

By Councilperson Michele Shackelford

The Horseshoe Bay City Council met on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 with Mayor Steve Jordan calling the meeting to order. Father Ruben Patino, Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel, gave the invocation which was followed by the pledges to our great country and state. The Council received reports or took action on the following key matters:

**I. Street Sign Project:** Mayor Jordan introduced the consideration of possible new street signs. and thanked the members of the Street Sign Design Committee: Lois Strasburg, Jackie Gill, Jon Harshaw, Ron Mitchell, Sam Tarbet, Tim Foran, and Chair Stan Farmer.

Buddy Schrader spoke in opposition to the new signs based on the high cost, concern that newly proposed signs are not consistent with the HSB Texas casual understated look, and concern that the stone street sign would mar the landscape. G. A. Smith spoke in favor of the new signs based on the poor condition of many of the current signs that he believes creates a poor first impression for persons looking at HSB property.

Mayor Pro Tem, Craig Haydon, reported the following summary of responses from the public about the three proposed signs: 11% in favor of the stone only model; 25% in favor of the stone base and pole model; 50% in favor of the pole only model; and 4% in favor of no new signs.

Police Chief Bill Lane commented on the need for reflective signs at night to better guide first responders and the high number of ongoing requests from visitors seeking help in reaching a HSB location.

City Manager, Stan Farmer reported that the City has spent around \$40,000 for each of the past 5 years on the repair and replacement of the current street signs. About 15% of the total number of approximately 400 street signs are repaired or replaced each year. In addition, there are many other street signs that remain in need of repair. One ongoing problem is the stealing and vandalism of the name boards.

The Council affirmed the choice of the pole only sign and requested more information. It was reported that the life expectancy is 30 years and is built with a break-away bottom. The Council discussed ways of lowering the cost from the anticipated price of \$500 a pole. Council members expressed a need to come up with a better price and a detailed plan before approving any sign project. A motion was made and passed to direct staff to set up a Street Sign Fund with any expenditure to be approved by Council after there is detailed information of the cost, number, and distribution plan.

**II. Setting of General Election for City Council Members:** The City Council passed the Ordinance Ordering the General Election to be held on November 4, 2014 for the purpose of electing three council members. Craig Haydon, David Pope, and Tom Schmersahl currently hold the three offices that are up for election.

The packets with the forms for filing are ready and may be picked up from Teresa Moore, City Secretary. However, no filings may be accepted until July 19. The last date to file is August 18. If only three applications are filed, the election will be cancelled. If more than three applications are filed, the election will be held and the top three vote getters will be elected to the three open offices.

**III. FEMA Flood Plan Study Success:** Mayor Jordan offered special thanks to City Staff members, Stan Farmer and Eric Winter, and to the engineers, Zack Brown, Tony Plumlee, and Don Sherman, for all their work and perseverance in handling the HSB Project that has now resulted in revisions to the 2012 Floodplain Maps for several areas of Horseshoe Bay.

Approximately 70-80% of the new properties that had been included in the 2012 Floodplain Maps have now been removed as a result of the City's efforts. FEMA has issued the Letter of Map Revision and provided the new maps to the City. A ninety day comment period is necessary before the final date of authorization for changes in the flood insurance requirements. Building permits are being issued for projects that had been previously included in the floodplain areas.

**IV. Repair of Hi Circle South:** Stan Farmer, City Manager, informed the Council that he has received communication from Allen Keller Construction and they have agreed to be responsible for the repair and re-paving of approximately 4100 square yards of defective pavement on Hi Circle South. It is expected the re-paving will be accomplished next week.

**V. Rainwater Harvesting Systems:** Jeff Koska, Utilities Director, presented the proposed Ordinance for the Regulation of Use of Rainwater Harvesting Systems, and the Ordinance was approved. It is hoped that many HSB residents will install these systems. City staff is available to provide guidance and answer questions. Communications with local hardware vendors have been held to insure the necessary parts will be available as well.

The Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance sets up the permitting process for rain harvesting systems over 400 gallons and for all that are connected to potable water irrigation system. A permit fee of \$50.00 to cover the inspection and administrative costs is required. Rainwater harvesting systems under 400 gallons that are not connected to potable water irrigation systems require registration only instead of a permit, and there is no fee. The Ordinance sets out requirements including the water's use, service area, backflow prevention, and catchment surfaces. No rainwater harvesting system is allowed in the front of houses.

Mr. Koska also reported that because of the projected El Nino's wetter influence, the LCRA projected date to hit the Drought of Record has been moved from the fall into January.

**V. Other Reports and Council Actions:** In addition, the Council heard reports or took action on the following other matters:

1. Presented 15 Year Service Awards to Bill Lane, Chief of Police, and to Robert Tuttle, Field Operations, with thanks for their valued contributions to the City.
2. Considered a request to allow parking on city streets and property on Dawn Street presented by Peter Jones on behalf on the Golf Ridge Condominium residents. Mr. Jones explained the ongoing parking needs of the area, the history of seeking other parking alternatives, and the request to use a city owned plot of land that now is in the middle of a cul de sac for parking. Marilyn Graham, Dawn Street resident, spoke in opposition to the request citing concerns over the esthetics and possible negative effect on her property value. After discussion, the Council tabled action and directed City Attorney, Rex Baker to do a title search concerning the egress rights of a lot that might be another parking option.
3. Approved a Street Agreement with the Cape Property Owners' Association that makes The Cape a part of the City's inventory of streets. This was needed to correct an oversight when the streets were deeded over to the City from the POA.
4. Approved the draft of an Amendment to City Council Rules of Procedure, Section VIII. Procedures for City Council Appointments.

5. Considered the need for a permitting process for Special Events. Directed that a draft of such an Ordinance be considered and brought back to the next Council meeting.
6. Approved replatting requests for property located at the following: 306 Heron, 200 block of Lighthouse Drive, 1600 block of Sapphire, and 1300 block of Apache Tears.

The regular August City Council meeting is scheduled on August 26 at 3 o'clock in City Council Chamber.