

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

by Council Member Elaine Waddill

The Horseshoe Bay Regular City Council Meeting was held Tuesday June 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith welcomed those in attendance and invocation was given by Reverend Dr. John Duncan from the Church at Horseshoe Bay. Those in attendance stood to recite the pledges to the American Flag and the State of Texas Flag.

Lew Cohn, reporter for the Highlander shared that the newspaper recently won five awards for excellence. They were recognized and won second place in column writing and photography. Congratulations and job well done by Lew and the Highlander!

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Horseshoe Bay, a group of residents have researched, written, and now published a book detailing the history and heritage of Horseshoe Bay. "The Story of Horseshoe Bay Texas" captures the many stories of the earliest residents as they built a small community into the wonderful city we enjoy today. Many individuals within the community wrote stories and contributed important information about our growth. Jim Jorden gathered and formatted the stories into a book.

Special thanks to Mrs. Eileen Hurd for her generosity in sharing wonderful stories about the founding of our city. The City Council presented awards to Jim Jorden and Linda Lambert for the committee's contributions of time and sharing of knowledge in writing and publishing the book. We offer special thanks to the twenty-eight individuals who contributed information to the book. One thousand copies of the book have been printed and are available for sale. Copies of the book will be for sale at the July 4th Independence Day Celebration at Quail Point.

Patty Gillean, of Gillean and Associates Realty, presented the Council with an excellent and detailed report of the Real Estate Market in Horseshoe Bay. Currently, sales are brisk and inventory is low for homes, townhomes, and condominiums. Lot sales are also brisk. At this time, fifty-seven homes are listed for sale in Horseshoe Bay and thirteen of them are under contract. The median home price has continued to climb during this past quarter. New construction sold thus far in 2021 is averaging \$321 per sq. ft. with current new construction priced at \$390 per sq. ft. Patty indicated that median sales prices are up 34% from last year.

The City of Horseshoe Bay's 4th of July Independence Day celebration is expected to be one of the best yet! As the community celebrates Independence Day, we are also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Horseshoe Bay. The fun will start with a 9:30 a.m. land parade and continue with a boat parade and a dog parade. The activities will continue at Quail Point featuring a patriotic program, children's activities, and plenty of food. It will be a fun event for the entire family to share and celebrate Independence Day. Full details of the event will be printed in the Beacon soon. Mark your calendar and join in the fun with your Horseshoe Bay family.

A public hearing was conducted regarding a request to rezone 27.35 acres from C-2 General Commercial to R-6 Apartments, Townhouses, and Cottages, and specifically prohibiting Apartments. The property is in the 11000 block of FM 2147 about 0.5 mile from the intersection with HWY 71. A 1.5-acre tract at the corner of FM 2147 and Mitchell Creek Drive is to remain C-2. A 2.67 tract which includes the existing house on the Stonehouse tract is to remain C-2. The requested R-6 Zoning Classification is a flexible residential zoning that allows for single family and duplex use as well as townhouse, cottage, and apartments. Proposed Ordinance restriction is to prohibit apartments. Rick Town, owner and developer, spoke to the Council in regard to the issues of density and quality of the development. He assured the Council that the development will blend and represent the quality expected in Horseshoe Bay. After a public hearing at their regular meeting on June 1, 2021, the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended unanimously to approve the zoning change with the condition that Apartment use be prohibited. Based on the information provided by Mr. Town, and unanimous approval of the HSB Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council passed the Ordinance.

As of the January 16, 2018 City Council meeting, a City Council Subcommittee was created via Resolution 2018-15, that is responsible for reviewing funding requests received by the City and making recommendations to City Council to approve

or deny each request received. Council Member Kent Graham was a current member of the Public Funds for Public Purposes Subcommittee. Due to his resignation, the Council voted to appoint Jerry Gray as the new member representative.

Finance Director Margie Cardenas requested approval of budget amendments in the General Fund, Utility Fund and Capital Projects Fund. This year each fund was reviewed by the Department Head, the Finance Director, and the City Manager at the 6-month mark. The amendments are necessary to reflect the actual activity that has occurred in each department. Circumstances and needs change after the approval of the budget that require monies to be adjusted to meet existing needs. Director Cardenas provided full details and asked that Council approve the Ordinance. The amendments will influence the ending balance for each fund in the following manner: The General Fund will have an increase on ending balance by \$98,500. The Utility Fund will have a decrease on ending balance by \$269,500. The Capital Projects Fund will not have any effect on ending balance. The Council discussed and passed the Ordinance.

Development Services Director Sally McFeron presented a request for a 3rd Re-permit for a construction project on Lighthouse Drive. The current owners appeared before the Council to explain the need for the additional extensions. The Council discussed the need for the additional extension and voted to grant the request.

In February 2021, the City Council reviewed and approved amendments to the City of Horseshoe Bay Sign Ordinance. These amendments were in response to a City Council initiative to review and update local ordinances to reflect changes in state/federal laws, text corrections, and language clarifications. The adjustments to Article 3.06 Signs, have been completed, reviewed by the City Attorney and City Secretary, and were presented for Council approval. After discussion and review, the City Council approved the new Sign Ordinance. The new Ordinance will be incorporated into the Code of Ordinances available on the City's website.

City Manager Stan R. Farmer presented information on the City partnering with Scenic Texas supporting an initiative of one million trees to be given free across the State of Texas. Additional information will be coming soon explaining how the program works.

City Manager Farmer also updated the Council on new dates set to continue the Citizens' Academy program sponsored by the City of Horseshoe Bay. He will present a one-session presentation for Citizens' Academy Alumni on September 29, 2021. The one-day program will consist of updates on current projects and changes that have occurred recently. Additionally, the multi-week Citizens' Academy Program will start again in October 2021. Information will be posted on the City's website when final dates and times are determined.

A Texas Legislative Session update was also given by City Manager Farmer. He discussed Senate Bill 1090 that relates specifically to the regulations regarding exterior building materials. This Bill reinstates the original guidelines governing the type of materials that can be used for home construction in Horseshoe Bay. He also discussed House Bill 1869 that relates to debt financing of critical infrastructure. House Bill 5 was also passed relating specifically to Broadband Development. It will increase more funding for many rural areas. The monies awarded will be given to private entities who are providers.

Additionally, City Manager Farmer discussed the American Rescue Plan Act Update. This program provides stimulus monies to cities. Horseshoe Bay qualifies for grant funds that do not require matching funds. The monies are Federal funds that are requested by each individual State and distributed to the individual cities. Additional information is not available at this time regarding timelines for distribution. As information becomes available the city will share.

As we begin our journey into summer, we have much for which to be grateful. Take time to enjoy your friends and neighbors as we are able to come together and celebrate life in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. Our next City Council meeting will be July 20, 2021 so mark your calendar. Be sure to join our July 4th Independence Day Celebration of the many freedoms we enjoy in our great country. Oh! And by the way, I heard that George Washington is going to join us for our Independence Day Celebration...feel free to bring your questions for him.