

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

By Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith

The HSBay City Council convened to a full house of engaged citizens on Tuesday, June 21st. There were limited business agenda items, but lots of opportunity for celebration.

Following the invocation and the pledge, Dwight King spoke in public comment to announce his commitment to run for City Council – a position that will be vacated by Council Member Jerry Gray (who will term out). Mr. King shared his expansive background as a Veterinarian, President of the Texas Veterinary Medicine Association, Ranch Manager, State and National Board Member, community leader with School Board and support of Boys and Girls Club, and multiple business leadership roles. More importantly, he shared his determination to be a part of efforts to continually “make it better” in this great community. The election for this Council position will be in November.

Fire Chief Brent Batla took the opportunity to applaud the tireless work of Tuscan Village POA leader, Willie Reinders for helping guide this emerging community to full State certification as a Fire Wise community. He acknowledged the efforts of his neighbor, developer Bill Hayes (also present), and the helping hand of the Trails community (which previously received the Fire Wise designation). This effort not only provides safety for their community but sets a standard for the whole city of Horseshoe Bay. So proud of safety minded citizens!

The amazing staff teams of HSBay have shown their commitment in time and exceptional service. Thad Martin, Fire Dept Engineer, was recognized for his 10 years of service. Chief Batla noted his leadership in Community Risk Reduction, managing CPR, AED, and First Aid training beyond his regular duties. He carries multiple certifications including the advanced structural fire completion.

Public Works Director Tim Foran was applauded for his 10 years of service (though he has really been a team contributor for closer to 15). Tim was at the helm of the 2011 Street Project where ribboned streets began to be installed throughout the city. He has continued oversight of all street work and lot management of the 12,000+ lots throughout the city. He is a vital component of leadership team decision making, especially crucial during this time of growth. Tim’s ‘sweetheart’ Jessica (a former amazing City employee) joined the recognition as all applauded their upcoming marriage plans. They share 3 children, TJ (9), Tim (28), and Christen (36).

The celebrations kept coming as Mike and Cheryl Foster were saluted for their annual ‘spirit of giving’ to this community. This year they donated \$10,000 to the police department to assist in Patrol Boat upgrades that will benefit the entire Lake LBJ corridor safety. The Fosters have been longtime quiet supporters across the City.

Following the spirit of generosity, the Fire and Police Chief welcomed Susan Keiffer who came on behalf of her stepmother, Carol Keiffer who passed away earlier this year. Carol has been a constant “angel” to both departments, forming deep, caring relationships with the officers and fire squads. In her will, Carol sought to ensure continued support for these first responders’ teams and established a foundation fund of \$250K per department to support education, family trauma, and individual service provider needs for years to come. The Chiefs will annually meet with their teams and City Manager to identify if/when a need arises. All expressed special thanks for this gift that will last for decades. The Police Dept has designated their training center as The Carol Keiffer Learning Center. Susan Keiffer spoke with appreciation for the care and respect offered to Carol, especially underscoring the visits and calls to Carol in her last year.

The Mayor took some time to respond to a recent Opinion Piece in the Beacon that reflected significant inaccurate information. It was an opportunity to clarify how cities work with a balance of exceptional service with limited government overreach. Some of the recommendations in the Opinion were (likely unintentionally) advocating actions that are not legal for a city and/or containing assertions that were untrue. The Mayor referred citizens back to the June Mayor newsletter that offered information on how growth is managed through thoughtful planning, legal remedies (where appropriate), and long-range thinking. This newsletter is posted on the city website.

Utility Director Rick Williams provided an overview of the Drought Contingency Plan. Essentially, he gave current River statistics and recommendations by LCRA to move all users to a Stage 1 on July 1st. Horseshoe Bay has long adopted the even more stringent Stage 2 practices and will continue to do so. This is one of the reasons HSBay was recognized as a River Hero last year.....a designation that will give good standing as the city negotiates the new contract for firm guarantee water access in the coming year. Stage 2 essentially means continue what we have been doing – including only irrigating 2x weekly.

The consent agenda was approved in full – with recognition and appreciation for Rhonda Kolar who has offered her volunteer service as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Committee updates highlighted the Internet/Broadband finally beginning to move to action. The Enclave and Sienna Creek have been activated by Vyve for full internet access – with Golden Bear and the Trails awaiting equipment expecting to be activated in coming weeks. The Council approved a completion plan that will erect 3 towers on city property to broadcast effectively to 90-95% of the community (through VGI and Zeecon). Additionally, Vyve will continue efforts for hard fiber along Bay West Blvd through to CapRock and on down to the lake communities, as well as up Summitt Rock Blvd. This will add stability and increased strength to signals. Appreciation was shared for the work of the Broadband Advisory Committee and Council Member Hosea for this near 4-year project. (Note: The committee reached out again to ATT who has one tower on the west side of the community. They indicated they will not be open to expansion before 2025).

The Council adjourned to Executive Session where no action was taken on the Monarch Ridge Public Improvement District/PID – only an update. After the session, a motion was made/and passed unanimously for the Mayor to invite the chair of the P&Z to meet with the Mayor and a Council Member to review inaccurate/inappropriate public statements under the title of P&Z chair.

The weather and the calendar tell us that we are experiencing summer at its best. As we settled in after a full council meeting – we were blessed with long prayed for rain. With the holiday weekend arriving, be sure to enjoy those special summer visitors and cool boat rides on the lake. Remember to mark your calendar and join us for our next City Council meeting on July 19, 2022. We look forward to seeing you there!