



# City of Horseshoe Bay

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## City of Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments

February 20, 2024

By Dan Herron, Communications Director

The City of Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was held on February 20, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Thurman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. The invocation was given by Pastor Malcolm McQueen, followed by pledges to the American flag and the State of Texas flag.

### Proclamations

#### Proclamation Declaring the Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Mayor Thurman read a proclamation declaring support for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The annual recommitment ensures that the protection of our environment is a priority. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a national effort by the National Wildlife Federation to preserve the Monarch butterfly, which has sharply declined in population numbers during the last 25 years. By taking the pledge, the City promises to participate in activities promoting the Monarch's survival. These include education of residents, milkweed and nectar plant seed giveaways, altered mowing schedules to protect breeding habitat, and the promotion of Monarch-friendly gardens being planted in our City.

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a key component of the City's work to enhance the environment. Other examples are the Dark Skies Community Certification, Scenic City Gold Certification, support of the HSB Nature Park, and efforts by the Utility Department to move honeybee hives, which turn up in our water meter boxes.

Utilities Director Rick Williams said when the city finds a bee hive, they will remove it and relocate to a safe place.

#### Proclamation Declaring March 10-16, 2024 as "Sunshine Week"

Mayor Thurman has declared the week of March 10-16, 2024 "Sunshine Week."

Every year, during the third week of March, "Sunshine Week" is celebrated in cities throughout America to promote transparency and open government. Initially launched in 2005 by the



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American Society of News Editors (now known as the News Leaders Association), “Sunshine Week” has grown into an enduring initiative.

The City of Horseshoe Bay works diligently to enhance the public’s access to government records and information, ensure local government activities are transparent to all stakeholders, and regularly communicate with citizens to keep them engaged and informed.

Legislative Services Director Kerri Craig highlighted a long list of initiatives the city has undertaken over the past few years to promote open government in her report, including multiple awards received for those efforts.

## **Announcements and Staff Recognition**

### **Recognition of Retiring Pastor Malcolm McQueen**

Mayor Thurman presented Pastor Malcolm McQueen with a certificate of recognition and a hand-made cross crafted by city staff member, Renee Hagen. He said he is a Horseshoe Bay resident and has a love and passion for serving the community. McQueen received a standing ovation from the audience.

### **New City Team Members**

Mayor Thurman introduced the new city attorney, Dottie Palumbo. City Manager Jeff Koska said the city is excited to work with her and commented that we are in good hands.

City Manager Jeff Koska introduced the new Finance Director, Molly Jester.

Utilities Director Rick Williams introduced Elizabeth Carrillo, Development Services Permit Technician.

Assistant Police Chief Jason Graham introduced Brad Holden and presented him with a 5-Year Service Award.

## **Public Comment**

Hatch Smith, a Llano resident who is running for Texas House District 53, introduced himself to the Council.

Perry Thomas introduced himself to the Council. He is a Llano resident and is a candidate for district attorney for the 33rd & 424th District Court of Burnet, Llano, Blanco, and San Saba Counties.



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## **Presentations**

Cathy Ryden with Horseshoe Bay One Realty provided an update on the real estate market in Horseshoe Bay. Ryden said Texas is the number one state in real estate sales. She mentioned that realtors in Austin and Houston are starting to get multiple offers again in the larger markets. Interest rates hovered around eight percent last year and are down to seven percent and are predicted to go down to 6.3 percent and 6.5 percent by mid to end of the year. Overall, the market is flat and is a buyer's market over a seller's market. The market is generally slow as last year, but it is starting to pick up.

## **Business**

### **A. Update on the City Center and West Fire Station**

City Manager Jeff Koska said they are close to 100 percent complete with the preliminary designs. This Thursday, they will be reviewing the revised designs and cost estimates. Koska showed renderings of the initial designs of the City Center and Fire Station.

### **B. Award Contract for Central Water Plant Clear Well Replacement**

Utilities Director Rick Williams said the Clear Well storage tanks have been in service for 17 years, and the normal life span is 12-15 years; they have exceeded their useful life and started to develop failures in the roof structure. Williams would like to delay the replacement for a year because the costs have exceeded the budget.

A motion to award the contract to replace the Central Water Plant Clear Wells for a cost not to exceed \$869,000 was approved pending the city attorney's approval and the City Manager signing the contract to return the amended budget for approval. The Council voted, and the motion was approved.

### **C. Request for Funding from the Phoenix Center for Sponsorship of their Annual Gala**

The funding request was denied due to the recommendation from the City Attorney because it would come out of the general fund, which is taxpayer funds. The Mayor said she would inform the Phoenix Center. Also, commented that they are greatly appreciative of the work that the center does.

### **D. Bicycle Lanes on Bay West Boulevard**

City Manager Koska said the Transportation Committee recommended adding bicycle lanes to Bay West Boulevard last year. Koska presented the plan to add lane striping and signage to ensure safety for walkers, bikers, and golf carts. The bike lanes will be on the outside lanes; they are 6.5 feet wide and will be installed from Blue Ground to Cap Rock. Mayor Pro Tem Elaine



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Waddill requested that a communications campaign be developed to maintain safety and compliance.

## Public Comments

A resident commented that he welcomes the improvements to Bay West Blvd. for pedestrian traffic due to the step curves and rolling hills of the street.

Another resident said that he is worried about the safety of his child. He is especially concerned while driving at night. He recommended that the City perform a safety audit starting with Thanksgiving Mountain.

The Mayor asked Police Chief Wardlow for his opinion, and he recommended that the City add a lane and reduce the speed on Bay West Blvd. After a lengthy discussion, City Manager Koska wrapped up the item by commenting that if we do not do anything, it is as much a liability as moving forward with the project. Koska is going to consult with the TML Risk Pool legal department for recommendations on the liability of the project.

## The approved Permit Extensions are:

E. Request for a 3rd Building Permit Extension for the Property Located at 1413 Apache Tears, Westway Custom Builders, Applicant. The Council voted and the motion was approved for a 120-day extension.

F. and G. items were removed from the agenda because the Certificates of Occupancy (Cos) were issued, and no extension was required.

H. Request for a 4th Building Permit Extension for the Property Located at 400 Mayapple Road, Legend Communities, Applicant. The Council voted, and the motion was approved for a 60-day extension.

## Consent Agenda

The Council voted, and all Consent Agenda items were approved.

A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2024

B. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2024

C. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - January 16, 2024

D. Acknowledgment of the Annual Racial Profiling Statistics Report for 2023

E. Approval of Resolution 2024-12: Amending Depository Accounts Delegated Authority and Authorized Representatives for TexPool and Texas Class



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F. Approval of Resolution 2024-13: Amending Authorized Regions Bank Representatives for TexPool

## Monthly Reports

Utilities Director Rick Williams said that the recent rains have replenished a little of the water basin, but not enough to make a positive impact as Lake Travis is currently at 42 percent. LCRA is meeting tomorrow and is expected to mandate that the city adopt stage 3 water conservation requirements. The City has requested the LCRA table the issue and consider the great amount of conservation the City has implemented before they issue a stage 3 mandate.

Public Works Director Tim Foran said the roads in the change order had been paved, and the contracts for (FY24) bids went out last Friday and should start work in March.

The City's Martin Park is moving forward. He canceled a vendor equipment purchase due to supply shortages and switched to a new contractor. He expects completion by the middle of the summer.

Assistant Police Chief Jason Graham said about 10 vehicles were burglarized about two weeks ago. The common theme was that the vehicles were unlocked. He urges citizens to lock their vehicles and homes.

City Manager Koska commented that applications are still being accepted for the Land Use Committee. So far, they have received about 5-6 applications and will continue to receive those until the March 5 deadline. They will then review the applications and make their appointments.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

To find out more about the Council meeting and view the Council Meeting packet, go to the City's website at <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter>. We hope you will join us for the meeting and have a safe and relaxing weekend.