

Hello Neighbors!

Well...brrrrrrr. A freezing day did not dampen YOUR City Council activity, with lots of citizens joining the work of the day. Following the invocation and pledges, the Council turned to warmed hearts as we canvassed the election votes and welcomed returning incumbents Jerry Gray and Kent Graham to the Council and new member, Elaine Waddill. After much deserved applause and thanks for their service commitment, all immediately turned to the work at hand. Jerry Gray assumed Craig Haydon's duties as Mayor Pro Tem and Cynthia Clinesmith continues as Public Information Officer.

Recognition highlighted the 10-year service record of Cody Layton, a Senior Water Plant Operator in the Utilities Department. Cody's family (Katelyn and children Brody, 8, Casey, 9 and Kambree, 7) have supported his work to the benefit of Horseshoe Bay. Both Jeff Koska and Tim Foran, department directors, spoke of the many accomplishments and critical roles Cody has played to assure quality safe water for our city. Noting that Cody's dedication and initiative earned him an Employee of the Year nomination in his first year, they spoke of his specific recent leadership in the construction of the West Water Plant Expansion and many upgrade projects. The result of his efforts – and that of his fellow Utility Team – was felt just this month as the City of Horseshoe Bay was the only city in the area to 'weather the storm/flood' with safe water and no requirement for boiling notice. This is purely the result of all hands on deck in frontloading preparation and quick decision making.

The only public comment was provided by Paul Verette, an area roofing contractor servicing HSBay for over 42 years. He emphasized the need for a detailed rooftop inspection process and proper installation in order to avoid costly repairs.

The consent agenda (posted on the city website along with all other documents) was approved with some clarification on 6.F. "approval of public funds for public purposes". It was noted that the Hill Country 100 donation of \$1,000 meets the intent of this city policy as it specifically benefits city employees by offering support to the 1st responders and their families in times of tragedy.

A unanimous vote accepted the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) as presented, following months of deep review, planning, public hearings, and adjustments. The FLUM does not actually rezone any areas, rather it provides guidance as to the intended usage of certain areas for developers.

The City Manager provided updates on departmental work, including:

- Roadwork, delayed much by rains, is coming to an end in the coming week. Citizens were thanked for their patience. (Note: Citizen emails indicating their appreciation for the quality of work and character of the workers were shared as a part of "atta boys" to the department)
- The 5th Citizen Academy will hold its graduation Dec. 13th, just as the city begins a corollary Employee Academy for all city employees to become acquainted with each department. The more staff and citizens understand the workings of city operations, the stronger our efforts continue to be toward exemplary level services and communication.
- The weather has caused some delays in the deer management; all nets will come down on Monday prior to the Thanksgiving holiday week.

The Council voted to approve (with one 'no' vote by Council Member Waddill) an ordinance amending a building permit for construction, specifically the day of pouring concrete slabs. The amendment allows for a one day variance on construction 'pour time' to begin preparations at 5:00am and pouring at 6:00am. This requires full notification (rather than approval) of all residences within 200 feet to allow folks to plan their sleeping around any anticipated early noise on that one day. While the primary motivations for this request by the builders were the summer heat and need to work in the cooler part of the day and time for the pour to set, there was also a consideration that most of the concrete comes from a distance and getting to travel under the traffic with early arrival will allow for one-day completion.

Several other requests around permit/building considerations were addressed. The Council heard from the Mayor regarding on-going efforts to serve the needs of those significantly impacted by the recent floods. Those living on Applehead Island, Moon Isle, Matern Court and a few other coves experienced excessive debris as recent news articles reported. Over 300 homeowners took on water as well as enormous amounts of boats, wood/dock debris, and trash all piling up on the lake in blocked coves in front of homes. The city took the position that while homeowners worked to clear their own yards/homes, it was the responsibility of the LCRA (Lower Colorado River Authority) as owner of the lake to ensure the lake was clean and safe.

Mayor Jordan met and talked with decision makers almost daily to push the need for support. While an initial offer of \$100K (for all of Llano County) was provided, the Mayor and City Manager were invited by the LCRA management to take a boat tour to see the actual damage and debris. They found it to be much greater than a small portion of the \$100K HSB may eventually receive would cover. LCRA did provide support to remove large items such as boats, jet skis, and large debris, which has helped, but did not address the real clean up need. Representative Andy Murr has stayed in communication seeking real support and plans to pursue possible supportive funds at the state level – though no certainty of outcome could be given. The distribution of the \$100K is still undecided by Llano County.

The Mayor continues to push for help for HSBay Homeowners and he requested the LCRA lower the lake to help with clean up around damaged dock areas. This request has been granted and LCRA will lower the lake about 4 feet over a four-day period beginning on December 30th. It will remain lowered until February 23, 2019. The lake lowering is always made with caution as our Power Plant requires a certain constant level of water to keep the cooling process integrity. The POAs and individual homeowners are bearing the costs of most of the other clean up efforts at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Gray made his first primary responsibility of calling for the adjournment of the meeting (in lieu of former Mayor Pro Tem Craig Haydon). It brought smiles all around as all remembered the good-humored tone with quality service Craig provided....and all wished him well. His service – along with the other accolades of the day....and the heroic efforts of our neighbors to work together through the storm were just more reminders that it is always a great day to live in our HSBay.

Wishing all a blessed and safe Thanksgiving week ahead.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Information Officer