

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met today to conduct the business of YOUR City. Following invocation and pledges, a standing ovation saluted the 15 years of service to the Horseshoe Bay community by Captain Jeff Isom. A master firefighter, Cpt. Isom began his career in firefighting over 35 years ago and has been the recipient of multiple awards, including Firefighter of the Year by the Hill Country 100. We were also able to welcome a high quality new plant operator, Kevin Post, joining us with 8 years in the City of Brenham. Previously, Kevin served the country in Army posts demonstrating a commitment to public service. Mayor Pro Tem Craig Haydon spoke for all in acknowledging this week's honoring of those lost in service in our police forces – as well as all celebrating the prior week of public service employee recognition.

Bill Hayes of Legend Communications, Inc. provided an update on the Tuscan Village development. Bringing visual handouts and information for those interested in 'pre' purchase consideration, he shared an expectation to be breaking ground by late summer for Phase IA and the clubhouse. A design center to preview all finishing options will be in place at the Dominion Center on FM 2147 with details regarding the varied home size/price options. The final complex will include fitness and social centers, lap pool, pickle and bocce ball space, and other amenities bundled to reflect the interests of Horseshoe Bay.

A discussion to consider a new Planned Development Ordinance for an exciting assisted living project to now be located in The Parks development did not take place as originally planned. Previously, this project was approved last year at a different location through a separate Planned Development Ordinance. To the frustration of all, the mailing list provided by county staff to the developer did not accurately reflect all of the names of those who live within 500 feet of the new location. Therefore, to ensure all have an opportunity for input, the City required that the process for public hearings begin again with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council so that all City requirements are met in the spirit of true transparency and engagement of those potentially impacted.

Another area of frustration, reviewed at last month's City Council meeting was addressed. Multiple neighborhoods have been impacted by a few builders (predominantly owner/builder projects) lagging in timely completion of their homes. A recent "Let Me Talk to the Mayor" meeting, held with over 40 area builders, allowed for a healthy exchange with area builders. Those present represented highly professional builders who go beyond the expectation in their work ethic and oversight of projects, to include timely completion. The resulting clarity guided the City to adopt significant fines for builders/owners requesting a building permit extension past the generous time period granted now.

Kristen Woolley, Horseshoe Bay's new Finance Director, provided the 2nd quarter Financial and Investment Reports. Current revenue met or exceeded expectations for the City operations – and expenditures were on track to fall within the approved 2016-17 budgets.

The short Council meeting allowed all to leave with daylight to spare – and to enjoy the reality that it is always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay. Blessings abound!

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer