

Council Comments by Elaine Waddill

The Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting opened on February 18, 2020 with a warm greeting from Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith, followed by a prayer from Garry Kesler, representing the Church of Horseshoe Bay. The first item on the agenda was an introduction by City Manager Stan Farmer of Troy Meyers the City's new GIS Administrator. Troy previously worked in Burleson, Texas. He worked ten years in city service and ten years in the private sector prior to starting his new position in Horseshoe Bay. We welcome him to the Horseshoe Bay family and wish him well in his new position.

Mayor Clinesmith announced that she met with Senator Dawn Buckingham today to discuss some of the priorities we have as a City. Also, next week the City will be holding the first of many quarterly meetings with all of the Mayor's around Lake LBJ, including other civic leaders, to discuss issues which affect us all including technology, workforce development, emergency management, lake quality, and transportation. Mayor Clinesmith will also be meeting with the Marble Falls post master in the on-going effort to improve postal service in Horseshoe Bay. The next meeting between the City and the Presidents of each of the POAs in Horseshoe Bay will take place on March 19th. Mayor Clinesmith asked everyone to keep an eye out for a survey that will be sent to HSB citizens in the near future from the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee regarding the current and future needs of Horseshoe Bay.

LCRA presented the City of Horseshoe Bay with a Cost-Share Funding Program Grant in the amount of \$14,000. The grant allows funds for projects and programs to enhance water conservation for residents. The City Utility staff began initiating an Automated Infrastructure Metering system in 2017 to provide a means to increase the frequency of meter reading from once per month to twice per day via wireless technology. The benefit for the city and our customers was to provide a faster response for water leaks and a way to log down to the hour information regarding water usage. This information allowed staff a means to see large leaks and to contact the customer within a day or two of the issue being detected. While this program provided water savings, the staff sought a more customer friendly system that not only would automate notifications but also provide the customer with more access to their own water usage and billing information.

WaterSmart was the program of choice to provide customers a portal to water usage information, as well as, additional information on how to identify the water loss issue and suggestions for solutions. The software provides City Staff with valuable statistics on water usage patterns to help direct conservation efforts. The Cost-Saver Grant will allow for purchase and implementation of the WaterSmart program. The funds will offset approximately 50% of the implementation of the program. The project began in January and is expected to be on-line by June 2020.

Thank you to the Horseshoe Bay Staff for working to support water conservation and customer service in our area and a very special thank you to LCRA for selecting our community to receive this generous Cost-Share Funding Grant.

Ken Nickel, Executive Director, of the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center (HCCAC) provided an overview of the mission of the Center and services provided. He thanked the Horseshoe Bay City Council on behalf of the HCCAC Board for awarding the Center \$1,500 from the Child Safety Fund at the January 21, 2020 meeting. The mission of the HCCAC is to provide children and their families a stable path to justice and healing through efficient, coordinated, and trauma-informed services in the

aftermath of abuse or violent crime. The agency services a five-county area including Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, Llano, and San Saba counties.

Finance Director Margie Cardenas gave a presentation on the first quarter financial report for fiscal year 2020. The presentation included information on current revenues and expenditures, illustrating the city is in good financial shape and on-target with this year's budget projections.

City Manager Stan R. Farmer shared that the Fire Department's two half-day Citizens' Academy will be March 9 and 10 from 1-4PM. Only graduates of the larger Citizens' Academy are eligible for this deeper dive into the Fire Department operations. Please email Fire Chief Brent Batla at bbatla@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov if you are interested. There are already several signed up with a few seats remaining.

Development Services Director Eric Winter provided an overview of the newly revised Development Guide replacing the existing Development Policy document. The new Development policies are expanded based on community growth and need. It will help developers while protecting the Horseshoe Bay community. The Guide provides an excellent framework of policies, clarity of issues in the process, and includes check lists to be used for ease of process and a clear roadmap for developers. The new document will be posted on the City of Horseshoe Bay website in the near future.

The Council also reviewed and voted to accept the newly updated Charters for the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. These Charters represent months of work on behalf of Council Member Elaine Waddill and City Secretary Kerri Craig. Work is in progress on new Charters for the Parks Advisory Committee and Broadband Advisory Committee, with an anticipated completion date for the April City Council workshop. Charters are being written for every City Board, Commission and Committee in order to clarify the purpose and responsibilities of each group, qualifications of members, and the expectations of City Council.

Lake Area Storage requested approval of a sign variance to place an on-premises free standing sign on a commercial lot located at 203 FM 2831. The variance will allow the sign to be 12'6" wide and 5'6' high and will be placed on the property in front of the business. The current sign at the intersection of HWY 71 and FM 2831 will be removed. The esthetics of the newly designed signage are more in alignment with the expectations for the Horseshoe Bay community. The City Council discussed the issues involved and voted to allow the variance request.

The February City Council meeting provided another wonderful opportunity to learn about the exciting things that are happening in Horseshoe Bay. Every day in our City is another day in the column marked as "wonderful". We hope you will mark your calendar for the next City Council meeting on March 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and we hope that we will see you there.