

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments *by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer*

The Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting opened with a warm welcome and a Happy St. Patrick's Day from Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith, followed by a prayer lead by Church of Horseshoe Bay pastor Dr. John Duncan. The meeting moved forward with City Manager Stan Farmer presenting a five-year service award to Vicki Briggs the Human Resources Director for the City of Horseshoe Bay. She graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Human Resources. Her experience includes 30 years in the HR field working in the private sector for Fidelity Investments and Pedernales Electric Co-Op.

Some of the highlights of her career serving our city include leading the City Employee Celebration Committee that serves many local charities such as the Christmas Food Drive, Lion's Club Coats for Kids, Highland Lakes Christmas for Kids and the new Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. She has initiated technology advances from the applicant onboarding process to retirement.

Mayor Clinesmith shared a proclamation of the City of Horseshoe Bay supporting the Mayor's Monarch Pledge as the annual butterfly migration approaches. She shared the commitment our city has made to promoting initiatives that benefit our environment setting it as one of the priority goals in the City's long-range plan. Mayor Clinesmith signed the Pledge and has encouraged our residents to learn more about the value the Monarch's bring to our community as well as to purchase and plant the milkweed seeds to encourage them to keep coming. Residents are being asked to refrain from cutting down milkweed plants between the months of April and July.

The City also proclaimed April as "National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month". A proclamation was presented by Mayor Clinesmith to Llano County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Bebe Rocha, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Marc Bittner, Llano County Game Warden Jake Scott, and Lila Brown with Juvenile Probation. The focus this month is to set aside a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities to promote prevention across our communities. Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Marc Bittner shared statistics highlighting the number of children currently impacted noting that victims of abuse have a high probability of ending up in the juvenile system impacting all of our lives.

Jon Watson of the auditing firm BrooksWatson presented the Audited Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2019. Mayor Clinesmith, Council Member Kent Graham, City Manager Stan Farmer, and Finance Director Margie Cardenas have all reviewed and approved the Audited Financial Report and the findings were presented. Once again, the City's Annual Audited Financial Report, received an unmodified opinion—the highest level of assurance—and is available in the Finance Director's office and on the City's website.

City Manager Stan Farmer, Fire Chief Brent Batla, Police Chief Rocky Wardlow, and Human Resources Director Vicki Briggs all gave an update to the City Council regarding preparedness for issues related to the COVID-19 virus for our City and staff. The City Hall lobby and the Development Services lobby are both closed to public traffic until further notice. Staff is still available to assist by phone and email during normal business hours. Residents are encouraged to check the City of Horseshoe Bay website for ongoing updates at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov. A weekly Mayor's report is being sent to POA Presidents, Ministerial Leaders, and the Business Alliance for dissemination to communities. All recognize that social distancing actions are being implemented at higher levels for precaution, and appreciate all citizens stepping up for a surge to deter spread of the virus...confident that we will prevail and return to quality lifestyle soon.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is April 21, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.