

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met today to conduct the business of YOUR city. Elected officials gathered alongside a full house of citizens, bringing forth several proclamations and agenda discussions.

Neffendorf & Knopp, P.C. provided a presentation on the audit and **financial report** for the year ending September 2016. All findings were good and indicated the city is on track with all investments, capital projects, and daily business practices - continuing with its excellent AA+ rating. With the retirement of Financial Director, Larry Anderson, a new director will join the city with a fresh slate as we begin entering the new budget planning processes in coming months.

County Commissioner Peter Jones, Justice of the Peace Bebe Piatt, District Attorney Sonny McAffe, Llano County Game Warden, Juvenile Department Chief, and a representative from the Department of Family and Protective Services all stood in support of the Proclamation declaring **April 2017 as National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month**. Statistics highlighting the over one hundred cases investigated last year were underscored, asking all citizens to take a serious shared responsibility in reporting any suspected abuse. Blue ribbons were distributed so that a visible reminder can be seen – with an encouragement to others to wear blue ribbons throughout the month of April.

A second Proclamation was brought forward by Mike Maine **declaring April 22nd as “Earth Day”**. Mike shared the POA will once again offer a full day of enjoyment with educational workshops, booths, demonstrations, and opportunities to get involved in preserving the natural beauty placed in our care. This event is for ALL neighbors and ALL POAs in the City of Horseshoe Bay – **come join the fun!**

City Manager, Stan Farmer, shared the many efforts of the city in partnership with preservation. Specifically, he spoke of work on the Long Range Plan regarding Oak Wilt prevention and Monarch Butterfly support. Articles by city staff, Nathalie Kip, give detailed information on appropriate responses to early identification of Oak Wilt. Additionally, an initial tree preservation ordinance was approved to help protect heritage trees roots from being impacted during construction projects. It was great for all to see examples such as this from the Long Range Plan as a living document guiding forward action as requested by citizens.

The city staff also noted that an **irrigation workshop on April 7th at City Hall** (10-noon) will be provided for information on water conservation. Bill Teeter and a representative from LCRA will lead information, discussion, and demonstrations.

Several items pertaining to **construction** arose:

- **The Parks at Horseshoe Bay** presented a revised Planned Development reflecting changes in response to public comment. The development team was complimented for allowing the process to work and for the inclusion of several items aimed at community spirit (for example: the use of the flood plain for potential walking trails/jogging tracks). Ted Burget responded to the continuing concern about a second entrance off of FM 2147 located directly across from a horse arena. The owner and others have noted the potential for startling horses during

children's classes or arena rides/lessons if an entrance allows for stop/start traffic at this locale. Mr. Burget indicated he was fully aware of this final concern and was committed to ensuring that the least possible intrusion option is taken.

- The Tuscan Village continues to move forward, requesting approval for large propane storage to allow for gas ranges at new developments. This resulted in stringent guidelines being placed in a new ordinance to ensure the safety of citizens and surrounding property.
- A gate was approved for the inhabitants of homes on Red Sail just past the Quail Point location. For years people have traveled the road, ignoring signage indicating there is no exit. Pictures were presented of trees damaged, potential accidents for children/pets in the area, and congestion in personal drives as on-going problems. The council approved the gate (to be funded by the neighbors) which would force cars to utilize the provided turn-about area prior to the gate.
- Council discussed the challenges for the city staff to monitor compliance for building timelines. While most builders exhibit excellent good neighbor practices, the recent number of homes lagging long past the allowable construction schedule has worn on immediate neighbors. The city staff was encouraged to continue to provide an initial warning (with a deadline), but to utilize the citation process as a leverage thereafter at a level the code enforcer deems needed. A \$1,000 fee was placed on today's builder to receive a 90 day final extension, with an understanding that further delays would result in \$5,000+ fees or potential referral to municipal court.

The two hour meeting ended with everyone anxious to get back outside to enjoy the beautiful spring season, reminding us fully that it is always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer