

## COUNCIL COMMENTS – JULY

By

Councilman Jerry Gray

With a full house in attendance, this month's meeting kicked off with Senior Pastor Johnny White from the Church at Horseshoe Bay delivering the invocation followed by pledges to the USA and Texas flags. Several people then spoke to the Council on various subjects – Clay Cauble promoting the HSB Business Alliance's Boogie by the Bay; Larson Lloyd of Northland Cable announcing a four-fold increase in their fiber cable capacity and commitment to improving their attention to pedestal problems, exposed cable, etc.; Diane Jones, a 20 plus year resident, complimenting the City, the Resort and the POA's for what we all have to enjoy and be proud of within HSB; Reagan Lambert announcing his candidacy for City Council in the November election and Peter Jones, County Commissioner, announcing the formation of a new Board and funding to upgrade and continue the existence of the Christ Yoder/Hill Country Humane Society facility benefitting Llano and Burnet County which is really good news for us all.

We then recognized Fire Captain Josh Wimberley for 10 years of service to our City – thank you Josh. Coincidentally, our next action was the approval of Mr. Joe Morris as our new Fire Chief effective August 10, 2015. You will be hearing and reading much more about Joe in the near future but we are all excited about his acceptance of this role and the leadership experience he brings. Welcome Chief Joe!

Following approval of the ordinance setting November 3, 2015 as the date for our election of a Mayor and two new City Council members, City Secretary Teresa Moore announced packets are currently available for prospective candidates. Candidate packets will be accepted starting July 27 but must be submitted to her no later than August 24 to be on the ballot.

Our two active committees, Information and Communication and Long Range Planning, gave a report on their status. Phil Schoch of the I & C committee presented a proposal for designing and printing a promotional brochure which was unanimously approved and Jim Long reported significant progress of the LRP committee. Both committee's are staffed by very talented members of our community and their efforts are sincerely appreciated. By the way, look for a new video on the City web site around the first of September, which was shot using a drone flyover of several prominent City sites. Very cool.

Part of the reason for the large turnout at this meeting was action being considered regarding requests by residents for removal of 5 island / medians in the Highlands area as part of the current paving project. With safety as the primary driver, all five requests were granted after considerable testimony was provided. Speaking of the road project, Larry Anderson, our City Finance Director, presented an update on the financial aspects of the project. Long story short, it has been a financial success with less than 50 percent of the funding being obtained via financing and completion coming in ahead of schedule by February, 2016. Approval was then granted to begin seal coating the Broken Arrow and intersecting side streets shortly.

City Manager, Stan Farmer, announced the recertification of Horseshoe Bay as a “Scenic City” and updated us on the continuing efforts of Texas Parks and Wildlife to rid our shoreline of Milfoil. The effort has been significantly successful but TP&W has committed to complete the fight with follow up treatment as deemed necessary this summer. Stan also reported on our continued effort to enhance internet speed availability within HSB – stay tuned.

Here’s some really good news. The new Regional Notification System (RNS) is up and running in our area! Watch the newspapers and/or check the City’s web site for information on signing up for this excellent warning system to notify you of urgent issues including dangerous weather and other critical issues that require immediate action on your part. (boil water notices, for example).

A few other routine items were covered but one you should take note of is a new ordinance revision which requires dumpsters at homes with non-permitted construction activity (interior finish out, for example) to be removed within 2 weeks or a maximum of 4 weeks if a \$100 deposit is paid and approved by the Development Services Manager.

Well, short meetings were fun while they lasted but sometimes handling the City’s business just takes longer than we might like. To be continued next month!