

Hello Neighbors!

A full house of mixed interests kicked off a near 4-hour meeting of YOUR City Council with a lot of proud partnerships and focused City reviews. Pastor Lanny Tanton of The Bible Church of the Lakes on Hwy 71 led the convocation prior to pledges to the Flags.

The Mayor was pleased to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Neil Andrew, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission for his leadership and service for the past six years, two of those years as Chair of the Commission. In particular, all applauded the Commission's completion of the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) which outlines the expected use of every aspect of Horseshoe Bay. Mr. Andrew immediately lent credit to his fellow Planning and Zoning Commission members and the City's Development Services staff as a team effort that took nearly two years. The FLUM will serve as a guidance tool for the City and Council in coming years.

The Mayor proclaimed May 2019 as "Older Americans Month" in appreciation for the residents in our community and the dedicated life service. (He declined to define 'older', but all felt some level of identity with it in their bones and appreciated the recognition!)

Peter Jones, Commissioner of Pct 1, reminded all that the 2900 Bridge ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, the 24th at 2 pm to officially declare the road open (Yay!). The completion of a project this size in seven months speaks to the urgency recognized across the State for the flooding events of last year.

One community member on HSBay N, Sharon Kunz, spoke to challenges that might occur with the development in the 100-300 block of Horseshoe Bay N especially with regard to density/parking/gate entry. This item on the agenda (9C) was held over for the June 18th City Council meeting. The City staff clarified that this request is not for anything to do with the development plans as of yet (a healthy discussion about these factors can be discussed when the developer will be present). Rather this request is to replat the property for 6 individual duplex units, something the property is already zoned for at this time. No density change would occur.

There were two presentations of broader community relevance.

- **JoKarr Tedder, President of the Central Texas Water Coalition**, shared the work of this organization to lobby with LCRA on behalf of water usage and rights in the central lakes areas. She provided details of relevant costs paid by varying local municipalities vs. those 'down river', particularly in the rice field areas. The discussion was particularly relevant with regard to determining responsibility for cleaning up our water from debris and silt following the flood. (Right now it continues to be the fine art of pointing the finger at the other guy!) Peter Jones had earlier alluded to local efforts to form a Hill Country Lake LBJ Water Coalition, with discussions being held in a public forum at Quail Point on June 6th at 10:30am.
- **PEC CEO Julie Parsley** and her team (joined by PEC Board Member and Burnet County Judge James Oakley), presented an update on the work of the PEC. Much information was provided about preparing for future increased needs through hydro, solar, and other electrical sources. She did underscore the need for all of us to be aware of the Power Rush Hour when usage hits a critical mass – encouraging us to not use peak times of the day for dish/clothes washing, pool pumps not needed to be in use, etc. Judge Oakley pointed all to the Smart Phone app (go to PEC website). They also indicated you could go to the ERCOT website if interested in the supply of energy on the 'grid' at any time. YIKES....never really think about a short supply of electrical resources until we don't have it!

All consent agenda items and remaining Public Hearing items were approved.

The monthly statistical reports by departments were shared, with this month's focus on a police department presentation by Chief Wardlow. Notable increases in incidents correlated to increased traffic since the closing of the 2900 Bridge, but with minor offenses. The impact of trapping seems to have reduced by nearly half the number of car incidents or deer carcasses found on the road. The Chief was proud to share a current response average of 3.2 minutes – compared to the state average of 8-10 minutes. He felt some of this results from increased technology reporting and communication.

In the official business action items:

- **Gail Davalos**, of the non-profit Workforce Network, Inc., shared the past three years of service to assist minimum level workers with training for licensure in career pathway industry. At the same time, these efforts go to fill the huge shortages of critical need areas in hospital workers, construction trades, and hospitality – as well as some business and work stability training.

The presentation laid out how the tri-city/bi-county municipalities of Burnet, Marble Falls, Llano have come together to support this common need – with the hopes that the City of Horseshoe Bay would become a partner in the effort to lift up this work that has been conducted on a volunteer basis through grants and some matching funds. The Council unanimously approved a \$10,000 contribution from the FY19 budget, with an intention of contributing \$10,000 in FY20 and FY21 as well (to match the other entities' contributions) for a shared employment of a paid Program Manager to serve both counties beginning this summer. Hundreds of students in plumbing, electrical licensure, medical assistants, etc. currently being served will benefit from an increased focus on grant acquisition and program development.

- **Kristi Lofton and Wendy Christenson**, both of the Women of the Word (WOW) at the Church of Horseshoe Bay, presented the City with a “Turquoise Table” to be placed in Martin Park. The phenomena of this ‘front yard’ conversation, derived from the work of author Kristin Schell, symbolizes efforts to bring neighbors back together in open conversation where everyone is welcome. Hopefully, you will get to share the table and meet new friends and neighbors when you visit the park! (Be on the lookout as you move through towns – the tables appear in all 50 states and 13 countries AND even a couple at our local Chick Filet!)
- In item 11 (F) much discussion was held regarding an ordinance to require builders to clean up mud from streets resulting from their work/traffic – as well as a requirement that the entry to the construction site have a designated gravel access to assist in removing mud from tires as they exit the site. The Council remains sensitive to not wanting to over-regulate the builders, respecting that the majority are professionals (and our neighbors as well) and tend to their sites. However, without ordinances in place, the City has no recourse to deal with those who are careless and effect the neighbors with runoff and tracked out mud. Three respected builders were present and agreed that this expectation is something they do anyway and the ordinance would not place an additional burden on their work practice. The ordinance allows for a warning – giving a builder 48 hours to rectify any nuisance before a fine is imposed. The ordinance passed 3-2 with Council Members Gray and Lambert voting against further regulations.

- A request from Neiman Foster Homes for an increase to build 10 speculative homes (above the 2 speculative home limit set by the City) brought further discussion about how to balance a support of quality builders work with the challenges of construction within the community. The City established a limit of 2 speculative homes (unlimited contracted homes) and reviewed this in April. At that time all Council Members agreed the 2-limit was appropriate, respecting that builders had a right to approach the Council for variance for unique requests. The Council discussed the quality of builders we have in our city – and the professional product and conduct they demonstrate. A point of clarity in the challenges for this builder arose in the definition of a duplex being viewed as “2 speculative” houses, even though it is only one building site/permit. All Council Members felt this might assist in leveling the field. The Council agreed to take this up at the June meeting as it does appear to restrict/disadvantage builders developing multi-unit buildings. Council Member Lambert proposed a compromise approval of increasing the approval for this builder to 8 speculative homes. The motion passed with one dissenting vote from Council Member Clinesmith.

The Council moved into Executive Session at 6:03pm and returned to the open meeting at 6:24pm. Motions were made to continue discussions with the HSB POA regarding possibly transferring ownership of the Lighthouse with some stipulations. In addition, the Council directed the City Attorney to move forward on acquiring a 20-year (no cost) operational lease of acreage on Golden Nugget for potential use as future park area.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray happily motioned for all to adjourn before we hit the 4 hour meeting mark! It only took stepping outside, however, to be reminded that it is always a great day to live in Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Information Officer