

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

By Council Member Elaine Waddill

The City of Horseshoe Bay regular Council meeting on Nov 15 was opened with a prayer led by Reverend Dr. Malcolm McQueen, from the Church at Horseshoe Bay, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas State flags. City Secretary Kerri Craig swore in and issued Certificates of Election to newly elected Council Members Elsie Thurman, Elaine Waddill, and Dwight King. Mayor Clinesmith thanked each of the members for their willingness to serve our community.

Utility Director Rick Williams awarded George Watson a 5 Year Service Award on behalf of the Horseshoe Bay community. George started his career in HSB within the Field Operations. He quickly became an invaluable part of the construction and maintenance crew with his ability to complete any task given and his willingness to respond to any after-hours emergency gained. He moved to the position of Maintenance Crew Lead, and this past year was promoted to Field Operations Supervisor as part of the Utility Department's Succession Plan. He is an integral part of the department and city success. George is a 2005 graduate of Johnson City High School. He currently resides in Kingsland with his lovely wife Tabitha and his son Bradley. In his off time, George can be found kayaking or hiking the serene Texas Hill Country or planning his next fishing or hunting trip.

Fire Chief Brent Batla presented a long-term service award to Stephanie Black. She began her career as a wildland firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management. Stephanie was promoted to "Crew Boss" and worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife administration, as well as Texas Forrest Service. After earning her structural certification, she began her structural firefighting career at Brady Fire Department and later the Marble Falls Fire Department. In 2007, Stephanie joined the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department and has moved up the ranks to her current position as Fire Marshal. Stephanie is a graduate of Texas A&M University as well as a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the equivalent of the Fire Services "Top Gun" school. When away from the Fire Station, Stephanie enjoys time with her fur babies, camping, hiking, and woodworking. She is the coordinator of the Firewise board at Wolf Creek Ranch and assists with numerous 4H related activities.

Chief Batla also presented Chase Higginbotham a 5 Year Service Award. Chase began his five-year fire service career at the Balch Springs Fire Department and later located to San Saba. In 2017, he was hired at Horseshoe Bay Fire Department where he has moved up in rank to serve as an Engineer at Station 1 assigned to A-shift. In 2019 he received the distinguished award of Firefighter of the Year with the Hill Country 100 Club. Chase holds both structural and wildland firefighter certifications. He recently graduated from Emergency Medical Technician school. Chase has a little one on the way (his first) which may mean that his pursuits in extreme sports such as skydiving may be drawing to a close. Chase is also an avid snowboarder, hunter, and fisherman.

Horseshoe Bay Manager and Department Managers introduced new employees, Bucky Boswell, Police Communications Operator; Dan Herron, Communications Director; Seleste Kos, Code Compliance Officer; Susan White, Development Services Administrative Assistant; and Zachary Weathers, Utilities Maintenance Operator. Each of the new individuals joining the city is experienced and highly recommended for their skills and services. We are fortunate to welcome such well-qualified individuals to our Horseshoe Bay staff.

City Manager Jeff Koska shared that the Holiday season in Horseshoe Bay will once again be bigger and better than ever! We look forward to continued collaboration with the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance "HOLIDAZE" event with caroling, free cookies and hot chocolate, a special Christmas tree lighting....and of course, Santa Claus. Businesses serving HSBay will host booths with information and treats for all. Be sure to mark your calendar for December 1, gather family and friends, and join your neighbors to kick off the holiday season.

City Secretary Kerri Craig explained the process of determination and selection of individuals seeking to serve in volunteer positions on the City Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Committees. Individuals interested in serving are given an opportunity to introduce themselves and indicate the area or areas in which they are interested in serving. This year the Council heard from several individuals regarding their willingness to serve and the areas in which they prefer to serve. During the Public Comment period of the meeting several of the individuals interested and willing to serve addressed the Council. The Mayor and Council will continue the review process and announce the appointments at the December meeting. As always, it never fails to amaze that Horseshoe Bay has the most skilled, capable, and generous residents bringing their time and talent to their neighbors. We truly appreciate their efforts and interest in serving our community.

Finance Director Margie Cardenas worked with Financial Advisors to present information regarding the issuance and sale of tax and revenue certificates of obligation, Series 2022. During the budget process the council reviewed the 5-year capital projects; specifically, the street upgrades and improvements to Fire Station #2, a bond issuance was completed in the amount of \$4.1 million. The Finance Advisors noted that due to the high credit rating (AA+) and management portfolio of HSBay, the bonds sold at an unexpectantly low interest rate at this time. The payment for this issue has been budgeted in the Debt Service for FY 2023.

At the December 6, 2005 City Council meeting, only one month after the City of Horseshoe Bay had its first City Council meeting, the Council appointed the first Public Information Officer. Since then, a Public Information Officer has been appointed at the first City Council meeting after the general election each year. The Council felt it was important for the community to hear from a representative of the Council after each meeting to highlight the work of their elected officials.

The role of the Public Information Officer is to provide a report including thorough and timely coverage of the regular City Council meeting(s) each month. That report is submitted to the Mayor, City Manager and City Secretary first thing the day after the regular monthly meeting. The City Secretary submits the report to the local newspaper for publication and the report is uploaded to the City's website on the same day. Elaine Waddill is currently and will remain serving as the Public Information Officer.

Additionally, the City annually appoints two Council Members to serve on the Public Funds for Public Purposes subcommittee. The individuals review each request for funding received by the City from outside entities. The council recommended and accepted Council Member Frank Hosea and Council Member Dwight King to serve in that capacity. They also re-appointed Council Member Elsie Thurman as Mayor Pro Tem.

The Council reviewed/canvassed the tabulated vote count from the November 8, 2022 Special Election provided by Llano and Burnet Counties and voted to approve the results.

Development Services Director Sally McFeron presented the Council with information regarding the increase in short-term rentals (STR). Many communities across the state are struggling to define and enforce regulations that preserve community character and keep communities safe while preserving the rights of the property owners and neighbors. Increasing citizen complaints of noise, parking, trash violations, the prominence of "party-houses" and police intervention, has brought up the need for a short-term rental ordinance. In response, staff have set out to develop regulations and design enforcement mechanisms. Data is currently being collected to be used as the basis for developing a fair and equitable ordinance. Staff has begun to contact 3rd party STR management platforms to assess the STR market in HSB and explore actual data and possible management solutions.

The City will move forward with a clear, fair, and enforceable ordinance based on the following policy goals: balance the needs and rights of neighbors and property owners; preserve the residential quality of the neighborhood; and ensure the health and safety of guests and residents. Director McFeron provided examples of potential ordinance specifics and managing compliance to include registration of short-term rental homes (with

a fee to cover compliance monitoring and management), requirements for responsibility of owners, and enforcement consequences for inappropriate actions at any rental. She indicated that our next steps are to fully develop the STR ordinance for approval at the January 2023 City Council meeting.

Director McFeron also presented a resolution setting a date for a public hearing regarding the Monarch Ridge Public Improvement District Master Development Agreement/MDA. The agreement was executed on October 11, 2022, and provides for the voluntary annexation of approximately 308.36 acres of real property within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Horseshoe Bay pursuant to Chapter 43 of the Texas Local Government Code.

A public hearing will be held at the December 6, 2022 City Council meeting, which begins at 3:00p.m. at City Hall, 1 Community Drive (City Council Chambers) Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Council Member Frank Hosea provided an update regarding internet service in the Horseshoe Bay community. Currently, all plans are ready to proceed and are awaiting the final required approval from the FAA for tower installation.

November brings a time for wonderful changes to our Horseshoe Bay family. As the air gets a little crisper and we hear the rustling of the leaves we are reminded of the many things for which we are grateful. Let's enjoy the many celebrations with our family and friends but let's not forget to stay involved with the business of our city. Our next City Council meeting will be December 6, 2022.