

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met today to conduct the business of YOUR city. A short agenda (and small public presence) moved quickly, but received lots of updates and positive news from the city staff.

Two new staff members were introduced. Austin Dunevant replaces retiring Randy Lane for Animal Control. Austin and his wife, a nurse with Scott and White, have two children. He has worked previously for the City as a part-time Animal Control operator and holds credentials as a Certified Animal Control operator from the Academy. The new Finance Director, Kristen Woolley, brings years of experience in city finance work – along with a bachelor in accounting and a master degree in finance. Both have stepped in with full activity in their new roles.

The Mayor read proclamations reaffirming April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month as well as May 7-13 being Public Service Recognition Week. It was a proud moment to stand in salute to all the departmental leaders and their staff who serve our city daily on our behalf. They then shared their updates, including:

- Planning & Zoning Director, Eric Winter, gave several status checks on projects.
 - The Tuscan Village is underway with an access road off the old McFarland Ranch. Their sales office will be initially located in the Dominion Plaza on Hwy 2147.
 - He discussed progress with the Resort upgrades including exterior plats received for the Waterfront Bar & Grill with an expanded venue all will enjoy.
 - Two of the clay tennis courts will use tent coverage for special events until a more permanent structure is completed.
 - The Caprock Club House has begun architectural discussions around elevations with hopes to be under construction by December.
 - A council meeting with area builders will be held April 26 to discuss the quality work of most builders and to have open problem solving discussions around the few significantly unacceptable work sites and time delays by others. Listening to recommendations from those in the field is hoped to offer guidance on a strong building expectation plan from the city.

The council has spent a good amount of time reviewing the frustration of citizens living near incomplete or trashy building sites. A clear message that a city process will be put in place to curb projects going beyond expected build out time – and to issue full citations to those who violate security/parking/trash and other neighbor impact activities. The council did vote to re-permit (with a fine) 201 Mountain Leather until the May Council meeting at which time the owner will provide details of the new contractor and date for completion with details for Council consideration.

- Chief Joe Morris shared the enthusiasm of the department to be taking ownership of the two new fire trucks in the coming month. Following the exceptional work of firefighters (joined in collaboration from other area fire squads) on the large fire on Wennmohs Place – they welcome

the updated, fully outfitted new vehicles. A full “push in” (out with the old) “firehose cutting” will be held May 5th to showcase the new equipment. They were also pleased at the opportunity provided to use the vacated Bealls in Marble Falls as a training facility (breaching roofs, practice fire challenges, etc.).

- Community Services Director, Jeff Koska, showed visuals of the upgrades to the West Water Tower, an enormous project moving forward to meet the quality water needs of a growing community. They also continue to expand the remote meter reading options, with a ‘demo’ group to try out the new citizen monitoring capability. Additionally, Bill Teeter’s work in hosting irrigation workshops (along with the city emphasis on xeriscaping), earned the “Watermark Award” for the City of Horseshoe Bay.
- Speaking of awards, Chief Rocky Wardlow shared several competitive grant awards received in support of request for advanced equipment, including being cited #1 in ratings for funds toward new safety measures.
- Kerri Craig, City Secretary, shared the onset of a Website Committee to review the City’s current website and identify ways to improve usability, content, and expanded resources for the community.
- The Human Resources Director, Vicki Briggs, reviewed the trainings ongoing for a High Performance Organization, Leadership and Point of Service practice, and meaningful evaluation processes. The goal to empower all staff with decision making and a sense of pride in action is a full organization activity.
- Tim Foran, Public Works Director, explained road work in progress, noting that much of the observable site work is a result of cutting tie-ins for new taps/homes. They continue to work on rotation of chip and seal upgrade and removal of pothole challenges.

Action was taken to add Frank Gracely to the Board of Adjustment, replacing John Bird who is relocating. The meeting closed with recognition of solid operations as we head into new budget and planning year activities in the coming months. With positive progress in all areas, we were fully reminded that it is always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer