

## **Horseshoe Bay Residents Invited to City Center Open House on Feb. 17**

In October 2023, the City of Horseshoe Bay broke ground on a municipal complex to house the new Horseshoe Bay City Hall, known as City Center. Construction on the facility began in November 2024, and we are excited to announce that the project is now completed!

Residents are invited to join the City Council and staff for a celebratory Open House and ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, February 17 from 1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. at 9101 W. FM 2147. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the many years of planning and dedication that have gone into making City Center a space that not only serves residents and houses staff but also creates a welcoming environment that honors our community's history!

### **The History of City Center**

Many residents may not know that the existing City Hall on 1 Community Drive has served the community for forty years. As Horseshoe Bay's population has grown, so has the need for city services—and staff to provide those services—to meet residents' needs. The building soon ran out of room to house the growing City staff, with some employees working out of portable buildings and converted closets.

This hub of governance and business operations has had four remodels to date and will undergo more renovations soon to meet the needs of staff members who still work there. Residents will find Development Services (permitting), Code Enforcement, Utilities Administration, Public Works, and GIS operations at 1 Community Drive. Likewise, the Central Fire Station and Police Station will remain in their current buildings in the complex.

The City Manager's office, Utility Billing, Finance, Legislative Services, Human Resources, Municipal Court, Information Technology, and Communications are now housed at City Center. City Council meetings and Municipal Court hearings will also be held at City Center, with the first council meeting occurring after the Open House on February 17 at 3 p.m.

In 2020, the City Council began the process of reviewing options for expansion, with adequate space for employees and public meetings being top priorities. A generous donation of land along FM 2147 near the entrance to Summit Rock Blvd. by the Horseshoe Bay Resort helped set the expansion plan in motion.

The four-acre property sits in the middle of the City geographically, with HSB Proper to the east, HSB West to the west, Escondido to the North and Summit Rock to the South. An additional six-acre property located on the east side of the complex has been leased by the City from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for 20 years at the cost of \$1. The land will provide space for additional parking, Town Center Park with the Elsie Thurman Walking Trail, Berkley's Rainbow pet memorial bridge, native/drought resistant demonstration gardens, and the first phase of the City's planned east-to-west multi-use path.

Native plant landscapes at City Center provide practical examples that can be replicated at residents' homes and integrated into new developments. These landscapes and park gardens showcase water-wise landscaping techniques, plant selection, and efficient irrigation systems that can be implemented to reduce water consumption while maintaining attractive outdoor spaces, which helps our City preserve its precious water resources during increasingly frequent drought conditions.

"We are very proud of the community for supporting our city and staff," says Mayor Jeff Jones. "We've outgrown our current building, and the new City Center provides space for city employees to work and residents to come together."

The City Center will serve the whole community, providing residents with access to information, heritage displays, events, and much more.

"The building design is all about customer service and accommodating the future growth needs of our City. It will serve as the core City business complex with administrative offices, public hearings, council meetings, municipal court proceedings, and Citizens Academy classes," said City Manager Jeff Koska.

The City expects that resident participation will grow, as citizens are welcomed to a larger Council Chambers that can host public workshops on safety, growth management, and conservation, in addition to regular monthly council meetings. Community events, like the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held in October 2025, as well as holiday festivities and other shared celebrations will also be held in the unique indoor/outdoor space.

Please join us on February 17 at 1 p.m. and enjoy the first of many community celebrations to come!

