

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill, Public Information Officer

The City of Horseshoe Bay regular City Council meeting was held Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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 and recording will be uploaded to the Agendas & Minutes page of the City's website: www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith. Invocation was given by Father Ruben Patino, C.S.P. of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, followed by pledges to the American flag and State of Texas flag.

A proclamation of the City of Horseshoe Bay Declaring a Local State of Disaster was presented today by Mayor Clinesmith. The purpose of the Declaration is to expedite the process of recovery for the City of Horseshoe Bay, as well as Llano County. It states that an Emergency Management Plan has been implemented and that this state of disaster shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Clinesmith also presented the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. She discussed the City's commitment to protect our environment. Part of that effort includes our participation in a national endeavor by the National Wildlife Federation to preserve the Monarch butterfly. The population has suffered a sharp decline in numbers during the last 25 years. The City joined the pledge four years ago under the guidance of previous Mayor Steve Jordan. One of the requirements of continued participation is that we renew the pledge annually. By taking the pledge we promise to take part in activities which will promote the Monarch's survival. These activities include education of residents, milkweed, and nectar plant seed giveaways, altered mowing schedules to protect breeding habitats, and the promotion of Monarch-friendly gardens being planted in our City. Mayor Clinesmith encouraged City residents to support the efforts being made by the City and to initiate ways to incorporate Monarch friendly efforts on their individual properties.

Police Chief Rocky Wardlow presented a Preservation of Life Award to Lieutenant Cole Reasor. On 12/1/2020 Lt. Reasor was off duty and shopping at the HEB in Marble Falls. As he exited the store, he saw a woman on the ground surrounded by several people. He assessed the collapsed woman and found no pulse and she was not breathing. Lt. Reasor immediately began CPR efforts and continued the process until relieved by responding Fire and EMS Personnel. It was later determined the victim had suffered a major heart attack. Thanks to Lt. Reasor, the victim survived this critical event. Lt. Reasor's actions on that day reflect commitment, dedication, and compassion which are in keeping with the highest standards of the City of Horseshoe Bay Police Department. The Preservation of Life Award is the third highest award that can be presented and is given to honor a member whose actions resulted in the preservation of a human life.

Police Chief Wardlow also presented Officer Jeramy Gristy the Police Chief's Citation for his professional accomplishment while serving as a Patrol Officer for the City of Horseshoe Bay Police Department. Officer Gristy's superior knowledge in the field of computer programming for Law Enforcement has been critical to the development of the department's Racial Profiling Report over the past several years. His efforts resulted in the department being recognized by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) as a model agency for the proper reporting of racial profiling statistical data. As the department's program coordinator for racial profiling statistics, Officer Gristy's meticulous attention to detail helped ensure the collection of critical data was done in the most accurate, efficient, and comprehensible manner. His report for 2020 is being used as a model for all police agencies in Texas to follow. In addition, our report will be posted on the Agency web page as an example of what TCOLE and the Texas Legislature expected from the 2,959 law enforcement agencies across Texas. The Chief's Citation Award that Officer Gristy is

receiving is the fourth highest award that can be presented to a member of the department. It denotes exemplary service to the department and made a significant contribution to the profession.

Utility Director Jeff Koska presented Dane Bybee, Plant Operations Supervisor for the City's Utility Department, with a 5 Year Service Award. Dane started with HSB as a Field Operations Supervisor, however because of his extensive plant operational experience he was transferred to Plant Operations Supervisor in 2019. Since Dane joined plant operations, the employee morale has improved. His positive leadership has driven enhancements in quality and dependability of the water, wastewater, and recycling facilities. Dane has over 36 years of utilities experience with five Texas cities. He holds an "A" Water License, a Class II Wastewater Collection License, a Backflow Assembly Testers License, and a Customer Service Inspector License under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Dane has been an active member of Texas Water Utilities Association (past regional chapter chair), the American Water Works Association, and the American Backflow Prevention Association. He also serves as the Chair of the departmental Utilities Customer Service Committee and is working to improve our customer's service experience, education, feedback opportunities, and access to information related to Utilities products and services. He continues to improve our utilities operations and is proud of his team of operators. He has helped achieve a culture of engagement, teamwork, stewardship, and excellence for our community.

During a recent City Council meeting a decision was made to review the existing Code of Ordinances for the City of Horseshoe Bay. Each department has started the process of review and the first set was provided to the Council at this meeting. Amendments to adjust or eliminate were made in multiple departments. The Council reviewed each Ordinance and approved changes or approved the decision to eliminate it. As the changes are made, the new Ordinances will be inserted and posted on the City of Horseshoe Bay website. The complexity of the process will extend over a period of time and each group of Ordinances will be presented to the Council for consideration and inserted into the appropriate place.

Utility Director Jeff Koska presented information on the safety and security of our water systems. At this time our current systems are continuously assessed and monitored to ensure their safety. This process provides ongoing information to allow changes as needed and the development of Emergency Response plans. The completion target date of the plan is this summer. At this time, we have a continuous monitoring system that shuts the system down if anything is identified as a threat.

IT Administrator Jules Martin and GIS Administrator Troy Meyers provided an update on the transition and upgrade of the Enterprise Software Solution. Currently, the process is almost complete. The transition has been a big job but is going well and the City staff is looking forward to completion.

Mayor Clinesmith reminded everyone to be aware of our ongoing Oak Wilt issues. Information will be posted through the Civic Ready Blast regarding processes for taking care of damaged trees during the recent snowstorm. When removing a limb be sure to paint and seal the area immediately where the damage occurred.

As February draws to an end, there is much for which to be thankful. Our wonderful Horseshoe Bay family weathered a severe winter storm and all the while continued to take care of one another. The spirit of our community is strong as we rebound to enjoy the wonderful Blue Bonnets that will soon be popping up to remind us of the better sunny days ahead. Take care of yourself and others around you but don't forget to mark your calendar for our next City Council meeting March 16, 2021.