

Hello Neighbors!

Father Ruben offered invocation to kick off YOUR City Council FIRST MEETING OF THE SPRING. A gorgeous day with bluebonnets in bloom welcomed a city hall room filled with community citizens and guests.

Justice of the Peace Bebe Piatt, joined by CASA Executive Director Shannon Heep, and candidate for Third Court of Appeals Donna Davidson, assisted as Mayor Jordan presented a proclamation to Judge Cheryll Mabray declaring April 2018 as “National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month”. Blue ribbons were donned as admonitions were made to actively support efforts to address the high rate of childhood trauma present in our country, state, and own county (one of the highest records of abuse).

Another proclamation by the Mayor and President of the HSB POA, Mike Maine was made to declare April 22<sup>nd</sup> as “Earth Day”. Mike encouraged all to come join the festivities at the POA on April 19<sup>th</sup> for Earth Day activities – among them the annual shredding of paper AND new safe technology disposal. COME BROWSE, learn, help, and commune with neighbors in support of a better planet/City. The Mayor reminded all to ‘pick up a little’ along the byways of your neighborhood as the City does its part on major corridors to keep trash from detracting – especially with wildflower season upon us.

A standing ovation applauded the “Harvey Team” (Cpt. Josh Wimberly, Lt. Ben Miller, and Eng. Jacob Esquivel) who were selected as the Hill Country 100 Firefighters of the year for their volunteer efforts along the coast following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Public Comment period brought Mike Maine back to the podium to share the progress and good news of the HSB Cultural Enrichment Society/CES ([www.hsbenrichment.org](http://www.hsbenrichment.org)). The CES is devoted to bringing “high class, quality entertainment, music, and stimulating lecturers” in our own backyard (saving, as Mike said, those deer/drunken driver challenges going to Austin for cultural arts). Two HUGE musical kick off performances are planned (with opportunity for social hour and dancing) already for the coming season. For details on tickets, volunteering, and donations – go to the website. A world class lifestyle community like ours appreciates the efforts of those to fill this gap with community arts.

Reagan Lambert shared his awareness of a group to be forming a “Hear a Siren, Say a Prayer” program similar to those in other communities. The group will be forming a 501(c)3 to raise funds and awareness with a kick off effort forthcoming. The idea of stopping and praying for those in need of emergency vehicle support (and those first responders providing the support) were applauded by all.

The High Vista POA President, Jackie Hampton, spoke to some of the confusion (and potential over reach) in permitting requirements around a small deck replacement at their condo. The information – as always – helps the City think about its communication about current codes and clarity around the reasoning.

City Manager, Stan Farmer, has been engaged in the Executive Master in Public Leadership Program (UT/ LBJ School of Public Affairs). This leadership training has been brought back to share with all department leaders and their staff to add to the vitality and ownership of all staff. The ultimate goals of a more efficient, effective, fiscally responsible, and customer service-oriented staff are made even stronger with the side benefit of an invested staff who feel empowered and proud of their workplace. The program Director, Selena Walsh, joined the council meeting to reflect on her morning meeting with staff – noting the significant quality level of discussions and engagement of all.

The Broadband Advisory Committee (JJ Guy, Frank Gracely Jr., Frank Hosea, Christopher Williston, and Nick Summitt) presented their report after over 200-man hours of meetings and engagements with all current and potential technology providers. Recognizing the number one goal of the long-range plan is to increase (provide!) dependable internet access to all homes with enough bandwidth to meet the needs of modern activity, this committee looked for all options. Wireless providers cannot offer the kind of deep internet provision needed. Wired (direct connect through fiber, cable, or DSL) are needed for quality service. Several obstacles (no surprise) emerged:

- Minimal services are in place (some cable through Northland, some service through Frontier) but providers cost prohibited from expansion
- Large providers will not take on cost of our granite topography with limited population
- No conduits currently in place for any provider to use to run fiber/cable

The committee was quick to note that this is just the beginning and full out efforts will move forward. Immediate recommendations were to:

- Ensure any new neighborhoods/homes have conduit installed to begin the grid process
- Any City roadwork involving trenching should provide for PVC conduit to be installed to further expand the gridding process.

During departmental updates, the Council was reminded that all City Staff will be engaged in a second 'mock' active shooter exercise. As a part of the deep Emergency Preparedness efforts, the mock exercise involves all aspects of the City Staff and others from surrounding support services to 'practice' appropriate response behavior so that we can be as well prepared as possible in an emergency. Discussions on how to prepare the broader community at varied settings across the City will be explored.

Several construction project challenges were presented, some with simple replat or zoning, but some with significant permitting requests. Overall the Council agreed that its goals are to implement/support existing coding designed to protect neighbors during construction, homeowner and community safety, and high standards of the City overall. While some exceptions due to unforeseen weather and other obstacles are considered, the Council has applied a practice of honoring the process where no vital/viable reason exists to set code aside. One of the construction projects – an essentially abandoned work effort – was referred to municipal court for action to remove the home (at owner's expense) or challenge completion.

The 2017 Audited Financial Report was presented by the firm of Neffendorf & Knopp, P.C. with a fully 'unqualified report' (that's the BEST – even though it doesn't sound it!). The presentation revealed the City to be in solid financial standing, using sound fiscal practices, and honoring all state/federal requirements.

Proud moments throughout the day with much to celebrate – not the least of which is our abiding awareness that it is ALWAYS a great day to live in our Horseshoe Bay. Be safe....

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer