

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met for a short meeting before all heading out to Thanksgiving plans. Immediate thanks were expressed by welcoming the newest member of the city council, Kent Graham. Along with incumbents Jerry Gray and Craig Haydon, Kent brings a wealth of experience and a life of commitment to service. Of special importance is his background in accounting which will be a support to city functions in a way similar to prior Council Member David Pope.

The city also welcomed three new employees reflecting the growing depth of service needs of HSBay. Kerri Craig accepted the position of City Secretary formally though she has been hard at work for weeks. Kerri brings years of experience, including recent duties as City Secretary for Dripping Springs, as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration and certification as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk. New positions were richly filled by Coleen Sullivan as the new GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Administrator. Coleen is returning to the hill country (Llano High School alum) with formal studies and work experiences - and has already purchased a home with her husband and son to immediately be a part of the HSB community. She will add depth to the work in the Planning and Zoning Department as well as the Utility Department. Also, an Assistant Planner role in the very active P&Z department has brought Nathalie Kip to Horseshoe Bay. A recent graduate of the graduate program at the University of Texas at Austin, Nathalie will help assist in speedy and accurate service responses to development needs and with research and development of long-term goals.

The council attended to assigning roles of each member and those of members of the varied advisory committees in the city. They approved the application process for those interested in serving on committees such as the Parks Advisory Committee, Fox House Advisory Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the new Broadband Advisory Committee. Those interested can go to the city website and find a one page application. Choose HOW DO I... from the top bar, then "Apply for Boards and Commissions..." from the options on the top left. The Mayor noted that a significant part of the first workshop of the year will be to review the Long Range Plan implementation schedule and ensure it is at the forefront of decisions to honor the voice of the community. Number one priority in this plan is the need for improved internet service – so the Broadband Advisory Committee will be an essential part of kicking off the year with important actions. With more and more citizens working from home, it is critical that Horseshoe Bay have access options for homeowners. Interested/experienced internet knowledgeable citizens are encouraged to apply.

More thanks were given as the December 13th Ribbon Cutting for the new Horseshoe Creek Hiking Trail was announced. Through the generosity of Wayne and Eileen Hurd (and the POA and Resort), this trail will provide a beautiful close up experience of nearly 3 miles of hill country hiking – starting at the Mausoleum moving downhill nearly to Hwy 2147. The change to the current trail head at Sure Fire cul-de-sac was proposed and passed as a resolution to rename this street Wayne's Trail in honor of the family donation and their passion for safeguarding the natural state of the hill country. The trail is open and will be a great family hike over the holidays!

The next City Council meeting will be December 13th where community members are welcome to join in the process of managing and supporting our city. In the interim, as we head out to count our blessings this Thanksgiving – we are ever reminded that it is always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Chief Information Officer