

Hello Neighbors!

Happy New Year. YOUR City Council began the year's work with a new year workshop last week to focus on several key city initiatives/activities, including:

- The City of HSBay Long Range Plan (posted on the city website) showed progress/completion on every action item. The number one goal of improved internet access has had targeted committee effort and a report will be presented on findings in March. All major providers have been engaged in the search for a potential improvement in our service.
- The challenges of our postal service were discussed, especially with regard to service access. The Mayor has pursued steps toward HSBAY acquiring its own standing rather than as an annex of Marble Falls. The Mayor raised concern with the quality of service our residents receive confusion with routing of packages, possible loss of sales tax and the apparent lack of planning for the growth HSBay is experiencing. We have been advised the volume of mail HSBay is generating is greater than that of Marble Falls and that communities much smaller throughout the Hill Country have their own Post Master. Having our own Post Master would allow for goals to be set locally. Of high importance is the lack of additional post boxes. At this point, there is concern that this is not a priority. Currently, new home owners are finding post boxes being issued to them where a vacancy occurs - which could literally, be in a neighborhood across the city. This should be a focus of shared discussion with the city, the POA's and with federal guidance. As a result, we are making a Freedom of Information request and we contacted Congressman Mike Conaway for his help to obtain our own Post Master and Post Office.
- The Master Parks plan, under the guidance of Chair Michael Widler, was shared for review. This 10-year plan has been effectively worked, moving forward the priorities identified in the 2012 survey including the playground, picnic area and new pickleball courts in Martin Park, Horseshoe Creek Hiking Trail along with the restoration of the Fuchs House. The council discussed the formation of a Dog Park/Walking Trail committee to identify suitable location, regulations, and potential funding. The newly completed Pickleball courts were also discussed. Some concerns continue over the actual surface of the courts – with mixed reviews – and Mr. Widler will lead a team to examine concerns to ensure the maximum success of this new park area.

The council also discussed the more recent safety fears for the intersection of Hwy 71 and FM 2147. With limited visibility and increased traffic, turning left from either road has raised concerns. In response to city requests for review, the TxDOT (Department of Transportation) has informed us that HSBay will receive a full stop light (red/yellow/green) at this intersection in 2019 in conjunction with the FM 2147 widening project. We all have mixed feelings about a traffic light in our little haven....but also recognize this major thoroughfare challenges safety.

Clarity around the pursuit of eminent domain for a small strip of land near the reclamation center was provided by the city attorney, Rex Baker. Safety plans for creating a more direct intersection for Golden Nugget and Hwy 2831 (exiting the reclamation area turning towards the Trails/right on a sharp angle) require a cut through road so that a right-angle turn can be created. Multiple efforts to reach the land owner over the year (a company in Canada) have gone unresponsive. The City is seeking to pay fair market price for a two-lane road cutting through a small triangular piece of property for remedy. The council will take this up in the coming meetings.

Council Meeting – January 16

Tonight's meeting took place amid 20^o weather, but with full attendance and community involvement. It began (following invocation and pledge) with a recognition of Norm Long for his years of service and leadership as the 'one and only' Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission. With his decision to retire this role, the city shared its appreciation for his guidance of this important work. His wife, Dorothy, was also acknowledged for sharing her own time and that of her husband to the benefit of her community. We are all so blessed to have such spirits of benevolent service in our neighbors.

A presentation of the First Quarter Financial Report for fiscal year 2018 reflected all revenue and expenditures moving at appropriate pace given the nature of each department's calendar of activity. No adjustments were made and city staff was thanked for its fiscal management.

Public hearings were held, according to legal process, related to the proposed annexation (voluntary) of 77 acres of land in the Southeast quadrant of the city (near the hospital) – a future site for the Phoenix Center. There were no citizens to speak against this proposal.

The monthly report of the city manager highlighted two areas:

- He praised city Field and Plant Operations (Utility Dept) staff who were ready to serve in the middle of the night if sanding and other efforts were needed to ensure safe travels by citizens. The weather did not hit as hard as anticipated, but it was reassuring to hear of the level of preparedness of staff.
- The next Citizens Academy begins February 8th and will run for nine consecutive weeks (2 hours each Thursday afternoon) through April 5th. A few slots remain and those interested in learning more about their tax dollars at work are encouraged to join the workshops.

Several discussion items were addressed:

1. The final funding agreement of Horseshoe Bay contributing \$120K toward the over \$2 million dollar improvement to FM 2147 by TxDOT was approved. Bids will begin in the spring of 2019. Similarly, the earlier discussed stop light at the intersection of FM 2147 and HWY 71 will move forward in 2019 (funded through TxDOT).
2. Authorization was formally given to move forward in the 5 month process of annexing a strip of land to improve the safety turn from Golden Nugget (near reclamation center) onto Hwy 2831.
3. Citizens requesting installation of a cut through turn onto their street (to avoid having to bypass their street, then u-turn) presented their petition. The police and fire chiefs both indicated they felt there was a safety concern for doing this and some council members worried about the precedent of underwriting \$30K – given their many other streets that might come forward with similar requests.
4. A committee was formed (Kerri Craig, Jerry Gray, Reagan Lambert) to review the use of public funds for Public Purposes in the future. (Example: The city currently sponsors a table in support of the Hill Country 100, an organization focused on assisting families of first responders hurt in the line of duty).
5. A discussion regarding the acceptance of the roads in the Hills Subdivision explored the consideration of recognizing The Hills as a unique rural entity whose roads may remain chip and seal (rather than upgrade to ribbon cut standard of Horseshoe Bay as a whole. This review is in response to The Hills seeking guidance on steps required to turn the roads over to the city (for a fee) as most all other roads in the city of Horseshoe Bay are currently maintained. A follow up meeting with representatives of The Hills, city staff, council member, and Mayor will occur prior to the February council meeting where action will be considered.

Following an executive session, the council adjourned at 5:47. All stepped out in to now 24^o crisp winter night – where all still acknowledged it is still always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay!

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer