

Hello neighbors –

YOUR City Council met on Tuesday, November 17th (3 pm) to conduct business with its new Council in place. Teresa Moore swore in Councilwoman Cynthia Clinesmith and ‘returning’ Mayor, Steve Jordan. Realignment of Council roles resulted in Craig Haydon returning as Mayor Pro Tem and Clinesmith assuming the role of Chief Information Officer (a THANKS to Jerry Gray for his great work in this role the past year). All were pleased to begin with recognition of Joe Lorette for his 5 years of service in the police department. While the full agenda (and packet) are available for review on the City of HSBay website (as well as a hard copy available at City Hall for review), a few key discussions stood out.

The Llano County Transportation & Economic Development Plan was presented by the Director of Regional Planning, Ken May with CAPCOG. The projections for growth and recommended focus areas such as tourism/small business support/workforce development/housing provided data that may become a part of the larger long-range planning efforts by the City of Horseshoe Bay. An additional presentation was made by TxDOT representative, Bonnie Lister, highlighting anticipated traffic patterns and congestion/safety needs. While an extensive process was outlined for honing down to 10 key areas of focus, the priorities of Horseshoe Bay were not noted to be among the top 3 that could be considered for funding. Mayor Jordan expressed frustration, citing the danger in the turn lane off Hwy 71 into 2147, as well as the need for turn lanes along 2147 in front of the post office through the south end, as well as challenges on 2831. TxDOT assured the mayor, as did Commissioner Peter Jones that the City expectations would be heard at the upcoming priority meetings before final determinations are made.

A discussion regarding the appointment of a Deer Management Study Group was held, with assurances by the Mayor/Council that the review of humane, fiscally sound, and verified processes will be considered following the study prior to next year’s contracting of services. Queries by several community members drove this effort as a part of the open communication commitment by the City staff.

Committees serving special needs across the City were discussed, and those interested in serving may check out the **“HOW DO I....”** link on the City website for information on current needs on committees such as planning & zoning, parks, Fuchs House. SIGN UP! In ad hoc areas, such as the deer trapping Study Group, individuals with expressed interest or special expertise will be solicited for participation.

An update on road improvement clarified support to provide road improvement service to homes once they meet the current formula as quickly as possible with the fiscal efficiency of 1 mile of approved work generating action. Similar to other road areas that do not support home plats (and, therefore, are unable to meet the formula to generate road improvement), it was approved that the road/drive to the Mausoleum warrants inclusion in the road improvement area once all POA easements have transferred. Additionally, waiting until heavy equipment has finished work at the mausoleum was recommended. POA Director, Nancy Ritter, spoke to the POA support of this plan. Overall, it was reported that despite rain delays there was an 80% completion in current road work.

Optimism was high as contracts were approved for Zeecon to place additional ‘line of sight’ equipment on the City of HSBay water towers. This should significantly expand access and speed, especially for those in HSBay West where hills deter access.

A public hearing was held, along with a full review of the concept plan, for the Siena Grove development on the east side of 2147 (the Stone House). The approval by the Council launched the first step in a longer process for a development that will support independent, assisted living, and memory care housing with multiple amenities. Specific restrictions, such as no service stations, were included. Additionally, Councilman Jerry Gray underscored this development will be the first visible structure of size when entering Horseshoe Bay and asked for careful planning with this in mind.

The City approved a directive for the staff to move forward on annexation actions for varied parts of the ETJ. This emerged when the City was approached by representatives of some of the areas to discuss benefits of voluntary annexation into City participation. The Hills I, II, and III, as well as other undeveloped areas will begin to be notified of the process and options in the coming month.

Also on the website is the annual STATE of the CITY presented earlier by Mayor Jordan. Those interested may also go to NOTIFY ME on the website to receive varied information alerts from the City. Stay aware of your City in action – perhaps joining the great cross section of community members who visited the Council session this week, providing positive comments and perspectives. It is a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay! Get/stay involved.....

Cynthia Clinesmith
Chief Information Officer