

Hello Neighbors!

What a week we have had in the Hill Country....with all of us counting our blessings for our safety and our special community. Today, **YOUR CITY COUNCIL** met to give thanks for our incredibly dependable service providers AND to celebrate individual commitments to service...alongside a full agenda of work.

Standing ovations were held in recognition of **Juan Aguilera** who oversees operations at our City's solid waste station/reclamation center. Most all of us have been recipients of the positive attitude and first-rate customer service Juan has provided during his 15 years of city service (following years of service with Uvalde and the LBJ M.U.D.). Juan holds the highest level of certification for the State of Texas and brings that knowledge and dedicated work ethic to the aid of us all on a daily basis. Several have reported how much he has helped during this particularly full week of trash and debris removal.

The recognition continued with grateful applause for the **'hidden 1st responder' leadership of Jeff Koska** for 10 continuous years to the city (with 7 prior years with the LBJ MUD). As city Utility Director, Jeff manages the largest department who work tirelessly to ensure clean drinking water and waste disposal. In his years of service, Jeff has overseen the expansion of the waste water plant, installation of two elevated water tanks, rehabilitation of our ground storage water tank, meeting highest standard with TCEQ in management of effluent water disposal....and pages of other critical operations. This week, HSBay was proud to be a city that did not have to 'boil water' due to 24-hour monitoring and quick action that ensured storage and preservations of clean water for residents. Jeff was quick to give full credit to his team of highly qualified technicians/operators who work 24/7, 365 days a year. Jeff's wife of 30 years and family joined the applause - with some 'vocalized' comments by his new 8 week old granddaughter! Our city can feel safe with our water! (Note: Jeff indicated that you may have experienced a slight discoloration of water through this week's management process....but it is pure, just not as pretty. It will clear up this week).

A few public comments were brought forward:

- **Tesa Whitley**, a 3 year resident whose Wennmohs home recently burned down, gave praise to the fire department (and all city staff) for multiple responses during their tenure. She noted, however, her concern that the city does not have a **Fire Boat** which could pour unlimited water on lakefront homes during a fire. She has researched this project – in consultation with Chief Joe Morris – and has committed to beginning a marketing fundraiser to acquire a boat for the benefit of all waterfront property.
- **Leonard Hoffman** shared his concern that the city policy of 15 houses per mile formula did not allow his home to be included in this round of 1.6 miles of new road/ribbon curbs. He shared photos that he felt warranted a review and asked the council to consider 'modifying the policy'.
- **Cindy Classen** was present to represent Westway Builders who have assumed completion responsibility for a home on Hi Circle South that has been under a 're-permitting' fine for many months. Sadly, the owner (and builder) of the home passed away this past month and the family sought assistance. The council approved (per agenda item 11.B) an extension until December 8th so the home can be completed and placed on the market. Condolences are

extended to the family of the owner, including Dorothy Crockett, his mother and recent HSBay resident.

The City Manager and staff gave several reports:

- **Kristen Woolley, Finance Director**, provided the fiscal 2018 fourth quarter review, noting all expenditures fell under or at budgeted allowance for both the general and utility funds. Kristen also reported that the Utility Department sent out notice of a 3% convenience fee for residents paying with credit cards. This fee is charged by the credit card company and is simply being passed on to those residents who use this process. Last year the city paid credit card companies \$76,000 in fees for the small group using this payment form. Residents not wanting to take on this fee have several options such as check pay, ACH from banks, and/or Bill Pay services offered through your bank.
- The Development Services team will hold its final FLUM (**Future Land Use Management**) Plan public meeting at city hall/3 pm on **October 30th**. At this time, the FINAL DRAFT will be shared and will reflect the input from all prior meetings (which reviewed only the initial concept plan). The final plan will come to the city council as a recommended guide for any future actions for zoning or development approval. This plan, however, does NOT make any zoning changes.
- **The Fire Chief**, as the city Emergency Management Control officer, reported on actions taken during the flood incident. Beginning at 3 am, swift water team began searching submerged areas in Kingsland, then quickly returned to HSBay at 9 am as reports of flooding in lakefront areas came forward. He noted that **just last month the LCRA had conducted a practice exercise for 'worst case scenario'** – indicating though it would likely never occur, all needed to be prepared. Chief Morris said with the quick action of all, including Asst. Chief Stephanie Black's leadership, the 'worst case scenario' plan was put into full motion with maximum success. He praised the Mayor for making the 1st Disaster Declaration in our city's history, saying it was 'the right call' given the 300 homes and commercial facilities experiencing high damage.

Police Chief Wardlow echoed the action, stating that his department prioritized protecting lives, then moved to support actions to prevent property damage. He called in for support from Lampasas and other departments not affected by the flood – and set up check points at the entrances to Horseshoe Bay to prevent looters, etc. He has compiled a **database of found watercraft**, stating that people can call the police station (with TX numbers) for information. He suspects most craft here are from homes upstream, while watercraft lost to HSBay homeowners are likely downstream in Marble Falls or Lake Travis.

The City Manager thanked Republic Services who will begin picking up bulk waste from waterfront homes (time to be announced via NOTIFY ME next week).

Scooter Lofton, on behalf of local builders, brought a request to amend city ordinance for early morning concrete pouring to allow for 5 am start, with notification to homes within 200 feet. Lofton shared the increased quality of work for concrete poured in the cooler hours (and less physical demand in the

summer), along with avoiding traffic congestion of moving trucks in later hours. After discussion, the council recognized that this is a one-morning inconvenience for neighbors who with notification should be able to tolerate the pour, given the benefit to the project and work product. Since all of us are living somewhere with concrete slabs poured – we respect that our own neighbors had to bear with our home development at some time....and this allows us all to pay it forward a bit.

The council accepted a donation by the Lambert family of a pink trash receptacle to be placed in Martin Park (or location of city preference) to support Breast Cancer Awareness and Research month.

The Mayor reminded all that next **Tuesday, October 23rd, at 3 pm he will hold his annual “Let me Speak to the Mayor” public meeting at Quail Point.** Residents are encouraged to come engage this open forum discussion about the future of our city. (Note: The Mayor shared a recent State of the City in the local newspapers AND on the city website that may inform many questions).

Just as the day started with celebration (and some sadness of the seriousness of flood impacts), we ended the day with celebration (and some sadness) of the final day of council service for Council Member Craig Haydon. Craig has served for 6 years (following his wife’s 4 years of service) with perfect attendance and love for his community. He was applauded for his work and bringing his talents to key issues of the city. He said he felt proud of his work, “blessed to have worked with such amazing city employees”, and that the “city was in the best shape ever.” All agreed much of this was largely a result of his (and his wife’s) work efforts.

Lots of thoughts and prayers for those touched by this week’s angry weather, alongside lots of gratefulness for the full comfort and safety we all experienced in moving through this historic rain event. **Diane Jones**, a faithful citizen attendee, captured the sense of storm relief and upbeat hope with a fun neon yellow and orange wig...bringing a smile to all and a reminder that its always a great day to live in our HSBay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Information Officer