

May 20, 2025 Council Comments

By Cindee Sharp, Communications Director

The City of Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was held on May 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Elsie Thurman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Pastor Gene Glaeser gave the invocation.

Public Comment

Jay Platt, who represents the local Hill Country Trekkers group, expressed concerns about the proposed Richter's Ranch development. The Trekkers believe the development would severely damage the ecosystem, beauty and tranquility of the Horseshoe Creek Hiking Trail as it is currently proposed. The Council was not able to respond to the comments as discussion of the development was not on the agenda.

Presentations

Finance Director Molly Jester presented the fiscal year 2025 second quarter financial report. Jester reported that current general fund revenues of \$10.8 million exceed expenditures by about \$4.6 million, and current utility fund revenues of \$8 million exceed expenditures by about \$1.3 million.

Public Hearing Items

The Council approved a request to rezone approximately 4.72 acres in Escondido from the R-1 single family residential classification to the C-2 general commercial classification, which would allow the community to build a neighborhood park.

As a result of the zoning change, the Council also approved conditional use of the aforementioned acreage in Escondido as a neighborhood park. The proposed park will consist of four pickleball courts, two tennis courts, a one-half basketball court, playscape, restrooms and parking and would be located on the south side of Encantada.

The Council approved a request to amend a zoning ordinance to remove the prohibition for swimming pools in the side yard of eight lots within Summit Rock Phase 4 (Spice Lilly).

Business

The Council authorized the issuance and sale of City combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation. The purpose of the bond sale is to fund \$9.9 million for water and wastewater infrastructure projects and street improvements.

The Council approved a request for budget and reclassification amendments to the Utility Fund, Escondido, Debt Service, Court Technology, Court Security, Capital Fund, and General Fund for the adopted budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. The amendments will adjust for items such as increased costs to projects, including engineering and legal fees, as well as increased interest income.

The Council authorized City Manager Jeff Koska to work with the HSB Property Owners Association to provide both in-kind services and funds, not to exceed \$16,000, to assist with improvements to the Tiger Creek/Fox Hollow Park project. The improvements include water and sewer connections, providing a park-style BBQ grill, and working with Burnet County to provide in-kind and equipment services for park and trail improvements.

The Council adopted a resolution approving the City's 2025 Transportation Plan as amended by the Transportation Committee, which was modified to include the Shared Use Path Plan. The plan is available on the City's website, www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/transportation.

The Council approved a five-year extension of the existing utility agreement with the "The Parks" development, including impact fee credits, from the current expiration date of October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2030. The extension will provide the developer with additional time to complete the development and allow the City to maintain regulatory oversight of the project.

The Council approved an amendment for additional engineering services in the amount of \$61,422 for several out-of-scope items identified and performed during the basis of design phase that would be required to increase the West Water Plant capacity.

City Council Member Liaison Reports

Council member Frank Hosea reported on the percentage of work completed to connect City facilities to Rio fiber internet. An article updating residents about the availability of fiber internet will appear in the Beacon this summer and will also provide information on additional internet carriers in the area.

Monthly Staff Reports

Utilities Director Ray Garcia shared that the high zone transmission main project has begun and is on schedule, and that two new clear well tanks have been added at the Central Water Plant. Garcia said an unplanned power outage occurred in HSB West on May 18 due to equipment failure. The Utilities Department was not notified, prompting the department to confer with PEC External Relations to update City employee contact information when unscheduled outages occur. Additionally, the department produced a video to help residents protect their grinder pumps, available at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/pumps.

Public Works Director Tim Foran reported on contracts approved by the Council to Alpha Paving Industries for the FY 2025 Seal Coating Project and to Aaron Concrete to upgrade 1.3 miles of existing city streets. The list of streets may be found at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/streets.

The Council adjourned to executive session at 4:57 p.m. The executive session ended at 5:09 p.m., with no action taken. The next council meeting is scheduled for June 17 at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. To learn more about council meetings, visit

www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter. Please follow the City on Facebook (www.facebook.com/horseshoebaygov) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/horseshoebaygov).