilated shall be \$10.00.

## ARTICLE 4 - DUTIES AND POWERS

### 4.01 Duties and powers

The Department Head is required by the Commissioners Court to perform the following duties:

4.01.01 To enforce these rules and to make appropriate recommendations to proper County authorities when instances of noncompliance with these rules have been determined.

4.01.02 To make annual reports to the Commissioners Court on all actions, including legal actions, taken concerning these rules and to provide the Commissioners Court any other information concerning these rules and their implementation which may be requested by the Commissioners Court.

#### 4.02 Applications and Fees

The Department Head shall accept all applications and collect all fees necessary to meet the requirements of these rules. All fees collected shall be deposited in the general fund of the County.

### ARTICLE 5 – LICENSE APPLICATION

#### 5.01 Commencement of Operations

A person shall not operate a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard within Bastrop County, unless that person has a valid, subsisting license obtained pursuant to these rules.

#### 5.02 Expansion of Operation

A person shall not increase the land area occupied by or change the location of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard unless that person has a valid, subsisting license for that increase in land area or change in location obtained pursuant to these rules.

#### 5.03 Transfer of Licenses

A person shall give a notice stating the name, mailing address, residential street address and business address of all transferees and any change in the name of the operation to the Department Head before a person may transfer a license to another person. A person shall not transfer a license from one location to another without the prior approval of the Commissioners Court after notice and public hearing in compliance with Article 8 of these rules. Any license transferred from one location to another location without such prior approval of the Commissioners Court is no longer a valid license as of the date of transfer.

#### 5.04 Compliance with Conditions

A person granted a license shall comply with all conditions placed on the location of the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard by the Commissioners Court pursuant to Article 8.03 of these rules.

### ARTICLE 6 - LICENSE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

#### 6.01 Information Required for license

Applications for licenses to operate junkyards or automotive wrecking and salvage yards or expand or change locations shall be made in writing to the Department Head on a form prescribed by her and shall, along with such other information she may require, contain the following information:

- 6.01.01 The name, mailing address, residential street address, and business street address of the applicant;
- 6.01.02 The name of the proposed operation;
- 6.01.03 The street address of the proposed yard and the page and volume number of the Real Property Records of Bastrop County, Texas where the most recent deed of the property on which the proposed yard will be located was recorded;



6.01.04 The exact legal description of the proposed yard;

6.01.05 If the applicant is a partnership, the name, mailing address, residential street address, and business street address for each member of the partnership;

6.01.06 If the applicant is a corporation or LLC, the name, mailing address, residential street address, and business street address of each officer and director of the corporation or member or manager of the LLC and the name and address for service of process on the registered agent of the corporation/LLC; and

6.01.07 The names and mailing address of all schools, churches and interested parties and of all other persons that the applicant knows, or reasonably should know, want notice of the hearing on the application for the license.

## 6.02 Supporting Documents Required for License

The applicant shall attach the following documents to their application:

6.02.01 If an assumed name is used, a date-stamped copy of the Certificate of Assumed Name;

6.02.02 If the applicant is a general partnership, a copy of the fully executed partnership agreement;

6.02.03 If the applicant is a limited partnership, a date-stamped copy of the Certificate of Limited Partnership;

6.02.04 If the applicant is a corporation, a date-stamped copy of the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and a certified copy of the corporate resolution authorizing the corporation to file an application pursuant to these rules and designating the officer authorized to execute the application;

6.02.05 If the applicant is a LLC , a date stamped copy of the Certificate of Formation filed with the Secretary of State and a certified copy of the LLC resolution authorizing the LLC to file an application pursuant to these rules and designating the officer authorized to execute the application; and

6.02.06 If the applicant is not the owner in fee simple of the proposed yard, a properly executed power of attorney, lease agreement or other written evidence of the consent or agency agreement between the applicant and all owners.

## 6.02.07 Acknowledgement Required for License

The application shall contain the following statements: "Applicant grants County the authority to place notices pursuant to Article 3.01.03.03 on the site of the proposed yard. All of the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief. Applicant acknowledges that the license applied for shall be subject to all provisions of the codes and ordinances of Bastrop County relating to junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards and shall be subject to all provisions of the codes and statutes of the State of Texas."

### 6.03 Information Required for Renewal Application

Applications for renewal licenses shall be made in writing to the Department Head on a form prescribed by her and shall, along with such other information as she may require, contain the following information:

- 6.03.01 The name, mailing address, residential street address, and business street address of the applicant;
- 6.03.02 The name of the operation;
- 6.03.03 The street address of the proposed yard and the page and volume number of the Real Property Records of Bastrop County, Texas where the most recent deed to the property on which the proposed yard will be located was recorded;
- 6.03.04 The exact legal description of the proposed yard;
- 6.03.05 If the applicant is a partnership, the name, mailing address, residential street address, and business street address for each member of the partnership; and
- 6.03.06 If the applicant is a corporation, the name, mailing address, a residential street address, and a business street address of each officer and director of the corporation and the name and address for service of process on the registered agent for the corporation.

### 6.04 Supporting Documents Required for Renewal Application

Unless the applicant has attached the following documents to a prior application and there have been no amendments or changes to the documents since attached to the prior application, the applicant shall attach the following documents to her application:

- 6.04.01 If an assumed name is used, a date-stamped copy of the Certificate of Assumed Name;
- 6.04.02 If the applicant is a general partnership, a copy of the fully executed partnership agreement;
- 6.04.03 If the applicant is a limited partnership, a date-stamped copy of the Certificate of Limited Partnership;
- 6.04.04 If the applicant is a corporation, a date-stamped copy of the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and a certified copy of the corporate resolution authorizing the corporation to file an application pursuant to these rules and designating the officer authorized to execute the application; and
- 6.04.05 If the applicant is a LLC , a date stamped copy of the Certificate of Formation filed with the Secretary of State and a certified copy of the LLC resolution authorizing the LLC to file an application pursuant to these rules and designating the officer authorized to execute the application; and
- 6.04.06 If the applicant is not the owner in fee simple of the proposed yard, a

properly executed power of attorney, lease agreement or other written evidence of the consent or agency agreement between the applicant and all owners.

#### 6.05 Acknowledgement Required for Renewal license

The application shall contain the following statements;

"The location in the renewal application is the same land area and geographic location as that approved by the Commissioners Court in the initial application.

"The license has never been revoked and is not suspended or expired on the date of application.

"The junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is in operation on the date of application for renewal.

"All of the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.

"Applicant acknowledges that the license applied for shall be subject to all provisions for the codes and ordinances of Bastrop County relating to junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards and shall be subject to all provisions of the codes and statutes of the State of Texas."

#### 6.06 Sworn Signature Required

Application for license and renewal license shall be signed and sworn to by the applicant (if the applicant is a partnership, by a general partner on behalf of the partnership and, if the applicant is a corporation or LLC, by the officer of the corporation or LLC designated to execute the application on behalf of the corporation/LLC) before a notary public or other official authorized to administer oaths.

### ARTICLE 7 - ISSUANCE OF LICENSES

#### 7.01 Initial Licenses

Initial licenses may be issued by County upon receipt of the prescribed fee and a completed application only if the Commissioners Court has approved the location of the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.

#### 7.02 Licenses for Increase in Land Area or Change of Location

Licenses for an increase in land area of the location or for changes in location may be issued by County upon receipt of the prescribed fee and a completed application only if the Commissioners Court has approved the location of the additional area to be used for the increase in land area or the new location of the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard

#### 7.03 Issuance of Licenses

Under the conditions established in these rules, the Department Head shall issue licenses to all applicants whose applications have been approved by the Commissioners Court in compliance with Article 8 of these rules. All licenses shall include the certification of the Bastrop County Clerk, or her authorized

agent, that the license has been approved by the Commissioners Court and the date of approval. All licenses shall be originally signed by the Department Head or her authorized agent.

#### 7.04 Annual Renewal of Initial Licenses

After the initial license has been issued by the County, the Department Head shall renew the licenses within thirty (30) days after receipt of the prescribed fee and a completed renewal application, provided that the location in the renewal application is the same land area and geographic location *as* that approved by the Commissioner Court in the initial application; the license has never been revoked and is not suspended or expired on the date of application; and the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is in operation on the date of application for renewal.

#### 7.05 Annual Renewal of Licenses for Increase in Land Area or Change of Location

After the licenses for increase in land area or change of location has been issued by the County, the County shall renew the license within thirty (30) days after receipt of the prescribed fee and a completed renewal application, provided that the location in the renewal application is the same land area and geographic location *as* that approved by the Commissioners Court in the application for increase in land area or a change of location; the license has never been revoked and is not suspended or expired on the date of application; and the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is in operation on the date of application for renewal.

### ARTICLE 8 - PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSIONERS COURT APPROVAL

#### 8.01 Public Hearing

Prior to approval for any application for a license pursuant to these rules, the Commissioners Court shall hold a public hearing on the question of approval of the application and conditions to be imposed on the location. At this public hearing, interested parties shall have the right to be heard on the question of approval and conditions to be imposed. The public hearing shall be held within forty-five (45) days of receipt of an application in compliance with Article 6.01 through 6.03 and 6.07 of these Rules.

#### 8.02 Notice of Hearing

The County shall give notice of the hearing on the application as prescribed in Article 3.01.03.

#### 8.03 Criteria for Approval

The Commissioners Court may deny approval of any application for any license sought pursuant to these rules for the following reasons:

- 8.03.01 The location of the proposed yard would be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare;
- 8.03.02 The location of the proposed yard would create a hazard to the environment;
- 8.03.03 The location of the nearest boundary of the proposed yard would be within one thousand (1,000) feet of the nearest property line of property on which there is a church, a school, a park, a hospital, a nursing home, or a residence (single family home, duplex, apartment, townhouse, or

mobile home), or the nearest boundary of a residential subdivision for which the County has approved a surveyor's plat;

- 8.03.04 The location of the proposed yard would be incompatible with the surrounding development;
- 8.03.05 The location of the proposed yard would be detrimental to the economic welfare of Bastrop County; or
- 8.03.06 The location of the proposed yard would be within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of a lake, river, tributary or pond; or
- 8.03.07 The location of the proposed yard would be within the one hundred (100) year flood plain.
- 8.03.08 The applicant has not complied with Article 6 of these rules;

#### 8.04 Conditions on Approval

In granting approval of any application for a license to establish or expand or change location for any junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard within Bastrop County, the Commissioners Court may impose conditions on the location at which a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard may operate.

#### 8.05 Time for Approval

The Commissioners Court shall decide whether to grant or deny approval of an application within sixty (60) days of the public hearing on that application and, if this decision is not made within sixty (60) days, the application shall be deemed to have been approved by the Commissioners Court.

### ARTICLE 9 - GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE

#### 9.01 Suspension of License

If a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is not screened in compliance with Texas Transportation Code Chapter 396.021 or Chapter 396.022 and Texas Local Government Code 234.002, whichever is applicable, the Department Head may suspend the license for that junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard. The suspension shall continue until the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is being operated in compliance with the applicable article.

#### 9.02 Notice of Suspension

If the Department Head suspends the license of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard, the Department Head shall give notice of the suspension to the applicant for the suspended license.

#### 9.03 Revocation of license

- 9.03.01 If the license of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard has been suspended for more than fourteen days and the operation of the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard has not been brought into compliance with the applicable article, the license shall automatically

be revoked and no valid or subsisting license shall exist for that junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.

- 9.03.02 If the applicant has provided any information in the application which is not true and correct, then the license may be revoked by the Department Head and, if revoked, no valid or subsisting license shall exist for that junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.

9.04 Notice of Revocation

If the license of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is revoked pursuant to these rules, the Department Head shall give notice of that revocation to the applicant for the revoked license.

9.05 Hearing on Suspension and Revocation

The applicant or current holder of a suspended or revoked license may have a hearing by the Commissioners Court on the suspension or revocation of the license if a request for such a hearing is made in writing to the Bastrop County Judge within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of suspension or revocation. The hearing will be set as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the request for the hearing.

ARTICLE 10 - ENFORCEMENT

10.01 Inspection

The Department Head may routinely inspect junkyards or automotive wrecking and salvage yards to assure continued compliance with these rules.

10.02 Criminal Penalty (Texas Transportation Code Section 396.023 and 396.045)

- 10.02.01 A person who violates the Texas Transportation Code 396 as set forth in Sections 396.024 and 396.045 as adopted in this Ordinance/Order Articles 5 through 9, commits an offense. An offense under this Article is a Misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500. Each day a violation continues is a separate offense.

10.03 Civil Penalties

- 10.03.01 Texas Transportation Code 396.002. - A person is entitled to an injunction to prohibit a violation or threatened violation of this chapter or a County Ordinance adopted under Chapter 396. Such civil suits may not be instituted by the County unless the Commissioners Court has authorized the institution of the suit.
- 10.03.02 Texas Local Government Code 234.004 – An attorney representing the county may file a civil action to recover a civil penalty from a business that violates a visual aesthetic standard established under Chapter 234, The penalty may not exceed \$50 each day for the first 10 days, \$100.00 per day for the next 10 days, and \$250.00 for the next 10 days, and \$1,000 for each day thereafter.