

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met on another wet and cold hill country day – but thankful we were not living out the storms further north! With Mayor Steve Jordan attending the services for the passing of his brother in the Dallas area, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Gray opened the meeting. Following a blessing by Council Member Lambert and pledges, all joined in acknowledging the successful work of many city employees.

**Carlos Almaguer** received his 5-year HSBay service award (with 13 overall years as a firefighter) and accolades by Chief Joe Morris. Almaguer has continuously added to his skillset, completing his driver/operator-pumper certification, TFCP Intermediate and TDSHS EMT-B, and training to assist with the PPE cleaning/inspection (for hazardous waste). He is a stellar example of our fire team preparedness as a competing Fire Service Fitness Specialist. Also - Carlos, with wife Lisa, is the father of a 2-year and a 4-month old to keep him even more “alert”.

**Bill Teeter** was applauded by all for his 5 years of service and exceptional work to raise the awareness and practice of water conservation of our lake resource. As a graduate of Tx State U, holding Master’s in Public Admin, a TCEQ Customer Service license, licensed irrigation inspector, and an Auditing Certification from Texas A&M, Bill has the skill level to keep our water usage more efficient to the benefit of us all in keeping more water available AND keeping costs down. Many have testified that “Bill the water guy” (through his free audits of home watering systems) has saved them 20-25% on water bills and helped maximize the water that is being used. Bill is the lead in the design and construction of the demonstration garden at the city with native and drought tolerant plantings AND honoring the pledge of the city’s Monarch Butterfly waystation initiative. Call him for your own water review.

The annual Hill Country 100 Club recognized two of HSBay first responders to all our pride.

**Chase Higginbotham**, was selected as Firefighter of the Year – in his first full rookie year – for his heroic and rapid response for the fire in HSBay earlier this year. His quick and exhaustive efforts to identify and intervene on fire invasion of the airport, with millions of dollars of aircraft and potential fuel explosions, thwarted what could have taken this fire to a whole new level. Chief Morris applauded Chase’s work ethic and commitment to service.

**Fran Shull** was named Police Support Person of the Year for her multiple critical roles in the department –as a dispatcher, police telecommunications trainer, monitoring of CJIS requirements, DPS crime records liaison, and migrating the team to a new data entry forum to keep our Police Certification/Compliance standard as high as possible. All became teary as they listed her key role also as ‘second mother, sister, dear friend’ to all. A standing ovation to her acceptance speech with much appreciation for her 10 years of service.

Three citizens came forward with comments for the council.

**Gilbert Bennett** shared his touching story of “chain of survival” as he walked all through everyone’s worst fear – a nighttime heart attack. He shared the professional efforts of the EMS responders and immediate actions taken at his home and en route to the hospital – and reminded us all to count our blessings for the well trained, caring, and dedicated first responders we have serving our needs.

**Francie Dix** updated us on the Friends of the Fuchs (Fox) House Advisory Committee efforts to restore the 1800s homestead in HSBay – distributing flyers for the June 17<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament Fund Raiser at Slick Rock Golf Course (courtesy of the HSBay resort generosity). She reminded all that sponsorships are available – and encouraged teams to form to come out for a day of fun and civic pride in support of the FOX! Lots of fund raising efforts are in place, including several grants being pursued – with a response arriving today for a \$10,000 grant through the Summerlee Foundation dedicated to the preservation of Texas History. (Donations are fully welcome through the city website or checks to “Save the Fuchs House” at the city).

**Mike Brittain** followed up with updates on the work of the HSBay Business Alliance, a totally self-funded collaboration to support our local businesses who serve (and generously give back to) the community. Preparations are under way for another great Boogie by the Bay year with multiple levels of sponsorship available for this summertime fun for us all. (Begins June 5<sup>th</sup>....5 weeks of live music!)

The consent agenda and departmental reports were shared by the City Manager, **Stan Farmer (the masterful Sherlock** to those of you who attended the latest HCCT production!). A spotlight on the fire department provided close details of the types of calls made, response time, training aligned to call needs, and efforts toward continued excellence as a department.

A wonderful presentation was provided by Baylor, Scott and White Hill Country Region **President, Tim Ols**. After an introduction by BSW Board Member, **Dr. Bob Shafer**, Ols took the council and guests through a PowerPoint sharing of the status of the hospital. He explained the vision, goals, and underlying beliefs in caring and quality service. He highlighted the expanded services of more physicians in expanded specialty areas, advanced services in cardio and stroke response, and additional outreach space and customer focus efforts. We were all impressed to see the volume of patients treated (and babies born!) at the facility every week...with high customer service responses. With an over \$175 million investment by the hospital network, Ols also gave credit to local philanthropic efforts to match the funds to ensure the highest quality service for us all. Everyone shared their own positive experiences and appreciation for having exceptional service “just up the road”.

The business portion of the meeting focused on several ordinance approvals, one specific to revising the recent Oak Tree Trimming/Protection. Of import to all citizens is to understand that the primary villain in Oak Wilt is Red Oak...and the ordinance forbids bringing into the City firewood/logs from a Red Oak. So always ask the source of your wood. Also, all Oak tree trimming is prohibited from February through June, with some exceptions allowed.

A final ordinance of interest was the development of a consistent scale of fines for requested extensions for builders. This up-front knowledge of the potential for heavy fines is intended to help ensure buildings are completed in the time expected for the benefit of neighbors (and the owner as well).

A quick motion and second to adjourn had everyone heading for the home fires....knowing that even in the gray weather – it is always a great day to live in our Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Information Officer