

COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR JUNE

By Councilman Jerry Gray

Our June 16, 2015 meeting began at 3 PM sharp with the usual process of a much appreciated prayer by Pastor Malcolm McQueen and pledges to the USA and Texas flags. Commissioner Peter Jones addressed the Council regarding the Transportation and Economic Development Plan being undertaken by the Llano County Commissioners Court. Peter requested the survey be returned by July 31. It is the Commissioner's Court intention to complete their plan of action by year-end. You may access the survey on-line by going to www.llanocountyplan.org. Under item 6, Other, your Council recommends including a plea for providing a center turn lane for all of 2147 within Horseshoe Bay. Commissioner Jones also used this platform to announce his candidacy for re-election.

After presenting a 5-year service plaque to Fire Fighter Ben Miller a few routine consent items were approved including purchase of a 2-minute video that provides a flyover view (shot using a drone) of Horseshoe Bay to be included in our web site opening page.

City Manager Stan Farmer also presented an update on the milfoil application, which has not performed to our complete satisfaction. Texas Parks and Wildlife is in control of this effort and has committed to pursuing a satisfactory result so those of you living on the waterfront will likely continue to see the applicators following up on this effort.

The Texan Mart sub-standard condition issue has been moved to Municipal Court with a hearing scheduled for July 8. The objective is to get this facility up to acceptable standards for purposes of safety and code compliance. Speaking of compliance, everyone needs to be aware of the need to seek approval of your respective Architectural Control Committee and a permit from the City for any and all types of property improvements including fences and the like. Failure to do so could result in a costly re-do.

Four property owners requested removal of five medians that exist in the next phase of the road project. Following considerable discussion, pro and con, the issue was tabled until next month to allow our Police Department to conduct a second review of these islands, which were not initially deemed to be a safety concern. We then approved a modification to the paving plan to include paving of Mule Shoe and an additional section of Tail Wind.

Due to the recent heavy rainfall and significant filling of the Highland Lakes, the motion was made and approved to return, temporarily, to Stage 2 drought restrictions effective immediately and until September 30, 2015 at which time the decision will be reviewed for possible extension or reversion back to Stage 3. A forthcoming newspaper article and notice with your utility bills will share the exact dates watering will be allowed for residents and businesses. Now you can water your landscape twice weekly if desired but remember – we are not “out of the woods” with the drought and water is still precious and expensive so use good judgment with this option.

You should also know that the Council approved updating our City Construction and Fire Codes to be in line with more current requirements in all aspects effective January 1, 2016. It was determined that updating these codes would have minimal effect on cost of building while providing improved safety and operating cost efficiency. Along those lines, we also approved an ordinance change to require portable toilets to be enclosed with material matching the facility's exterior appearance if the toilet is to be on site for 30 days or longer. Our final action was to approve obtaining a court order for demolition / removal of an abandoned manufactured home for safety and security reasons. The meeting was happily adjourned at 4:40 PM. Another in a series of pretty short Council meetings that also make for short articles for you to read which we all appreciate. Back to you next month for the latest actions by your City Council.