

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met today to officially end the fiscal year of 2018 and establish business operations for the new year ahead, effective October 1st. A room full of people feeling blessed by recent rains – though ready to say goodbye to that blessing for a bit – engaged throughout. Following invocation and pledges, the city recognized two for their committed service providers.

Christopher Carter is the longest tenured employee in the city with 25 years in multiple roles, currently as Senior Wastewater Operator. His commitment to the safety of drinking water and treatment of wastewater has made the quality of life here exceptional in all assessments. His experience with the water functions provide an immense historical perspective for future planning. Married to his wife, Debbie, for 29 years – they have two sons, one in the Navy and a Marble Falls High School senior. He is viewed by city staff with great respect and appreciation.

Thomas Kingery was recognized for his 10 years of service to the HSBay Police. With over 22 years as an officer, he holds the highest level Peace Officer certification in the state. He previously served in other communities including Lubbock and Llano. Tom and his wife have two daughters in Llano High School. His willingness to serve with integrity for the safety of all is valued by the HSBay citizens.

The city manager provided updates in several areas:

- **The 5th Citizens HSBay 101 Academy will begin October 4th.** To date, over 60 students have completed the course where they learn about all city operations of the city. The city appreciates these citizens for their time and their willingness to serve as a community resource of deep information for neighbors.
- Deer Trapping and Lot Mowing will also resume in October to prepare for winter months.
- **Reagan Lambert, City Council Member**, gave a report on his role with CAPCOG, CARTPO, and several important multi-city/county projects. He specifically spoke to the recognition he was able to draw to our city Water Conservation Project to the point that HSBay will be highlighted in statewide publications as a model. He gave accolades to Bill Teeter, Water Conservation Inspector, for his multiple initiatives including xeriscape garden at city hall, information forums, and homeowner water use evaluations – all aimed at improved water conservation.

Appropriate public hearings were held for proposed taxes and budget, as well as a few ordinances and replat requests. **The council then voted to approve a tax rate of .26702** (below the .27 maximum rate approved this summer) per \$100 valuation. City Manager, Stan Farmer, Kristin Wooley, Finance Director, and Kent Graham, City Council Member, were all thanked for their detailed work outlining this funding rate- along with a projection for five years that will allow for informed and fiscally conservative planning. Additionally, the city council heard from the utilities director, Jeff Koska, **and approved a 7% increase in the utility rate for the coming year.** This increase will also allow for the strengthening of the utility reserve fund for future years.

The council spent considerable time discussing how to generate support for the historic Fuchs house located in HSBay South. As Jim Jordan shared in his citizen comments, this homeplace represents historical Texas Pioneer life and is a foundation component of the area. Council Members explored the upside of preserving our history – and the downside of taxpayer dollar potential cost to renovate and

maintain. The Fuchs House Advisory Committee, led by Francie Dix, has multiple fund-raising events planned along with grants in the pipeline. Carly Calsyn and Jane Knapic, who work with the Burnet County Historic Commission, have also provided support and resources for the Fuchs House efforts. Future opportunities for partnering with the County, foundations, and the State Historical Commissions are all potential resources for bringing this resource to life. In a balanced approach, the **city council voted to increase the city's FY 2019 budget for the Fuchs House from \$20,000 to \$70,000 on a matching basis, for the Fuchs House Advisory Committee** to use when other revenue streams reach the \$70,000 level. The hope is that these funds will bring the house to a level of structural integrity to allow other internal projects to continue. It will take demonstrated community interest and action to renovate this homestead to a level for multiple social, educational, and tourism uses in the future.

An **update was provided on the Workforce Network, Inc.** – a cross county project in place to provide training certification for underemployed (minimal wage) citizens to enter the workforce at a more independent career level. These trainings are specific to gaps in the workforce needs in the area – medical staff (nursing), construction (electrician, plumber, HVAC), and clerical/finance/bookkeeping. Highland Lakes statistics estimate the next 5 years will have a deficit of over 500 employees in these areas. **So, the win-win is employing those wanting to work AND meeting the job gap in the community workforce.** This was an FYI session with plans for the Workforce Network, Inc. board to present to council at mid-year for potential funding at a basic level. Currently, the Marble Falls EDC and other county/city entities in the area are support sources for this work.

Following executive session, the Council authorized the City Manager and City Attorney to move forward with negotiations to **accept the Horseshoe Lighthouse as a city owned property**, taking over from the HSBay Proper POA. A few years back, the community rallied to raise the funds to restore this lighthouse to its current 'beacon' level so that it could continue as a landmark for our city. Estimated costs for operating the Lighthouse in the coming decades is minimal maintenance.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the city is hosting a public presentation about the Monarch Butterfly at 1:30pm on September 26th in the City Hall Council Chambers. For questions about this event, please contact the City's Water Conservation Inspector, Bill Teeter, at 830-598-9973.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding presentations and meetings regarding the proposed Future Land Use Map (FLUM) on the following dates: Sept. 17th at 3:0pm; Sept. 24th at 3:00pm; and Oct. 2nd at 3:00pm. All events will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers. For questions about these events, please contact the Development Services department at 830-598-9959.

Lots of business today focused on supporting a deepened quality of life in Horseshoe Bay while honoring the taxpayer dollar. Another reminder that it is always a great day to live in our HSBay.

The second annual Town Hall Citizens' Forum to present and discuss the City's financial condition will be held on October 23rd at 3:00pm at Quail Point. For questions about this event, please call the Finance Department at 830-598-8741.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Communications Officer