

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments *by Council Member Elaine Waddill*

The Horseshoe Bay City Council met Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Dr. John Duncan opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the pledges to the flags.

City Secretary, Kerri Craig, provided information about the upcoming Election to be held on November 2, 2021. For questions about voting by mail, citizens must contact the Elections Administrator in their respective county. See elections: <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/429/Election-Information>. The position of Mayor (currently held by Cynthia Clinesmith) and two Council Member positions (currently held by Frank Hosea and Randy Rives) are up for election. All three are filing for another term of service. Other interested candidates may file for a place on the ballot from July 19th to August 16th at 5:00 p.m. Applications may be found on the City's website or from the City Secretary's office at City Hall (1 Community Drive, Horseshoe Bay, Texas 78657).

The last day citizens may register to vote in the November 2, 2021 election is October 4th. You can register to vote (or check your current registration status or precinct) on the Texas Secretary of State's website: www.votetexas.gov or by visiting your respective County Elections Administrator offices. Call 512-463-5650 or email elections@sos.texas.gov with questions

Gerrad Cranfill, one of the newest Horseshoe Bay utilities employees, was introduced by Utilities Director Jeff Koska. Gerrad serves in Plant Operations as a Maintenance Operator. On June 15, 2021, Gerrad was returning from a work task to the Central Water Treatment Plant when he came upon a car accident in which a young lady had dropped her phone and reached to the floorboard to retrieve it, drifted to the right and then over corrected. At that point, she crossed over the line into oncoming traffic, flipped off of FM 2147 and landed in the lake. Gerrad jumped out of his vehicle and into the lake, broke out the damaged sun roof and assisted the young lady out of the car floating in the water. He carried her to the bank where she was soon checked by EMS and found to be okay. Gerrad returned to the water to pull the vehicle to the edge of the bank of the lake and assisted in securing it to a tree to prevent it from sinking further into the lake. His actions were heroic and selfless. We are grateful, proud and blessed to have such a dedicated and caring member of our Horseshoe Bay staff.

Mike Thuss, President of the Horseshoe Bay Property Owners Association (HSB POA), thanked Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith and the City Council for working to support the general information sessions provided for the various communities in Horseshoe Bay and participation and service in the Independence Day celebration.

Jim Jorden, contributor and Administrative Coordinator of the new book "The Story of Horseshoe Bay, Texas 1971-2021", provided an update to the council on the sales of the new book. Jim indicated that at this time 450 copies of the books have been sold and several complimentary copies of the book have been given to various individuals in the community. The new book provides a wonderful addition to the historical information about our community and is an excellent item to add to your gift list.

Mayor Clinesmith discussed the process of setting a tax rate for the coming year. The current tax rate is \$0.27000 per \$100 taxable valuation. As home values have gone up, at this time, we are not anticipating the tax rate to go up for the coming year.

Once approved, the proposed tax rate may be decreased but may not be increased prior to the tax rate adoption in September. Therefore, Council approved an interim maximum tax rate of \$0.28261 that would be considered for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This is cautionary until the final appraisals are received from Llano Central Appraisal District. The actual final rate (expected to be 0.27 – the same as this year) will be set in September.

City Manager Stan Farmer and Police Chief Rocky Wardlow met with residents living on Air Park to help address local traffic concerns about cross traffic of planes and cars. Because Air Park parallels the runway and is a designated taxi-way for local aircraft, both vehicles and aircraft traverse this street. A proposal for a gate on Stall Out, to eliminate through traffic, and additional signage was recommended. After careful review and consideration, the City Council voted to approve the requests.

Mayor Clinesmith requested that the City Council move an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and vote. The item was seeking approval for a Special Election to be held on November 2, 2021. Voting yes on the two propositions will allow the city to continue to collect sales tax for street maintenance, and collect an additional 0.25% in sales tax for general revenue. Surrounding communities already have this additional sales tax in place which allows funds from those visiting the resort/hotel and/or shopping in our community (using our roads/police/fire) to contribute to the costs of services. This additional 0.25% will equal about \$200K in funding each year. The City Council voted to have the Special Election in November.

Council Member Randy Rives, city representative for Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), presented an update on area transportation and economic development. He indicated that the Llano County steering committee is working to identify and communicate specific needs for this area. One of the significant concerns is moving traffic through the Horseshoe Bay area. Growth and development on Highway 281 and Highway 71 are of particular concern to residents. Council Member Rives will publicize when local meetings are set within a couple of weeks for community engagement and input.

July has been a wonderful return of many of the traditions and social opportunities that have been missing because of health issues within our community and nation. It has been a welcome sight to watch families and friends enjoy time together. Enjoy every opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Mark your calendar and join your city family for our next City Council meeting on August 24 at 3pm.