

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer

The September meeting of the Horseshoe Bay City Council was conducted via ZOOM. Members of the public were able to participate by following the information provided on the city website to join the meeting.

Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council, staff, and those who joined the meeting via ZOOM. Pastor Lanny Tanton, of The Bible Church of the Lakes, provided the invocation and everyone was invited to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, as well as, the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Horseshoe Bay joins with other communities in the Hill Country area to proclaim October 2020, as “Hill Country Night Sky Month”. Mayor Clinesmith stated that the preservation of night skies is important and worthy of a month-long celebration. As we enjoy the beautiful cooler evenings on the horizon, be sure to look up and remember the gift of our beautiful skies.

Brent Batla, Fire Chief, presented Josh Wimberley with a 15-year Service Award. Josh started with the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department a few months prior to Horseshoe Bay becoming a city. He navigated through a great deal of change throughout his time here with the Lake LBJ MUD and City of Horseshoe Bay. Josh was previously employed with the Burnet Fire Department and with Travis County ESD 1.

Josh was promoted through the ranks of the department and now is the Captain for our C-Shift. He is a dedicated and loyal employee who always has the best interest for his subordinates and the City. Captain Wimberley holds TFCP Advanced Structure Firefighter, Fire Officer I, and Instructor I certifications. All Horseshoe Bay Fire Department members must be dual certified, Captain Wimberley holds TDSHS EMT-B certification as well. He has completed several courses over his 15 years of service in Horseshoe Bay such as Flood and Swiftwater Technician Rescue I, Officer Development Trainings, several Rescue Specialist Courses that include confined space, high angle, and specialized vehicle extrication courses. Captain Wimberley has been a great asset to the City of Horseshoe Bay and the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department. It has been a joy and pleasure to watch him grow and develop his skillsets and attributes and now is able to see him pass those on and develop younger firefighters.

Kerri Craig, City Secretary, announced that applications are being accepted for City Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Committees for appointments to be made in December 2020. Information will be provided in the Horseshoe Bay Beacon and on the City’s Website. The applications to serve are available on the City’s Website and from Kerri Craig at City Hall. Applications must be submitted to the City Secretary no later than 5:00 p.m. November 2, 2020.

A Public Hearing was held regarding approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Dog Park and Community Garden in Tuscan Village. Two individuals spoke in favor of allowing the development of each project. They underscored that they represent a life style of shared amenities that presents low impact and are private amenities for use of Tuscan Village residents. After discussion the City Council approved the Ordinance. A request was made to amend an additional Ordinance to allow Tuscan Village to move forward with the project.

A Public Hearing was also held on the Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for the City of Horseshoe Bay. There were no individuals who requested an opportunity to speak, therefore, the Hearing was closed. The City Council discussed the issues and conducted a roll call vote. When surveyed, each Council member voted to adopt the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021.

The City Council was presented with a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan during the July 20 and August 25 Budget Workshops. The draft for the 2021-2025 year included Capital Projects for the General Fund, Utility Fund, and Capital Project Fund. The document was presented as a planning document that does not bind future Councils to projects or timelines. The Council approved the Plan.

The City Council adopted a property tax rate of \$0.27 per one hundred dollars of valuation. This is the same tax rate as the current year fiscal/budget year FY20. So, no property tax rate increase for FY21!

The Council discussed and amended the established charges and fees for water service, sewer service, water meters, sewer connections and other items associated with the rate schedule of the City. A nine percent increase for the new fiscal year will be initiated for water and sewer rates, and a three percent increase for the garbage pickup rate, all to continue to replenish the reserve fund balance by 2024. New rates begin in October and will be posted on the November bills.

The Council reviewed a plan for updating the Llano County Hazard Mitigation Plan to include the City's Water Intake Infrastructure Project.

An ordinance was proposed that would amend the number of Building Permits a builder is allowed for speculative home construction in Summit Rock. The proposal was to increase the number to five active permits. Discussion was held and a decision was made to take no action at this time.

Mark your calendar for our next City Council meeting on October 6, 2020. Enjoy the cooler temperatures as we look forward to another colorful fall season.