



## **Department of Planning & Zoning Staff Report – Text Amendment Case No. 2025-2-ORD**

**Introduced by Matthew Jewell  
Parish President**

An ordinance to amend Section XX.B of the St. Charles Parish Zoning Ordinance of 1981, as amended, to add a definition of “Base Flood Elevation” to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 24, staff received the requirements to complete a five-year performance review by the State Department of Transportation & Development, Office of Public Works and Water resources /Floodplain Management Section.

One of the requirements was to add the definition for “Base Flood Elevation” contained in FEMA’s model floodplain ordinance to the Parish’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (Section XX of the Zoning Ordinance of 1981).

The attached ordinance adds the definition as required. The ordinance also will eliminate numbering of definitions to leave them alphabetized.

### **POTENTIAL OUTCOMES**

The St. Charles Parish Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was developed using FEMA’s model ordinance. It appears to be an error that the definition for “Base Flood Elevation” is not included in the local ordinance. Permit and floodplain management staff use the concept of base flood elevation to administer the flood damage prevention program. Adding the definition will help staff administer the program.

Definitions in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance are in alphabetical order and are also numbered. The numbering is unnecessary and cumbersome. Eliminating the numbering will make it easier for staff to add and delete terms in the future without having the renumber. Eliminating the numbers make references to the definitions more reliable over time; the specific number of many of the terms has changed with addition and deletion of various terms since the adoption of the local ordinance (1983).

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

**Approval**