

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

The City of Horseshoe Bay regular City Council Meeting was held Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was made available via ZOOM. Community members were able to participate remotely and the meeting minutes will be uploaded to the Agendas & Minutes page of the City's website: [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter).

Following the invocation by Reverend Dr. Malcolm McQueen and the pledges, the first order of business was the swearing-in and issuance of Certificates of Election to the newly elected Council Members. The two returning Council Members, Kent Graham and Elaine Waddill were joined by the newly elected Elsie Thurman. Once sworn in, they joined the rest of the Council and Mayor Clinesmith in recognizing and celebrating Jerry Gray for his years of service to the Horseshoe Bay community as a Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem. Former Mayors Bob Lambert and Steve Jordan, in addition to several former Council Members (Craig and Claudia Haydon, Michele Shackelford, and David Pope) spoke sharing gratitude for Jerry's six years of service, as well as, a few behind the scenes laughable moments with Jerry.

As the newly elected Council is formed, it is necessary to make several new appointments. Mayor Clinesmith appointed Kent Graham to serve as the new Mayor Pro Tem, Elaine Waddill will continue as the Public Information Officer, and the Public Funds for Public Purposes Council Subcommittee will include Elsie Thurman and Kent Graham.

Police Chief Rocky Wardlow presented a service award commemorating Assistant Chief Jason Graham on his 20 years of service to the City of Horseshoe Bay. Assistant Chief Graham joined the Department in October 2000 after graduating from the Police Academy. He has dedicated himself to the City by working his way up and serving as a police officer, police sergeant, criminal investigator, captain and in 2018, he was selected to serve as Assistant Chief. Jason received the Trilogy Award in 2018 from the (FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association).

Utilities Director Jeff Koska presented Aaron Watson with a 5-year service award. Aaron is a certified Water Distribution C and Wastewater Collections Operator II for the Field Operations Division of the Utilities Department. He was hired as an entry level Field Operator; however, through his demonstration of technical abilities and diverse knowledge of city utility operations, he now serves as a pump and motor technician with a focus on the grinder rebuild program which saves the city approximately \$400 per grinder he rebuilds - over 300 per year resulting in approximately \$120,000 annually. Aaron is an exceptional employee, a leader, and an outstanding example of the type of excellent City employees who support this community.

Stan R. Farmer, City Manager, introduced Sally McFeron, the new Development Services Director, replacing Eric Winter upon his retirement at the end of November. She indicated that during her short time in Horseshoe Bay she has enjoyed the hospitality of the community and fully supports the philosophy of the city.

Ms. Carrie Pickering, Attorney at Law, working on behalf of Llano County, presented the City a check for \$3,576.89. The monies are the City's portion of collected delinquent taxes.

Appointments for the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees will be made at the December 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Individuals who have completed the application to serve are given an opportunity to speak before Council to share their interest in serving. Two residents of the community spoke regarding their interest in being appointed.

Finance Director, Margie Cardenas, reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter financial report and statistics showing where each Department stood in use of allocated funds during the final quarter ending in September. Additional financial information may be found on the City's website.

Development Services Director, Eric Winter, provided the Council with several requests received during this past month. The Council denied a request to renew an extension to allow a builder up to five speculative homes at one time; final approval was given for a home that exceeds 10,000 square feet in Lago Escondido; and the City Attorney/Prosecutor was directed to initiate a petition in Municipal Court regarding a Substandard Building. Additionally, an Ordinance was passed to align with architectural control standards regarding garages and driveways permitted in Lago Escondido.

Utilities Director Koska provided a brief presentation highlighting the wastewater treatment process. He indicated that the city has eight lift stations throughout the city to collect wastewater. Each area is maintained, serviced, and updated on a scheduled plan developed by the city. Periodically the stations are replaced based on their age and condition. Funds are allocated annually for repair and replacement of the various locations. Maintenance and chemical treatment of the stations is an ongoing process completed by the city. As the city continues to grow, additional stations will be added and the smaller stations will be enlarged based on need.

Looking to the future, Mayor Clinesmith provided an update on support to develop opportunities for skilled workers in the Highland Lakes area. Additionally, she shared that Llano County is working with Dr. Franklin to provide COVID-19 Rapid Testing in the community. The tests would be free of cost and require a reservation. Additional information will be given as it becomes available. Council Member Hosea updated the Council regarding internet services for our community. He is continuing to work with the various groups involved and expects to have a very positive resolve soon.

As the holiday season starts please remember to follow safety protocols while enjoying time and wonderful events with your family and friends. Stay safe, cherish family time during Thanksgiving and mark your calendar for the December 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and the December 10<sup>th</sup> Horseshoe Bay Christmas Tree Lighting.