

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer

The Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith with all Council Members present. Because of the changes in Covid 19 requirements, several community residents were able to attend the meeting in person. In addition to limited seating being allowed, members of the public were able to listen to the meeting via telephone. The meeting was recorded and uploaded to the City's website following the conclusion of the meeting. The recording is available on the Agendas and Minutes page on the City's website www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agenda center. After Mayor Clinesmith welcomed everyone, Church of Horseshoe Bay Pastor Malcolm McQueen provided an opening prayer.

Fire Chief Brent Batla introduced Ben Miller and presented a Ten-Year Service Award. Ben began his fire service career as a volunteer for the Marble Falls Area Volunteer Fire Department in 2004. He obtained his fire and EMS certification and began working for the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department in 2010. Ben has completed several advanced certifications, including: Advanced Structural Firefighter; Fire Officer II; Fire Instructor I, and Driver/Operator through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. He also holds an EMT-Basic and a Flood and Swiftwater Rescue Technician I certifications. He currently holds the rank of Captain and is the Officer in Charge of Station 1 on B shift. He is a true asset to the City.

Utility Director Jeffrey Koska presented Ben Bales with a Five Year Service Award. Ben works as the Lead Plant Operator for the City's Plant Operations Division of the Utilities Department and has proven his talent and initiative for ensuring the safe production of water treatment for the City. Previously, Ben worked in the petroleum drilling industry in both land and offshore operations as Driller in a lead position for his crew 9 of 10 years. He is also a Deacon for St. Fredrick's Baptist Church in Marble Falls. His wife and five children joined all in thanking Ben for his five years of dedicated service.

Utility Director Jeff Koska also presented a Five-Year Service Award to Rick Williams, the Field Operations Supervisor for the City's Utility Department. He started as an entry level field operator, however, through his extensive demonstration of technical skills and quality of work, was promoted to Field Foreman then to Supervisor this past December. Rick's past employment included a certified welder and managing partner of an automotive maintenance business. During the time he has been employed by the City, he has provided excellent work, gaining the respect of management, his co-workers, and the public and developing the Field Operations into a more effective and efficient department. His oversight and ideas have provided many new processes for monitoring ongoing progress toward the City and Department's vision.

Police Chief Rocky Wardlow presented the Hill Country 100 Club Meritorious Service Award for the Horseshoe Bay Police Department to Lt. Cole Reasor. Lt. Reasor joined the Department in 2017 and has served as an officer and a patrol sergeant, promoted to Patrol Lieutenant in March. Cole spent 10 years with the Randall County Sheriff Department as a jailer and a patrol deputy. Along with 13 years of law enforcement experience, Cole holds a master peace officer license, instructor license, Field Training Officer certification and has trained numerous officers across the Hill Country as Mental Health Peace Officers. Cole was nominated for this award after taking the initiative to develop a Consumer Information Program, aimed at organizing vital information on citizens who may be suffering from a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease or dementia. This information can be accessed at a moment's notice to provide officers with these crucial factors when facing an emergency situation. Chief Wardlow then also presented the Police Chief's Citation for Professional Accomplishment to

Lieutenant Reasor, only the second member of the Department to receive this award. Chief Wardlow stated that Lieutenant Reasor's outstanding leadership and superior knowledge in the field of Mental Health for Law Enforcement was critical to the development and his work was recognized in the May 2020 issue of Texas Town and City magazine. Moreover, Lieutenant Reasor's meticulous attention to detail, managerial ability, personal initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Horseshoe Bay Police Department.

The Hill Country 100 Club Award Banquet also afforded an opportunity for Police Chief Rocky Wardlow to present the 2019 Police Officer of the Year award to Investigator Don Johnson. Don joined the Department in 2007 and has served as an officer, a Patrol Lieutenant and an Investigator. Besides having dedicated over 12 years to Horseshoe Bay, Don served as a Deputy Sheriff in Young and Archer Counties and as an investigator with the 33rd Judicial District in Llano. Along with his 25+ years of experience, Don holds a master peace officer license and is a certified fraud examiner. Don was selected as our officer of the year due to the many complex financial crimes he has successfully investigated over the past 18 months. Don has also assisted regional law enforcement partners and State investigators by teaching how to successfully investigate financial crimes involving financial building construction theft, ATM and credit card fraud, forgery, and mail theft. Don is a unique asset to the City of HSBay.

Fire Chief Brent Batla presented the Hill Country 100 Club Annual Award for the 2019 Firefighter of the Year to Engineer Thad Martin. Thad was chosen as this year's recipient for his dedication and efforts in providing the community with life-saving skills of CPR, AED use, and First Aid Training. Thad's strong work ethic and desire to serve makes this award well deserved. He also took on a lead role in the construction of the new training facility for firefighters to practice fire remediation tactics. Thad has been with the City of HSBay for 8 years.

In other reports:

Patty Gillean, of Gillean and Associates Realty, provided an update to the Council regarding the status of the real estate market in Horseshoe Bay. She indicated that business continues to be doing well and expects sales activity levels to increase this year. Patty indicated that people have begun to realize that working from home is an option, therefore, they are able to live outside of the large cities and enjoy a better quality of life in a smaller community. She also shared that currently most homes are on the market for about six months prior to sale.

Emergency Management Coordinator Fire Chief Batla presented a COVID-19 update. He indicated that there has been a small uptick in the number of cases in Burnet county with 2 new in Llano county reported as restrictions have been eased – none in the City of Horseshoe Bay. He also stated that testing has been more accessible in the area and that the hospitals stand ready in case they are needed. Chief Batla encouraged everyone to continue to be cautious and follow the health and Governor's guidance.

Two new building ordinances were discussed and passed including amending Temporary and Permanent Occupancy Building Permits. The Council discussed the need to ensure that residents are not occupying or storing items in a building prior to final inspection. Items within the structure prevent a thorough inspection of the property. Additionally, the Council reviewed and passed an ordinance amending The International Pool and Spa Code. A temporary fence must be installed until construction is completed and a new permanent fence put in place immediately after the temporary fence removal.

Mayor Clinesmith provided an update on the issues related to the Horseshoe Bay postal service. She

clarified that the Post Office is under obligation only to provide mail delivery at whatever location a community determines whether that is to pick up at the post office or at a specific mailbox location. At this time, many rent a Post Office box onsite at the Post Office or request a community based kiosk box when available. The post office indicates they do not have a waiting list and citizens should check if interested in kiosks. She indicated primary continuing issues surround the delivery of UPS packages which are often mislabeled by UPS – particularly for those using a rented Post Office Box number for delivery. These citizens must use the Post Office 9740 W. Hwy 2147/with their # pob for UPS deliveries. She is working to resolve these challenges, hopefully at District levels with both the postal service and UPS this summer. In the interim, please notify the post office of any/all delivery concerns.

The Council discussed potential opportunities for the July 4th Celebration. Mayor Clinesmith reminded everyone that there would continue to be an annual fireworks display presented by the Horseshoe Bay Resort in partnership with the City and POAs. The suggested RAISE (your flag) and SHINE (your pride) 4th of July activities will be redistributed by Mayor Clinesmith – with hopes that neighbors will add their own ideas to celebrate with family and friends.

As July approaches please remember to be safe as you share time with your friends and family celebrating whether you are at home, on the water, or traveling. Also, mark your calendar for the next City Council Meeting on July 21. In the meantime, Happy Fourth of July!!!