

Council Comments

The City Council meeting was held Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Horseshoe Bay Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father Ruben Patino opened the meeting with a prayer and a reminder that the recent celebration of MLK Day challenges us to be our best selves as citizens and a community of faith.

Development Services Director, Eric Winter introduced Jessica Noaker and presented her with a Five Year Service Award. Jessica has served our Horseshoe Bay community continuously for 5 years, most recently as the Senior Development Services Technician and Deputy Building Official. Since coming to Horseshoe Bay, she has exemplified the role of an engaged employee for all city staff. She has helped Development Services by working with other departments involved in development review to streamline the process. She has also worked to improve Development Services with her commitment to continuous improvement and her abundance of creativity and customer services attributes. Jessica is dedicated and energetic as she assists with all activities including weekly Development Review Committee meetings.

Jessica and her husband volunteer for several community activities and were recently named Colonels in the Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force in Burnet. She and her husband Kirk, the Burnet County Magistrate, have been married for 8 years. They have a 6 year old son who is in the first grade at First Baptist Church in Marble Falls. We thank Jessica for her dedicated service to the citizens and visitors of our community and the Hill Country region.

Fire Chief Brent Batla introduced Kyle Schmidt and presented him with a Ten Year Service Award. Kyle began his fire service career as a volunteer for the Brady Volunteer Fire Department. In 2009, he joined the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department as a part-time firefighter moving to full-time in 2010.

Lt. Schmidt has certifications as Advanced Structural Firefighter; Fire Officer I; Driver/Operator, and Instructor I through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. He also has earned an EMT-Basic and "Flood and Swiftwater Rescues-Technician I. As a true asset to the City of Horseshoe Bay and the Fire Department, he has promoted through the ranks from Firefighter to Driver/Operator and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant. He is the Officer in Charge of Station 2 on A-shift.

Kyle is married to Leigh Schmidt. They have two sons who are active in band, football, and baseball in the Burnet area. The family enjoys spending time outdoors with their dogs, hunting and fishing. Congratulations to Lieutenant Schmidt on ten years of service to the Horseshoe Bay community.

As the meeting continued the floor was opened for Public Comments. Kenneth Bookout, Summit Rock resident, expressed concern regarding the lot mowing program provided by the city. He stated that the length of the grass in many areas is a fire hazard for the community. Mayor Clinesmith explained that the item was not on the agenda and therefore, not open for discussion, but she appreciated him bringing the issue to the attention of the council. She instructed the city manager to follow up with Mr. Bookout and resolve the concerns.

Stan Smith, currently serving on the Llano County Central Appraisal District Board, provided information on the function of the Board and introduced Scott Dudley, Chief Appraiser in this district. Scott discussed the timeline and process of appraisal completed each year.

Elsie Thurman, Chair of the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee, provided an update on the work being done toward developing the new Long Range Plan for the city. The committee has begun the process by determining which goals in the current plan have been accomplished and identify those to be continued. Additionally, they will write new goals to be addressed based upon the desires of the citizens. They are currently interviewing stakeholders and are developing a survey for all property owners. Once finished, the committee will organize the categories and have a forum to discuss the information to ensure that it truly represents the community and its wishes. Elsie indicated that they hope to have a product by late fall 2020. Mayor Clinesmith

encouraged all residents to participate in the process to ensure that the work truly represents the community and thanked Elsie and the entire committee for their commitment to working and completing this plan for the city.

City Manager Stan Farmer reminded everyone of the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Citizens Academy. The Academy is scheduled to start February 6, 2020. An application and further information can be found on the City's website at the top drop down menu. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the internal workings of the City and meet the City Manager and the Directors of each Department. Stan also announced that starting in March there will be a Department Academy opportunity for those who have previously completed the Citizens Academy. The Fire Department will be the first Department to host this Academy. More information will be coming about specific dates and times. This is a wonderful way to learn more about your city.

Stan also indicated that the City's video on the main page of the website has been updated with added video clips of our beautiful city and will be online very soon. He also stated that the FY 2020 Budget video is almost complete and will be online soon.

Development Services Director Eric Winter provided an in-depth overview of the reports generated within his department each month and found in every regular City Council meeting agenda packet.

The City Council requested their financial advisor to present an analysis of the benefit the City would realize if they refunded the Series 2011 Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation ("Obligations") in the amount of \$5,830,000. These Obligations carry interest rates from 2.85% to 3.90%. Upon refunding of these Obligations, it is estimated that the interest rate will drop to approximately 2.07%. Without extending the term of the Obligations the City will realize an estimated saving of \$400,000. To put this in layman's terms, it is like refinancing a home mortgage. New or existing lenders will provide a loan to pay off the old mortgage balance at lower interest rates. The City Council unanimously approved the refinancing of the 2011 Obligations.

The Council also addressed the potential sale of the Fuchs' House. Despite many years of working toward a restoration of the Fuchs' House, the process proved to be costly and time demanding. At this time, the Council voted to list the property for sale in the hopes of a collaborative effort to have this historical site preserved. The requirements for the sale would be specific to ensure the external view of the property remains true to its 1860s character - and that citizen access to the grounds with informational signs be provided. The specific requirements are listed in the January Council packet on the city's website.

Jim Jorden, a leading member of the Fuchs' House Advisory Committee, shared further historical data for the council to consider in its signage for visitors. Jim has written a book on this foundational land grant of the Fuchs family that first established our Horseshoe Bay area...based on his own deep research. The book, similar to his work on the Church of Horseshoe Bay, will be available for sale in the coming months. What a great gift idea to welcome new neighbors to HSBay!

The only thing missing from this Council meeting was you! We appreciate you and invite you to join us every month to learn more about the amazing staff working on your behalf and the wonderful city in which we are living. We look forward to seeing you in February.

Elaine Waddill, Council Member and Public Information Officer