

## January HSB City Council Comments

The Horseshoe Bay City Council met on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 o'clock for a special Work Session Meeting. The purpose of a work session meeting is to allow City Council members to receive reports and discuss particular items of interest at depth without taking action. This workshop was to begin the year by setting an agenda on annual projects and to provide direction to staff.

The following agenda items were presented and discussed with city staff and citizen input.

1. Funding for Street Improvement Project: Options for funding the remainder of the cost of the street project through certificates of obligation/bond sale were presented by City Financial Advisor Jennifer Douglas, who is a Managing Director with Specialized Public Finance, Inc. Ms. Douglas pointed out the pros and cons of the different options. The Council was informed that it is a three month process to get the necessary information gathered and approved prior to any sale. The City of Horseshoe Bay has a Standard & Poor's AA bond rating, which is considered a high rating for a city of our size. Once the bond package is prepared, it would allow immediate action at a future date after City Council action.

City Manager Stan Farmer presented information concerning the cost of the completed streets, expected cost for finishing the remaining 20 miles in the street improvements project, and an overview of the current financial sheet. Other long term capital projects tentatively scheduled for the next two years were also discussed. Council asked that staff prepare a Cash Flow Analysis Sheet for review at a future city council meeting.

2. Possible Redesign of Street Signs: City Manager Stan Farmer reported on the possibility of a future project to replace the current street signage with signs that would not be so costly to maintain and would not deteriorate at the rate of the current wooden signs. After discussion of the financial costs and the need to develop a long-term plan for this project, the Council asked staff to come back at the next meeting with information about the expected numbers of signs. At that time, the Council will consider forming a committee to work with city staff to investigate options.

3. Development of City Parks: Michael Widler, Chairman of the Parks Committee, presented an overview of the current status of the HSB city parks and the plans for future development. It was reported that the search for a location for the Dog Park by the Dog Park Committee continues. Dialogue is set to continue with the POA and Mr. Widler. Francie Dix reported that a grant has been submitted for funds for the planning of the Fox House and they are awaiting a response.

Mr. Widler reported on major steps that are occurring in the development of the HSB Trail Project along Horseshoe Creek. A grant proposal to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Board is being prepared for a February 1st deadline that requests funds for the development of the trail. In order to meet the requirements of the grant application, a project to lay-out the trail, mapping, and

flagging needs to be completed before that deadline. Mr. Widler presented a proposal from the Texas Conservation Corps and American YouthWork, which is headquartered in Austin. The proposal is to provide route consultation, layout, mapping, and flagging of the trail. After discussion, the Council directed staff to enter into an agreement on the first proposal for the layout and mapping as needed for the grant application for the fee of \$5200 to be paid out of funds already budgeted for this project. In addition, the Council named Councilman David Pope to serve as a liaison with the Parks Committee for the HSB Trail Project.

4. Removal of Tree at Hi Stirrup and Out Yonder: At the November Council Meeting, it was determined to add 1.4 miles of additional street improvement into the current project. As a result, a tree that been identified as one of five trees that needed to be removed due to concerns about traffic safety back in 2010 was again back on the agenda for consideration for removal. Chief Lane presented the safety problems created by leaving the tree in the center of the road. Four members of the public, Debbie Lambert, Glenda Butler, Angela Harshaw, and Lyn Jenkins presented passionate statements in support of leaving the tree. Ms. Lambert presented a petition to the Council signed by 81 residents requesting that the tree not be removed. After discussion of possible options, the Council tabled any action of the item at this meeting and requested staff to research the possibility of re-routing the road to the side of the tree. This item will be on the January 21 to further consider removal or an alternative option.

5. Development of City Council Rules of Procedure: During the December meeting of the Council, the possibility of the development of City Council Rules of Procedures was discussed. Information about such procedures in other cities was compiled and presented by Councilperson Michele Shackelford. After discussion the Council agreed to proceed with the development of such a policy for HSB. As a first step, each council person agreed to send comments on what they would like included to Ms. Shackelford. She is charged with incorporating those ideas into a first draft for review at the next City Council Meeting.

6. Process for Code Enforcement: During the December Council Meeting, members were briefed on recent changes in the law regarding the action to be taken by a city concerning enforcement of substandard buildings codes. City Manager Stan Farmer and Development Services Manager, Eric Winter, presented information on the recently revised Substandard Building Ordinance Amendment and the Substandard Building Code Procedures Matrix. Discussion followed about the type of substandard building problems that occur in HSB. Council encouraged staff to be proactive in pursuing such violations and to keep the Council informed of the work in this area.

7. Process for Building Inspection: Mr. Farmer and Mr. Winter presented an overview of the current HSB building inspection process. Questions and discussion about the types of complaints that have been received by Council Members from residents who had a bad experience followed. Information concerning the quick turn-around time for house plan review and inspections as compared to other cities was noted. It was agreed that the Council and city staff will work together to better inform our citizens about how our system works and how to have the best results when planning a project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 by Mayor Jordan.

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