

## **September 16, 2025 Council Comments**

By Cindee Sharp, Communications Director

The City of Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was held on September 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mayor Elsie Thurman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Pastor Gene Glaeser of Lake Church gave the invocation.

### **Proclamations**

Mayor Thurman declared the week of October 5-11 “Fire Prevention Week” in recognition of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, during which firefighters across the nation emphasize the need for fire prevention efforts. The City of Horseshoe Bay’s fire prevention efforts are led by Assistant Fire Chief Stephanie Black, who diligently works with Development Services to ensure fire codes are followed and the message of fire safety is carried throughout our community. This year’s theme is “Charge into Fire Safety” to remind us of the importance of using, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely to reduce the risk of fires in homes and communities.

### **Announcements and Staff Recognition**

City Manager Jeff Koska introduced new team member Michelle Krasniqi, who joins the City as a Utility Billing Clerk. Police Chief Jason Graham presented a 5-Year Service Award to Jay Bauman, Police Dispatcher.



Photo caption: City Manager Jeff Koska with Police Dispatcher Jay Bauman, who was presented with a five-year service award from Police Chief Jason Graham.

## **Public Comments**

Dr. Robert Honnors, representing the Hill Country Trekkers, expressed the group's opposition to the proposed Richter Ranch development due to its high density and potential impact on the beauty and serenity of the environment and Horseshoe Creek Hiking Trail. The Council did not respond as the item was not on the agenda.

## **Public Hearing Items**

A public hearing on the tax rate was held as required by Texas Tax Code Chapter 26.06. The initial tax rate was proposed in July, and notification of the hearing was given on the website and in the Beacon so that citizens could express their opinions prior to adoption. In July, the tax worksheets were not completed by the county and final valuations had not been received, and the City approved a proposed tax rate of \$0.26775/\$100 as a maximum rate the Council would approve. The staff recommended the same rate as last year's tax rate. No vote was required at the end of the hearing.

The Council adopted the budget beginning 10-1-2025 and ending 9-30-2026 as presented by staff to include unassigned reserves for vehicle replacement/boat, combined facility yard, transportation, DRC permit deposits, and drainage.

The Council unanimously adopted a property tax rate of \$0.26775/\$100, comprised of an M&O rate of \$0.19433/\$100 and an I&S rate of \$0.07342/\$100. This is effectively a 2.86 percent increase in the adopted tax rate from the No New Revenue rate, though it is the same rate used during the previous year. The Council also unanimously voted to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the adopted annual budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

The Council tabled consideration of a proposed ordinance to regulate single-family residential density by establishing minimum lot size and frontage requirements for each existing residential zoning classification and voted to continue consideration at the December 9 council meeting after more input from the City Council and staff.

The Council tabled consideration of a proposed ordinance to address the lack of robust tree preservation or replacement requirements until the December 9 council meeting. The proposed approach would consolidate all landscaping and tree preservation requirements into the zoning ordinance for simplicity and user-friendliness but required more input from the City Council and staff. Mayor Thurman reminded the public that there is a tree ordinance in force stating that trees cannot be cut or cleared on a vacant lot unless a building permit has been issued, and violation of the ordinance is a criminal offense under the current law.

The Council approved the proposed preliminary plat for Horseshoe Bay West Plat No. W 39.2 for Lake Church at Horseshoe Bay, which includes a 29,490 square foot church building with a sanctuary, fellowship hall/lobby, classrooms, nurseries, offices, kitchen, and 186 parking spaces on 6.957 acres. Lot 1 includes water quality improvements plus future additional parking for 83 vehicles.

The Council voted to rezone approximately 0.439 acres of land located at Short Circuit and Free Rein in the R-4 (Multiple Residential) zone where the Bay Court Condos were demolished in 2022 to a C-2 (General Commercial) classification. The proposed improvements include a 60-space parking lot, water quality pond, entry boardwalk/floating deck, new padel courts, and a clubhouse.

### **Business**

The Council approved amendments to the Appendix A Fee Schedule of the Code of Ordinances. Convenience fees for using a credit card online to pay lot mowing, utility bill, or donations and sponsorships were updated. Water service rates reflect a 9% increase to help fund capital projects for the adopted 5-year CIP plan. Water bills will increase an average of \$3.36 per month for a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter and \$3.83 per month for a 1" meter. Garbage rates will increase 3% due to contractual obligations with Waste Management and CIP expansion cost for the Recycling Center. Residential garbage bills will increase an average of \$0.87 per month. Water tap and sewer tap grinder package rates will increase 15% to cover costs associated with new tap installations and materials. Various Development Services permit fees have increased. Wastewater rates will not increase.

The Council accepted an agreement to accept the final payment of \$3,147,066.74 from the Summit Rock Public Improvement District (PID) for City-provided utilities infrastructure, including water distribution and treatment and wastewater transmission and treatment systems in the Summit Rock development. Additional administrative Summit Rock PID service plan agreements were also approved, with a follow-up agreement to be presented at the October 14 council meeting to remove the City's Finance Department from being the PID administrator.

### **Council Member Liaison Reports**

Jeff Jones discussed the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration scheduled for October 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the new City Center located at 9101 W. FM 2147. More than 40 local businesses will be there to sell Texas-made goods and services ([www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/vendors](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/vendors)). Information will be made available in the Beacon.

### **Monthly Staff Reports**

Assistant Utilities Director Cody Martin provided an update on a water leak that occurred in Horseshoe Bay South on September 15. City crew members worked into the evening to repair the leak and restore water service to residents, dealing with complex issues with rock, drainage structures, and underground electrical lines.

Public Works Director Tim Foran provided an update on the final phase of sealcoating on Bay West Boulevard, which will begin on October 1 and continue through October 8. As Bay West is a main thoroughfare in Horseshoe Bay West, work will be done in sections overnight between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. A map and project schedule can be found at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/streets](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/streets) and more information will be provided through the CivicReady alert system. Affected residents will receive printed copies from City staff.

City Manager Jeff Koska shared information about the upcoming Town Hall Meeting open to all residents scheduled for Thursday, September 25 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Quail Point Lodge. More information is available at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/townhall](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/townhall).

Police Chief Jason Graham shared that deer-trapping is scheduled to begin on October 1 and will continue through the end of March 2026.

The Council adjourned to executive session at 4:21 p.m. The executive session meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m. and no action was taken.

The next council meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. To learn more, visit [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter). Please follow the City on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/horseshoebaygov](http://www.facebook.com/horseshoebaygov)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/horseshoebaygov](http://www.instagram.com/horseshoebaygov)).