

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council was delighted to leave the summer heat that has finally emerged to conduct the work of the City. Chief Joe Morris and Assistant Chief Stephanie Black took first honors to recognize Fire Captain Brad Casey on his completion of the Executive Fire Officer Program. This National Program, which accepts only 200 per year, is the flagship leadership program for fire officers, requiring a 4 years of graduate level study. Horseshoe Bay is fortunate to have such dedicated, highly qualified leaders.

A report from the Deer Management Study Group was presented, with commentary by Rick Prekup who served alongside other locals, as well as members of the city staff, LCRA, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and both the current trapper and processor for Horseshoe Bay deer. The result of the months long study indicated there was no viable alternative that was more humane and purposeful for HSBay. There was a recommendation to continue to educate the community about the reality of the current process – and to also stay abreast of any new options that emerge. Citizens are encouraged to visit the City website for information about the process. The report also underscored that while most of the meat from the culling of the herds goes to Austin and San Antonio, a good portion remains in the local counties. Mayor Jordan took a moment to thank the committee, and Mr. Prekup in particular, for the personal time they have devoted on behalf of their neighbors, the environment, and the humane treatment of the deer.

Other positive reports indicated that the long awaited hiking trail will finally be able to move forward. Delays centered around required environmental safety precautions for the Golden Cheek Warbler and awaiting final release for work by the grantee. Hikers take hope....October 1st looks to be a key date.

Short term rental property was opened as a discussion item – acknowledging the pros and cons of any ordinance limiting individual property use. Many of our Horseshoe Bay citizens are part-timers who may take advantage of renting their homes out in their absence. This brings visitors to our City which can have a positive business impact, while helping out the homeowner. Just as many of us use the rental pools in places we travel, the Council was sensitive to the fact that others will want that option here. However, a few homeowners have not been as diligent in their rental management which results in behavior challenges for the neighbors – especially with excessive parking, noise, or party hours. The Mayor plans to discuss this with the POA/HOA presidents to see if this is not better addressed within their covenants given the unique nature of each area. The Long Range Planning committee, whose final report will be out in the coming month, has indicated that one of their recommendations will be to study this area more thoroughly so that all benefit from the HSBay lifestyle – whether resident or visitor.

City Staff reported on several areas, highlighting questions around water quality. Careful monitoring has been maintained to assure that all water meets the highest standards for drinkability. The odor challenges are the result of the high levels in the lake from recent in-flows from rain events and the subsequent release by LCRA of large amounts of water through Wirtz Dam stirring up water layers that contain these odors. Mainly.....good to know we have good, drinkable water and high lake levels to enjoy.

Jeff Koska, Community Services Director, complimented the citizens on their water conservation efforts over the past year. He echoed the hope that while water is at higher levels, continued good habits of

water usage will help ensure we stay solid in our water availability and quality. To that end, the Council voted to maintain the Level 2 Drought Contingency Plan. This allows all to continue to water twice weekly on designated days of the week, prohibiting watering from 10 am to 7 pm during heat of the day hours.

The Council again visited the priority need for high speed internet. Horseshoe Bay is unique in its level of interest/need for home-based internet speed AND the challenges of poor line of sight access along with granite foundations making running actual lines cost prohibitive. The City staff has met with all available providers and continues to seek solutions. Please know this remains in the forefront as the City Manager briefed Council on his continued actions working with potential providers and researching public-private partnership possibilities.

The Planning and Zoning Committee continues to look for ways to ensure the community is informed of any developments that might impact citizens directly. In addition to the multiple notification processes already in place (are you signed up for NOTIFY ME?), the Council approved an extra required notification in the newspaper for at least 30 days out from any public hearing, in addition to another notification in paper 16-29 days prior to a public hearing. Also, Council approved the recommendation by the P&Z to expand direct mail out notifications from the typical 200 ft. proximity to 500 ft. proximity. This will assure that more neighbors will be well informed of any upcoming developments/zoning changes around them.

A reminder that the City Council will begin budget planning for the 2016-17 year. The first budget workshop will be Tuesday, June 28th at 9 am at City Hall.

As always, we are blessed to live in the City of Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, City Councilmember
Public Information Officer