

Horseshoe Bay Council Comments

By Council Member Elaine Waddill

The City of Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting was held October 11, 2022, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Clinesmith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance and noted that the Council meeting was being held early this month so that the Chamber could be made available next week for the beginning of early voting – encouraging all to remember the important bond election in support of needed expansion of city hall space for staff and citizens to conduct city business. Invocation was given by Reverend Dr. Malcolm McQueen from the Church at Horseshoe Bay. Mayor Clinesmith reminded those in attendance that October is Pastor Appreciation Month and expressed gratitude to Reverend McQueen for his commitment and care for the Horseshoe Bay community along with Father Ruben Patino, CSP, from St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Pastor Lanny Tanton from the Bible Church of the Lakes, and Reverend Dr. John Duncan, Co-Pastor at the Church of Horseshoe Bay. Pledges to the American flag and the State of Texas flag were recited.

Mayor Clinesmith saluted City Manager Jeff Koska and the city teams, especially Development Services, in achieving recognition of the City of Horseshoe Bay as one of a special group of cities identified as *Gold Standards for Scenic Cities* – reflecting excellent environmental practice and quality of life support. They were recognized at the Texas Municipal League conference in San Antonio last week. She also announced that the County Town Hall meeting will be held at Quail Point on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 4pm.

Everyone saluted Jerry Gray for his many years of service to the Horseshoe Bay community. After having served three full terms, he rejoined the Council for an additional year to complete a term for a Council Member who resigned. Jerry has worked diligently to represent and serve the residents of the Horseshoe Bay community, bringing a unique ‘statesmanship’ and honor to the role. In gratitude for his selfless service, Mayor Clinesmith presented an American flag that had flown above the United States Capital and joined a standing ovation. Jerry will be missed on the Council by all who have worked with him for nearly a decade. Jerry shared his appreciation and the genuine pleasure of serving – and thanked his wife, Brenda, for her partnership in sharing his time.

Mayor Clinesmith indicated that Council Member Randy Rives has resigned from the Council as he and his family have relocated to Tyler, Texas. All thanked him for his 3 years of service on the council – the many years of statewide public service he and his wife have given.

Finance Director Margie Cardenas presented a 5 Year Service Award to Mary Beth Madsen. Mary Beth is our Customer Service Clerk II for the Utility Billing Office. She is responsible for servicing utility customers in the water, sewer, and garbage services. Mary Beth is one of the first smiling faces you will encounter as you enter City Hall. Many of our 3,500 customers know her by name and they look forward to her always courteous and informative service. Mary Beth was born and raised in Mansfield, Texas when Mansfield was just a “wide spot in the road”. A lifelong Texan, she has been a resident of Horseshoe Bay for over 16 years. Mary Beth loves the Hill Country Community Theatre and performed in the first 2 shows at the building where it is now located. In 1990-91 she was in *Steel Magnolias* and *Blithe Spirit*. Since then, she has played in many others. Mary Beth and her late husband enjoyed traveling all over the world. She especially enjoyed their RV and cruising to Alaska not once but twice. They visited many places in Europe such as Athens, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Spain and sailed the Volga River. She expressed real joy in working for the city with such great colleagues and notes that when the day comes to retire, her goal is to adopt an older dog to share ‘what comes next’. We are fortunate to have Mary Beth as part of our City of Horseshoe Bay family.

Fire Chief Brent Batla presented a 5-Year Service Award to Jason Blackmon. During this time, he has promoted to Engineer on C-Shift at Fire Station two. Jason is a valuable asset to our department as he oversees the fire department health and fitness initiatives. Jason holds many certifications including Driver/Operator,

Intermediate Firefighter, Fire Instructor, and Fire Officer 1. Our community is safer because of his skill and commitment to the City of Horseshoe Bay. Jason and his wife, Jenny, have been married for 19 years. They have two daughters, Journey, who is into setting and spiking volleyballs and Jacey, who is all about Jujitsu. As a family they enjoy camping, hunting, and fishing.

Fire Chief Batla also presented a 5-Year Service Award to Kurt Goshen a Firefighter assigned to B-Shift at Fire Station 1. Kurt has completed his state certifications for Driver/Operator, Fire Instructor 2 and Advanced Structural Firefighter. Kurt is committed to ongoing learning and excellence in his position Kurt loves to spend time hunting and saltwater fishing. He has a young lady that keeps him hopping named Kimber, his Catahoula dog and best pal around friend. He says she keeps him out of trouble. Kurt has a niece that he loves dearly and is always ready to show the fire truck to when she gets to visit.

Police Chief Rocky Wardlow presented a 15 Year Service Award to Investigator Don Johnson for dedicated service to the City of Horseshoe Bay. He was initially hired as a patrol officer but through his commitment, hard work, and diligence of duty, he quickly promoted to the position of Patrol Lieutenant and later to his current position as an Investigator in the CID Division where he has proven to be a true asset by bringing the unique skill set as a Certified Fraud Investigator. Don has over 28 years of service as a peace officer. He holds a Master Peace Officer license with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, the highest level of Peace Officer certification recognized by the State. Prior to joining Horseshoe Bay, Don served as a Deputy Sheriff in Baylor, Archer, and Young counties and as an Investigator with the 33rd Judicial District Attorney Office. All of Don's children are grown, so when he's not working, he spends most of his time planning his next Caribbean cruise or Vegas trip with his wife Martha.

Kerri Craig, City Secretary, provided updated information regarding the status of annual appointments to the City's various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Residents who are interested in serving must submit an application to the City Secretary no later than November 1, 2022 by 5:00 pm. Individuals interested in serving may find additional information on the City of Horseshoe Bay website or may contact Kerri Craig at the city offices.

Jeff Koska, City Manager, provided an update of the Christmas Events being scheduled in Horseshoe Bay. The City staff is working to provide a beautiful and fun Winter Wonderland for our Horseshoe Bay residents in partnership with the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance. Each year the event seems to be bigger and a little better than the year before with booths, music, snack truck, and the arrival of Santa all along FM 2147 businesses near the Pharmacy. This December 1st, 4 pm event promises to be a great kickoff to the holiday season.

An information update regarding our LCRA water contract was provided by Rick Williams, Utilities Director. The current raw water contract was negotiated in 2010 and was anticipated to serve our needs for 5 years. Thanks to our conservation efforts it has served for an additional 7 years past its initial anticipated time period. We have filed for a new contract to double our water capacity for the next 20 years and fully anticipate being granted our request because of our conservation initiatives. This contract is on the LCRA Board Meeting to be approved in October. Mayor Clinesmith saluted the utility team and the citizens of Horseshoe Bay for their compliance with water Stage 2 restrictions since 2016. As a result of demonstrated reduction of water consumption, the LCRA is requiring all firm water customers to use the same conservation practices when they file for a new contract as a shared effort in protecting our resources.

Both Police Chief Wardlow and Fire Chief Batla indicated that they are currently making preparations for an Emergency Management "mock event" training with city staff and council. The police will implement an Active Shooter drill at city hall and the Emergency Operations exercise plan will be put in place for its quarterly review – this quarter focusing on potential fallout from a flood event. Last quarter's focus was on Tornado potential and next quarter will ensure preparedness for winter ice/snow. Reflecting on prior "snowpocolypse" and power losses, all were reminded the city used allocated federal rescue funds to purchase significant

generators and a snow plow should needs arise. Preparedness for emergency situations is essential to ensure safety for our community.

City Manager Koska also shared that the annual deer trapping will be suspended this year. Because of the drought, he indicated that the number of deer are significantly fewer this year and accidents along FM 2147 were below 50 for the past twelve months. The reduced herd allows time to be spent researching potential new approaches to deer population management. He also indicated that lot mowing will begin October 17. Mowing fees have increased to \$85.00 because of increase in costs to mow.

While you enjoy the cooler mornings beginning to arrive - take a moment to mark your calendar to attend our November 15, 2022 City Council meeting. Your input to the governance of your city is important and welcomed.