

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer

A temporary suspension of certain aspects of the Open Meetings Act because of Covid-19, allowed the Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting to be held remotely via ZOOM. Individuals within the community were able to participate by following instructions posted on the city website. The meeting was also recorded and will be uploaded to the Agendas & Minutes page of the City's website: www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter.

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Gray. After welcoming everyone, the invocation was given by Reverend Dr. Malcolm McQueen from the Church at Horseshoe Bay, followed by the Pledges of Allegiance to America and Texas.

City Secretary Kerri Craig provided an update and reminder that the city is currently accepting applications to serve on City Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Committees. Appointments will be made in December 2020. Applications may be obtained at City Hall or from the "Boards, Committees & Commissions" page on the City's website. The final date for submitting an application to the City Secretary (via email to krcraig@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov) is November 2, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem, Jerry Gray opened the floor for public comment. There were no responses to speak before the Council, therefore the public comment opportunity was closed.

Patty Gillean, of Gillean and Associates Realty, provided an update to the Council regarding issues related to real estate sales in Horseshoe Bay. Patty reported that sales are brisk at this time creating a low inventory of properties on the market and multiple offer situations. She indicated that the median price of \$431,000 is up 3.6 per cent. Patty stated that many buyers are individuals leaving larger cities in Texas, but others are moving from out-of-state to purchase homes in Horseshoe Bay. She indicated that lower interest rates have also stimulated the market. Many of the individuals buying in the area are drawn to the slower life style, convenience of two cities nearby, and the comfort level of having a hospital close to the community. While the largest group of buyers are in the 50+ age group, there are a few in the younger group who want to work from home. Patty stated that we have a Hot Market with no prediction for change.

The Council discussed the upcoming sale of Certificates of Obligations to fund upcoming capital project street improvements for the next two years. No action was taken.

A local contractor requested a 3rd Re-permit for a property under construction. Multiple extensions have been provided, as well as, two thirty-day Covid-19 extensions. No work has been done at the site since the end of the last Covid-19 extension because the contractor is waiting for delivery of materials from California. The Council discussed the issues related to availability of working materials and voted to allow for an additional ninety days for completion of the property for a substantial sum.

As November approaches we look forward to cooler days and perhaps even a few chilly evenings. While enjoying sweater weather arrival, let's not forget to vote and help any of our neighbors in need to access voting by offering them a ride to vote. We look forward to cooler weather, the holidays, and hearing from you at our November 17, 2020 City Council meeting.