

COUNCIL COMMENTS

APRIL 21, 2015

by

Councilman Jerry Gray

Wow, a Council meeting that only lasted 2 hours. Who would have believed it! Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 3 PM sharp and recognized a group of students from the Faith Academy Senior Government class who were in attendance to observe the Council in action. They are doing this in other cities as well and we were pleased to have them present for our meeting. Following the invocation by Senior Pastor Johnny White of the Church at Horseshoe Bay, we pledged to the United States and Texas flags then got down to business.

We began by recognizing Investigator Jay Bauman for 15 years of service to our City Police Department. Chief Bill Lane acknowledged Jay as one of his first and most important hires, which enabled him to begin the work of bringing our Police Department from a patrolling unit to the truly professional organization it is today. Thank you, Jay, for your service to our City.

Following Jay's recognition, Mayor Jordan made a presentation proclaiming May 2, 2015, as Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The Trails of Horseshoe Bay community has already been recognized as a Firewise Community and Helen Smith of The Trails had requested this proclamation to encourage other Horseshoe Bay communities to take similar action to protect their property. Look for future articles in The Beacon and The Highlander with information on how to become "Firewise". You can see the Proclamation on line at the new and improved City of Horseshoe Bay website (www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov). While you are there, check out the vastly improved website and become a frequent user of this valuable tool. Virtually anything you want to know about this City can be found there.

Several "consent agenda" items were then approved. One of these was the appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Stephanie Black as Interim Fire Chief, temporarily assuming the position of Fire Chief Jim Fiero who resigned effective April 7, 2015. We will begin the search for a new Fire Chief following approval of the process at next month's Council Meeting. Meanwhile, congratulations to Chief Black on her new interim assignment. Another "consent agenda" item was the appointment of Bill Gaylord to the Information and Communication committee. Bill volunteered to be removed from the Long Range Planning Advisory committee and added to the I & C to help provide additional manpower to that committee. Thank you, Bill. FYI, the Information and Communication committee will get underway April 24 followed by the Long Range Planning committee kick off on April 30.

City Manager, Stan Farmer, provided an update on the street paving project noting that the work in Horseshoe Bay West was essentially complete and work is ready to begin on the Ferguson Road section. The next phase will be Clayton Nolan up to the airport and streets intersecting Clayton Nolan then move east toward the churches. This work should be underway in May. This is the final phase of our street upgrade project and most would agree it has gone well and is very beneficial to our property owners and visitors. Stan then followed with an update on progress to date by the City Staff Department Head's goals for 2015. Happily, all of them are doing very well toward achieving their respective goals.

Bill Teeter, our Water Conservation Inspector, presented the proposed revised ordinance covering our "Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan". It is important to note that our water consumption has been reduced by over 200,000,000 gallons (25.5%) from our peak in 2011. This reduction is significantly due to your personal effort as well as the effort of City staff to deal promptly with water leaks. We expect this effort to be needed for some time going forward until our drought condition improves. By the way, over 900 water meters have already been replaced with new smart meters which record our hour by hour water consumption should you need to better understand your usage. Several hundred additional meters are yet to be replaced but regular progress is being made toward this effort. In case you don't know, Bill will gladly come to your home, upon your request, and evaluate your irrigation systems efficiency with an irrigation audit bteeter@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov. Irrigation water accounts for over 60 percent of our overall consumption.

Treatment of the milfoil along our City shoreline is expected to get underway late this month or early May. We have been informed by Texas Parks and Wildlife, our application coordinator, that the chemical being used for this treatment will not create any problems for landscaping on waterfront property. The water will be safe for lawns, and enjoyment of the lake itself.

We moved into Executive Session to discuss reuse of effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant. No decisions were reached during this session. The regular Council meeting was reconvened at 5 PM and was immediately adjourned. That's all, folks!