

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met following a full morning budget workshop. The budget workshop allowed for deep reviews of personnel compensation/benefits, capital outlay needs, general operations, debt service, and forecasting for long range fiscal responsibility. A final special workshop will be held September 5th where the recommendation will be finalized to maintain the current tax rate of .26, a rate significantly lower than neighboring entities.

The Council Meeting began, as always, with celebrations of excellent staff.

- Kevin Ard was recognized for 5 years of service in HSB, with over 27 years in prior police service. Kevin has risen to Investigator responsibilities and continues his own growth in multiple advanced certifications to add depth to the HSB leadership.
- Josh Nail received his 15 year service award having been with HSBay since before it was a city. Josh, too, has excelled in pursuing and achieving multiple certifications and preparedness trainings for advanced service. He was joined by his wife and children as we all applauded his dedicated work.
- The Mayor also asked both Chief Morris and Chief Wardlow to share HSBay efforts to support our fellow Texans impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Three fire 1st responders joined a Marble Falls officer in swift boat duties on Friday. Chief Wardlow's son was activated earlier in the week bringing those stranded in water areas to safe ground. Both chiefs praised these volunteers as well as the staff who stayed here who will pick up the gap in service left by absent staff.

Other positive reports were shared:

- Francie Dix, joined by members of the Burnet County historical society, updated the status of committee work beginning on the new acquisition of the Fuchs House. This historic residence located in HSB South provides an opportunity for education, archival permanence, social and community engagements. Grants and other efforts (including requests for old fashioned community 'sweat equity') will be sought in the coming months to make this a showcase for our community – capturing our heritage. Council Member Cynthia Clinesmith will serve as council liaison to the work.
- Steve Jordan, speaking as a citizen, was excited to applaud the recent donation by the Sam Martin Trust to fully fund the construction of two Pickle Ball courts in Martin Park. This allows a priority in the parks long-range planning to move forward.
- Council Member Reagan Lambert shared an update from the Capital Area Economic Development District relating one key area of emphasis – the importance of encouraging/developing broad community involvement in the work and development of the city. He cited several ways we can draw upon the talents of citizens and partner with our business leaders to shop/support their growth while benefiting from their generosity as well.

Presentations from the morning workshop from advisors in investment, insurance services, and financial planning allowed the council to examine the progress of the long-range plan. This plan, a product of

citizen input, provides the guidance and foundation for work in six primary areas of focus...all centered on maintenance/enhancement of quality of life. Examples of this work include the ongoing Broadband Advisory Committee efforts to establish an internet service deep enough to allow for the growing number of 'work from home' citizens and the universal challenge of line of site service.

Stan Farmer, City Manager, reminded all that the 3rd Citizen's Academy will begin its nine week (2 hr a week) exposure to the inner workings of the city. Those interested should contact the City Manager to become a fully informed citizen.

A broader outreach, the Mayor's Citizen Forum, was discussed for a possible mid-October date. As with prior open discussion forums with the local realtors and then builders, this forum will allow for the open citizenry to bring questions forward and receive clarity about the current state of the city and projections for future developments.

The meeting ended as it began, with prayers/thoughts of those working through the devastation in South Texas – and counting our blessings as we were reminded it is always a great day to live in HSBay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer