

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met a week earlier than usual in honor of the coming blessed season – and in support of travel/family plans. Following the invocation and pledges, an upbeat Merry Christmas time of sharing along with conducting the work began.

- All applauded as Chief Wardlow recognized Lin Thorp for his 5 years of service to the Police Department after retiring from the City of Temple's Police Department. Patrol Sergeant Thorp is a state certified Mental Health Officer and a licensed Master Peace Officer, adding to the depth of departmental preparedness. Thorp has served over 21 years in law enforcement, after serving our country for 12 years in the United States Army.

Public Comment is always encouraged, and four speakers signed up.

- Mike Maine spoke as a representative of the recently graduated Citizens' Academy Fall 2017 class. He expressed the enjoyment all had and their appreciation for the time the department heads and city staff took to share fully how the city is spending tax dollars to maintain the quality of life for all. He reiterated a quote from our founding fathers about the importance of an informed and educated citizenry. All of the members at the academy graduation last week echoed his comments, saying the time flew by and they were actually sorry for it to end.

A new Citizens' Academy begins in February. Those interested should contact Stan Farmer, City Manager, at 830-598-9940. It is a 9-week Academy which meets each Thursday afternoon, between 2-4pm, and covers a new area of city operations each week. If your schedule requires you to be absent from one session, an opportunity to join the next Academy for that session is available. The city goal is to have fully informed ambassadors across the community who can assist neighbors in finding answers as needed, or clarifications of misunderstandings, encouraging them all to feel free to ask if there is a question or offer input where potential improvements are needed. Come join the learning!

- Jim Hampton shared continued concerns regarding the new Pickleball Courts at Martin Park. While he expressed appreciation to the city, the Parks Advisory Committee, and the generous donation from the Martin Foundation to assist in funding – he expressed that the courts continue to be a challenge due to the surface which changes the way pickleballs bounce and react in play. City Manager Stan Farmer later shared his observations and discussions with players this week who did not seem to have the same experience in limited play. Mayor Jordan assured all that the city is committed to having top-quality courts, both to respect the funds used to develop them and the community members who want to use the courts for recreation and exercise. The Mayor has formed a follow up committee to include himself, Michael Widler (Parks Advisory Committee Chair), City Manager Stan Farmer, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Haydon, Council Member Cynthia Clinesmith, Public Works Director Tim Foran, and citizen Jon Harshaw to investigate the viability of the courts.

A request for a sign variance (size) by Tuscan Village developers to assist in directionality led to an opportunity for further update. Most Council Members had attended last week's ground breaking in frigid wind and were glad to have plans reiterated here. Actual construction should begin December 20th with anticipation of models being ready for view (and footprint of central amenities) in early fall of next year. Already 20+ reservations for lots have been purchased, almost entirely by local citizens. Council approved the sign variance and asked the staff to review to see if any changes need to be made in the actual current code overall.

Council approved the reappointment of Michael Widler, Charlie Sugg, and Carrie Foran to the Parks Advisory Committee, with Michael Widler continuing as Chair. Also approved was the reappointment of Francie Dix and Virginia Roberts to the Fuchs' House Advisory Committee, with Francie Dix continuing as Chair. Council expressed full appreciation to these members who step up and provide leadership and sweat equity for these important

projects. Community members are encouraged to call the city if you are interested in serving and/or participating in some of the many citizen committees.

Council also appointed new members to the Planning and Zoning Commission, including Brent Lane, Edwin "Scooter" Lofton, and Mark Hazelwood. All bring extensive professional and industry experience and varied backgrounds to assist in guiding and improving our planning and zoning process. Special thanks to all who offered up their names for service. Additionally, Council recognized the service of retiring members Wayne Anderson and Lynette Morrison, and Chair Norm Long who has served for eight years. Neil Andrew was re-appointed to the Commission and will serve as the new Chair.

An exciting review (kidding) of various surplus equipment in the Utilities Department, such as an aged vehicle and outdated technology, resulted in approval of a resolution to dispose of said property in a manner most beneficial to the city (through auction venues). A list of the items is included in the Council meeting packet on the city's website. In January, additional information will be available regarding the process for purchasing and/or repurposing these items.

The monthly departmental reports were shared, with an underscoring that the city will have met its deer trap quota in the coming week and will not resume until October of 2018 (always stopping over holidays). For those of us who have lived here over 20 years, we remember when literally thousands of deer roamed the community, often in starvation due to overpopulation – with disease and frequent wanderings into roads/home areas. Even with the full trapping this year to keep the herd thinned and healthy, there were still 69 carcasses found in Horseshoe Bay along FM 2147 (just since October 1, 2017) resulting from cars hitting deer (causing danger and damage to the drivers/vehicles). It is a continually challenging reality for the need to support our deer for healthy lifestyles alongside ours through a management program that will allow us to enjoy their cohabitation for the coming year.

The remaining two public speakers (Spencer Davies and Jack Johns) articulately addressed concerns and queries on a variance request for a replat of two lots on Sunshine. The developer intends to potentially build a duplex on this site (already zoned for multi-family) and the replat was to allow for best positioning. The speakers sought some assurances around respect for the neighbors and construction site impact monitoring. Since this was just a replat review, Council voted to approve, but assured the guests that once the building permit process begins, developers receive full requirements for managing building sites. Council Member Jerry Gray also encouraged them to visit with the Architectural Control Committees of their area if they question the actual building design (which is not managed by the city).

After an executive session regarding personnel, Council adjourned wishing all a Merry and safe Christmas, realizing the blessings of this season remind us of our ALWAYS daily gift of living in Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Chief Information Officer