

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer

The July 21, 2020 City Council meeting was closed to in-person attendance by the public. A temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow cities to hold public meetings via telephone has been granted by Governor Abbott. Residents were able to join the meeting via telephone by dialing in using the information provided at the top of the agenda posted on the City of Horseshoe Bay website. The meeting was recorded and is available on the City's website – Government/Agendas & Minutes page.

Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith opened the meeting by welcoming the City Council, Staff, and the individuals joining the meeting via telephone. After welcoming everyone, she asked for a few moments of silent prayer for guidance as decisions were being made for our city followed by national and state pledges.

Fire Chief Brent Batla provided a brief update on the **COVID 19 statistics**. He indicated that as of July 20, Llano county reported 113 total cases so far (6 hospitalized; 2 deaths) with 71 still considered active. There have been 13 cases in Horseshoe Bay that are considered "recovered" and an additional 29 that are "active". He stated that we do not have data for the Horseshoe Bay Burnet County area.

City Secretary Kerri Craig provided information regarding **the General Election for Horseshoe Bay City Council** to be held on November 3, 2020. For questions about voting by mail, or topics related to how COVID -19 may impact voters, citizens must contact the Elections Administrator in their respective county (see Llano or Burnet County websites). Three Council Member positions (currently held by Kent Graham, Jerry Gray, and Elaine Waddill) are up for election. Interested candidates may file for a place on the ballot beginning July 20th through August 17th at 5:00 p.m. Applications can be found on the City's website or from the City Secretary's office at City Hall (1 Community Drive, Horseshoe Bay, Texas 78657). **As of today, one packet has been picked up by filing by Elsie Thurman.** Councilmembers Kent Graham and Elaine Waddill plan to file for re-election.

Utilities Director Jeff Koska provided an update to the Water Conservations and Drought Contingency Plans. The new plan includes new goals to address best practices in water management and conservation. He shared information **about the upcoming Water Smart Program** that will be implemented in the fall. Additional information on the City website as it becomes available and will also provide details for citizen training workshops on use in an article for the Beacon.

Director of Development Services Eric Winter and Development Service Technician **Christina Reinhardt** presented an amended Ordinance to the Council for approval regarding Contractors and Sub-Contractors working in Horseshoe Bay. The approved Ordinance requires insurance/bonding of both and institutes a process for identifying any sub-contractor who repeatedly (maximum 3 times) has performance challenges in the work in Horseshoe Bay. This will ultimately trigger an inability to receive a permit to work in HSBay. This ordinance will better serve the customers and homeowners.

The Council discussed the potential adjustment of the Tax Rate for the coming year. The **proposed maximum tax rate is \$0.28 per \$100 of valuation. The actual tax rate is expected to be lower** than this maximum and will be determined at a later date after final data on sales tax and county appraisals is received.

The meeting closed with good news presentations. **Director of Utilities Jeff Koska** shared a video of the updates to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He indicated that work is moving quickly and is projected to be completed as early next year. He apologized for the temporary challenges in odor as the thirty year pond is cleaned, relined, and set for the next thirty years of service. Then **Fire Chief Brent Batla** noted that the Fire Department had a surprise visit from the Texas Commission for Fire Inspection with a full inspection of safety procedures, air packs and air supply, fire gear and all records for documentation...and proudly boasted they made a rare 100% score! **Congratulations to our Utility Department and Fire Department on jobs well done!!!**

Stay safe and stay well. Our next City Council meeting will be August 25, at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. We will look forward and hope to have everyone back inside the building together at that time.