

COUNCIL COMMENTS – OCTOBER 20, 2015
By Councilman Jerry Gray

I want to start this report at the end and then go back to the beginning.

This was the final meeting for two of your City Council members, Michele Shackelford and Phillip Lee. Both were given plaques in honor of their service to you and me. Six years by Phillip and two years by Michele. Both have served us well. Phillip has been the driving force of the road system upgrade starting with his time spent on the Horseshoe Bay POA Board several years ago. In addition to numerous comments and compliments paid to Phillip, Mayor Pro-Tem Craig Haydon and former Council member Claudia Haydon presented him with a new hard hat recognizing him as the Horseshoe Bay “Road Czar”. Obviously, a well deserved recognition. Michele was recognized for her extremely valuable service on the Council with particular emphasis on her special talent of helping document Council procedures and guidelines for our special committee’s – Long Range Planning and Information and Communication. Her efforts provided an important process map for these committees to follow. Michele complimented several members of the Council, the City Staff and those folks who attend the Council meetings regularly for their value adding service to the community. Both Phillip and Michele will be missed as we go forward.

Now, back to the beginning. Following the invocation, delivered by Garry Kessler, Music Minister, The Church at Horseshoe Bay, and pledges to the USA and Texas flags your Council got down to business. Recognition was given to Jason Graham for 15 years of service within our Police Department – thank you Jason – and to Dan McGraw, a new addition to the Utility Department as Field Operations Supervisor. Chief Wardlow then announced Garth Davis as our new Assistant Police Chief. Garth is a retired Texas Ranger and has been with our Police force for the last two years. Congratulations, Garth! One final and important recognition was in honor of the late Jerome Davis for his many years of service to our community in multiple capacities. A beautiful tree donated by Sam Martin has been planted adjacent to City Hall in Martin Park as a memorial to Jerome.

After dealing with a few consent agenda items and monthly departmental reports, we were given an update on the street-paving project that is ahead of schedule and under budget for the current phase. A proposal was presented for the Council to consider paving the Mausoleum access road but following considerable discussion, was tabled for consideration at our next meeting. The Council then discussed and approved updating our City Construction Code to include the 2015 Energy Conservation Code effective January 1, 2016. Jayne Mortensen, Executive Director of the Hill Country Builders Association was extremely helpful in the analysis of this proposed change endorsed by the Builders Association.

Then it was time to discuss the wonderful subject of Portable Toilet enclosures and amending the previously approved ordinance to allow for a less expensive, reusable enclosure. This revision was approved with a few stipulations to be included in the revised ordinance. Last but not least, we approved a request for a variance.

Finally, one other important note--this will be my final report as one of our newly elected rookie Council members will assume this role in November. It’s been fun doing these reports but I must admit a lack of disappointment in giving up the position. Thanks for taking the time to read the reports!