

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

By Council Member Elaine Waddill

The City of Horseshoe Bay regular City Council meeting was held January 18, following a full day workshop on Monday. Mayor Clinesmith called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Father Ruben Patino followed by pledges to the flags.

During the public comment, David Griffith brought greetings from Representative Andrew Murr. He was in the county (one of 16 in the Representative's district) and wanted to ensure that any needs or concerns by area residents or officials were being heard. Rep. Murr visited recently and sent follow up to the discussions held at that time. Also presenting for public comment was resident Cynthia Hughes whose property sits directly behind the new Nature Park. She complimented the project and the attention to detail in retaining its natural beauty. She expressed concerns, however, with people not honoring the fence line and stepping over into her property to engage her pond and privacy. She also noted trash and other public displays. She was directed to the Board of the Nature Park as this is not a city owned park – but was assured that her message would also be forward to those in charge.

In recognition of the resorts' 50th anniversary, Mayor Clinesmith presented a Proclamation of the City of Horseshoe Bay to Ron Mitchell representing Horseshoe Bay Resort Enterprises. The proclamation is in appreciation for his achievements in successfully guiding the operations of Horseshoe Bay Resort Enterprises. Ron has guided with vision, expertise, and leadership as the Resort has continued to grow into one of the jewels of the Texas Hill Country. On behalf of the city and citizens of Horseshoe Bay, Mayor Clinesmith extended sincere best wishes for his future.

Douglas Jaffee, owner of Horseshoe Bay Enterprises was also presented a Proclamation of the City of Horseshoe Bay. Mayor Clinesmith expressed appreciation for his care and commitment since acquiring the resort from the original Hurd family developers. Their recent \$100 million investment for upgrades will continue to establish the resort's worldwide recognition and serve to keep the entire city quality of life atmosphere. Mayor Clinesmith expressed congratulations and gratitude on behalf of the city and residents of Horseshoe Bay.

Jules Martin, Information Technology Administrator for the City, was presented a 5 Year Service Award by Jeff Koska, City Manager. When Jules joined the city team, he assumed responsibility for long needed oversight of the multiple software and varied platforms essential to city operation. He immediately began collecting needed information on the City's computers, printers, servers, and a multitude of software systems to consolidate the technology needs of the city. He then developed strategic plans to transition the city systems such as water quality, financial integrity, and fire/police data toward a more cyber-secure, effective, and efficient operation. Married for 25 years, Jules is the father of 3 children and an essential part of the City of HSB family as well.

Margie Cardenas, Finance Director, provided an update on City financials. The City's first quarter revenue and expenditure analysis reveals the City of Horseshoe Bay is doing well as compared to Budget. The General Fund revenue is 33.5% of budget while expenditures are at 24.6% of budget. The Utility Fund revenue is at 23.2% while expenditures are at 18.6% of budget. Additional updated information will be posted on the City of Horseshoe Bay website.

Sally McFeron, Development Services Director, discussed supply chain issues preventing contractors from meeting timelines required to complete homes currently under construction. Mayor Clinesmith recommended that the city consider adding sixty days to current building permits and those obtained as of January 19, 2022. The extension would include single and multi-family homes, remodels, and pools. This would provide an across the board relief while also respecting that the neighbors of building sites need assurances of project completion

in a timely manner. After consideration and discussion, the City Council voted to approve the proposal. Additional information is available through Development Services.

A local developer requested an exception to the Speculative Home Policy for Residential Development. The request was for development of a 61.2 acre area located at HWY 71 and FM 2147. The request was to have 16 homes under construction at the same time. In addition, the request was to build up to 10 townhomes simultaneously in 4 different phases. The current policy allows for 2 speculative homes to be under construction at the same time.

Mayor Clinesmith shared information with the developer regarding the rate of growth Horseshoe Bay is currently experiencing, as well as, the expectations for managed growth from within the community. Offering respect for the quality homes, the development planned high density quick development. The Council is reviewing policy variance considerations for new large developments along the HWY 71 corridor (that would not be direct impact on the daily lives of homes within the current communities). However, the plan will expect commitments to greenspace, amenities for the new development that would not add burden to current residents, and a phased building program that would perhaps allow for initial establishment, followed by returned compliance to the managed speculative home guidelines. The Council reviewed the request and a motion to deny the request was made and passed. The builder will have the option of bringing an expanded development plan more in line with proposed variance considerations in the future.

Development Service Director McFeron presented a draft Public Improvement District Policy (PID) for review. A PID provides the City of Horseshoe Bay an economic development and management tool for future developments in our extra-territorial properties which would likely be annexed into the City. The Council voted to pass it and put a detailed policy in place for developers seeking infrastructure support in the future.

After an executive session, the Council was pleased to return to open session and take a unanimous vote to name Jeff Koska as the permanent City Manager for the City of Horseshoe Bay. Jeff's over 20 years of devotion and leadership within the city gives him the unique perspective of where this community has come from (working here before it even was a City) – and brings his personal commitment to care and lead the city to its future success. Citizens of HSBay are blessed to have him and the amazing city team securing our daily living needs.

The Mayor, City Council and City of Horseshoe Bay staff sends their wishes for a very Happy New Year to everyone as we kick off the beginning of a busy and fruitful New Year. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022 in the Council Chambers. We hope you will join us for the meeting.