

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

By Council Member Elaine Waddill

The Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was held Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation was given by Reverend Dr. John Duncan, from the Church at Horseshoe Bay, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the State of Texas flag.

Mayor Clinesmith presented a Proclamation Declaring the week of March 13th – 19th as “Sunshine Week” in Horseshoe Bay. Each year the third week of March is celebrated to promote transparency and open government in America. It was launched in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors---now News Leaders Association—and has grown into an enduring initiative to promote open government. The proclamation serves as notice to the public that the City of Horseshoe Bay will work diligently to continue to enhance the public’s access to government records and information, be diligent to ensure local government activities are transparent to all stakeholders, and to regularly communicate with citizens to keep them engaged and informed. Horseshoe Bay strives to go above and beyond for transparency, open government, and open communication by publishing the City Council regular meeting agendas in the local newspaper a week prior to the meeting to inform citizens of city business; publishing Council Comments in the local newspaper after every regular City Council meeting to inform citizens of action taken by Council; Mayor Clinesmith publishes a monthly community message regarding current city activities; and multiple volunteer opportunities on Boards, Commissions, and Committees encourage citizen involvement in government activities and decisions. Multiple other opportunities and actions are part of the ongoing attempts to inform and encourage residents to be actively involved in community governance.

Utilities Director Rick Williams presented Robert Isaac, the Utilities Department Warehouse Technician, with the “Locals Love Us” Picayune Award. Robert received this award because of his dedication to our community and hard work. Robert has been with the City for five years and within the last year he has also earned the “Employee of the Year” award presented by the Utilities Department. As an active member of his church, he oversees the student ministry. Robert is also a firearms enthusiast and an avid musician. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and refurbishing old vehicles. Robert and his wife Tara are actively engaged with their three children Drew, Trinity, and Jamison. Congratulations to Robert and his wonderful family.

During the Public Comment portion of the Council meeting, several residents expressed concerns regarding issues within our community. The issues raised related to environmental concerns, construction rates, and safety for walkers and cyclists on Golden Nugget. One Horseshoe Bay resident, spoke to the Council regarding the challenge of balancing growth and resources, as well as, the awareness of the need for everyone involved to help protect our resources. He shared that trees add value to homes and save money on air conditioning and heating expenses. He also expressed concern regarding drainage and erosion issues. In closing he recommended expanding communication related to the issues and congratulated Horseshoe Bay for being good stewards of nature and encouraged continued commitment of attention to the issue. Mayor Clinesmith thanked the speaker for sharing concerns and provided information regarding the many measures that are being taken by the City to address those concerns. She stated that ordinances are in place and are being monitored daily.

Additionally, a concern was expressed about the rate of growth and new construction within our community. The individual indicated concern that many builders travel great distance because they see a “cash cow”. He also indicated that not all the builders are good and asked if we can do something about slowing down or controlling the number of permits given each year. Mayor Clinesmith discussed the issues involved in finding a balance. We have ordinances in place to control quality and are monitoring daily to ensure that those requirements are met.

The final Public Comment addressed a concern for safety for those living on Golden Nugget. There is an increase in traffic related to use of the new park. The individual indicated that many individuals are exceeding the speed limit as they pass. The increase in speed has created an unsafe situation for those walking, cycling, or driving a golf cart to the park. She requested more help in monitoring the area. Additionally, she indicated that the two speed limit signs are not large enough to be seen. She recommended adding speed bumps, larger speed limit signs, and ticketing every individual who speeds in that area.

Donald Beeman, Horseshoe Bay POA Director, reminded everyone about the annual POA meeting this coming Saturday at Quail Point. He indicated that several issues of interest and importance will be discussed at the meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend and support their POA.

A Public Hearing and discussion were held concerning a recommendation to the City Council regarding text amendments to Article 14.02 Zoning Ordinance. In 2019 the Texas legislature passed H.B. 2439 creating a new chapter of the Government Code restricting a city's ability to adopt rules limiting the use of building materials in construction. The City Council approved Ordinance 2020-1, to reflect the legislative changes in the law. In 2021, the Texas legislature passed S.B. 1090 expanding the exceptions related to Dark Skies Communities and carving out a few new exceptions to the restrictions on city regulation of building materials. This ordinance moves the foundation covering restrictions into the zoning code. The following is the zoning code proposed: Covering the exposed concrete foundation on a new residence. Every new residence constructed commencing with the date of approval of this section is required to only have a maximum of twelve (12) inches of height of exposed concrete foundation above the level of the ground. Any residence that exceeds this amount will be required to cover the concrete with the same material shown covering it on the building permit plans. After careful discussion and consideration, the Council passed the Ordinance.

Development Services Director Sally McFeron presented a request for approval from the Horseshoe Bay Resort for the Conditional Use Permit to construct two Sand Volleyball Courts on Lot No. 15050-A in Zone 4A Horseshoe Bay Proper. The Conditional Use Permit will expire in 24 months and will require renewal at that time. The Council discussed the issue and voted to pass it.

Finance Director Margie Cardenas presented a request to Council to approve budget amendments in the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund. In General Fund, the departments of Fire, Police and Development Services are requesting amendments to their personnel line items to increase salaries for staff members to help with recruitment and retention. The item was discussed in executive session in February with the respective department heads. The Capital Projects Fund is amending the Internet project line item by \$150,000 for completion of Phase I of the project. The funds are being transferred from General Fund. Each fund has the details of each amendment and are listed as: Exhibit A- General Fund and Exhibit B-Capital Projects Fund in the ordinance. The amendments will have an effect on the ending balance for each fund in the following manner: The General Fund will have a decrease on ending balance by \$252,750. The Capital Projects Fund will not have any effect on ending balance. The Council asked questions for clarity and discussed the issue prior to passing it.

City Manager Jeff Koska provided an update on the City Center. He indicated that time had been spent carefully evaluating the drawings to ensure that the needs of the city are met. At this time, he has requested budget estimates on the drawings and will share information as it becomes available.

Human Resources Director Vicki Briggs indicated that the City solicited proposals from qualified consulting firms with experience in the management of a compensation/salary survey. The purpose of the contract is to obtain a consultant to assist the City in reviewing our current compensation system, analyze the current jobs performed by employees and determine the correct market pay for each position. The expectation is that the consultant will make recommendations for improvement to the existing system or implementation of

compensation systems along with adjustments to pay that may be recommended. After discussion and clarification, the Council voted to award the contract to The Austin Peters Group for the study.

City Manager Koska indicated that the City has had an ongoing interest in advancing availability and performance of broadband internet services within the community. The City has requested Llano County to provide Horseshoe Bay with Federal ARPA funds to develop a project to increase fiber broadband services within the City by contributing to the construction of major infrastructure trunk conduits within the City's boundaries. He indicated that an Interlocal Agreement with Llano County for ARPA Broadband Infrastructure Funding has been developed utilizing funds for Phase II of the City's Broadband Internet Infrastructure Expansion project. Mayor Clinesmith and Council Member Frank Hosea provided an update regarding the Interlocal Agreement with Llano County for ARPA Broadband Infrastructure Funding. Frank indicated that as of today neither Vyve nor Spectrum have executed their construction agreement. He stated that the timing is still to be determined. Mayor Clinesmith thanked and expressed appreciation to Llano County for stepping up to support this opportunity.

City Manager Koska and Development Services Director McFeron discussed drainage issues and the development of a drainage plan for Horseshoe Bay. Koska indicated that the City will send out a Request for Proposal to engineering firms to develop a drainage evaluation and management plan next week. The City will begin work in early May and complete it within approximately three months on the largest drainage basins first, Slick Rock Creek and Pecan Creek, in FY 2022.

March brings good news, sunshine, and warmer breezes to our Horseshoe Bay community. It's definitely time to move about to check on neighbors and friends and start those beautiful flower gardens. The City has a number of wonderful projects underway and is looking forward to seeing you come out and get involved as we celebrate the coming season. Our next City Council meeting is April 19, so mark your calendar and join us.