

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council met today following a full day Workshop on Monday. Today's agenda was short, beginning with the third quarter financial report. The Mayor recognized the Finance Department for their 2nd year Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – an honor that less than 4% of the over 5,000 government entities received. The award speaks to clarity, transparency, and accuracy of reporting. Be proud that your tax dollars usage is being made visible and accountable.

Kerri Craig, City Secretary, shared the election information for upcoming City Council positions. Packets are available at city hall for those interested in filing an application to fill one of the two Council Member positions or the role of Mayor. She also reminded everyone that the last day to register to vote in the November 5th election is October 7th. With all our great new residents/neighbors, encourage them to get involved and registered so their voice will join us all.

The Consent Agenda typically reviewed by the City Manager was approved without change – with everyone wishing Stan Farmer a hasty recovery from the summer virus that seems to be moving through the community. Similarly, the Mayor took on the role of reviewing the monthly statistical reports, highlighting efforts by each department. He spoke to work from the prior day's workshop surrounding the water rates under review and the current drop in water usage due to the heavy year of rain. A special shout out was made for the 'ribbon cutting' (actually a firehose uncoupling!) to celebrate the new fire station remodel. Amazing work - done by our own Fire Department team - resulted in a community-welcoming entrance and much deserved accommodations for the Fire Fighters when they have multi-day stays. Chief Morris was proud to recognize the work of his own Lieutenant Ryan Guthrie, as well as donations from Robert Gott who installed a great new shower (with all materials), and the hands-on work of Jorge Zapaluta's work team putting up sheetrock, etc. – offering hundreds of workhours to the project. It was the picture of community 'barn raising' efforts resulting in a fire station of which we can all be proud (and so pleased to support our service providers).

Each department shared their five-year plan/projections to assist with long range financial planning. Citizens in Horseshoe Bay should be proud of the leadership of each department and the careful work done to be efficient in their budget needs. As our City continues to grow, they are looking for ways to maximize/share staff, space and resources to continue to provide excellent service with minimum costs.

In general business, a proposed tax rate was set at .29 per 100 valuation. Each year the Council is required to set a MAXIMUM tax rate. As with all municipalities, this rate exceeds what the actual intended rate will be when determined at the September Council meeting. The reasoning is that the City only has preliminary appraisal data to help to determine the rate needed to support the budget. While .29 is higher than anticipated, this allows the Council to drop the rate in September once all appeals and final appraisals from both Counties are received to an actual rate recommendation. The new tax rate would not go into effect until the new fiscal year in October – and is anticipated to be below the rollback rate, as it has been in the past years.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Gray, liaison to the City's Broadband Advisory Committee, gave an update on the work toward acquiring increased internet access for the community. He asked that a resolution be

extended to let providers know that HSBay continues to be open to collaboration for the benefit of area homes and businesses. The Mayor did share some encouraging news that PEC (electric company) is scheduled to meet to consider ways they might assist with access – something the committee has been seeking for several years.

Mayor Jordan reminded all that applications are being accepted for anyone interested in serving on the new Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) (until August 20th). Selections for the 7 members will be on August 27th, with the work expected to take 12-18 months. Funds were appropriated to assist with fees for surveys and data analysis so that the voices of as many citizens can be heard and included in the future planning.

Following an executive session, the Council appointed Mike Thuss – longtime resident and service leader in Horseshoe Bay – to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Council then adjourned for the summer ‘break’, with the next meeting being set for August 27th! For all of you lucky ‘bayers’ who are headed for cooler climates, glamorous trips, or quality time with family/friends....know that I will be remaining here (absorbing the heat of Texas!), but even so - enjoying what is always a great day to live in our Horseshoe Bay. (But...please bring back some of the coool!)

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Public Information Officer