



State of the City of Horseshoe Bay
Steve Jordan, Mayor
October 2015

Transparency and accountability are the foundation of a well-managed and open government. The Mayor and Council members of Horseshoe Bay have made these two issues our top priorities.

Earlier this year the Council adopted as our Mission Statement: “To serve and protect our citizens while preserving our heritage and planning for the future.” The City of Horseshoe Bay is 10 years old and we plan to celebrate our anniversary Friday the 13th of November at Quail Point.

Property tax valuations reached \$1.7 billion. Based on the certified tax valuations as of July 24, 2015 there was an increase in tax revenue of \$148,750 or 3.7% over the previous year. The Council held the tax rate at 25 cents per \$100 valuation, the same as it has been for 6 years. The City’s bond rating is AA+ the same as the US Government. As of September 30, 2015 the general fund has the required reserves of six months operating expenses.

Our city continues to replace and expand our utility infrastructure. Major items have been financed with available cash, certificates of obligation and the \$7.4 million provided by the Summit Rock developers, as well as, from other developments.

We have approximately 6600 full and part time residents with a goal for continued controlled growth. In fiscal year 2014 the growth surpassed the previous 6 years with 47 new homes. This year that total grew to 54 new homes with 150 remodel permits issued.

The \$25 million, 57 mile Street Improvement Project began October 2010 and is nearing completion with an average cost of \$431,000 per mile, without a tax increase. In addition, new street signs have been added as the finishing touch to a very successful project.

We are excited to introduce the City’s new website www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov which is a helpful method to stay informed using “Notify Me.”

The POA Presidents Forum representing the 11 POAs in Horseshoe Bay meets quarterly and has proven to be a very good conduit for our members of each of the POAs.

In March the Council passed an ordinance creating a Long Range Planning Committee with the goal to furnish the Council long term planning recommendations regarding the City's future growth and needs. This 11 member committee has been meeting monthly to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats relative to Horseshoe Bay. The next phase is to solicit input from the city's stakeholders and residents over the next several months.

A Communication committee developed a brochure highlighting the unique features of Horseshoe Bay to be distributed through the Resort Hotel, the Highland lakes area development organizations and local relators. This brochure can also be found on our website along with an overhead video capturing the unique features of Horseshoe Bay.

Building and Fire Code updates were recommended by a select committee and approved by the Council changing from 2006 to 2012.

The City entered into a restated Golf Course Irrigation Agreement with Horseshoe Bay Resort and Summit Rock Communities to dispose of the City's treated wastewater effluent. The goal is for this reuse project to possibly eliminate the need for the City to construct an additional holding pond at a considerable expense. Thus a huge savings for the taxpayer, while conserving valuable water in Lake LBJ by reducing the need for the Resort to rely solely on water from the lake.

A year ago this past summer we found the shoreline of Horseshoe Bay infested with an exotic weed (Eurasian milfoil) which created not only a safety hazard for our residents and guests, but also the risk for loss of property value for the 800 properties on the water along with damage to boat engines and irrigation systems. The City called on the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWL) which for the first time in Texas history agreed to develop a plan and work with a community to eradicate milfoil from our shoreline.

While drought conditions prevail, our residents have proven to be responsible stewards of our water supply by curtailing their use, as requested. In response, the Council voted to change watering limitations from Stage 3 to Stage 2 which permits watering twice a week.

Good News!

We received notice the City will be awarded the Dark Sky Community designation previously awarded to only 5 cities in the United States. Horseshoe Bay is now the second city in Texas to receive this prestigious honor. The award is given to a community that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implication and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance and dark sky education.

I have had the privilege of working with five outstanding council members: Mayor-Pro Tem Craig Haydon, David Pope, Jerry Gray and two members who have chosen not to file for re-election: Michele Shackelford and Phillip Lee. We are blessed to have a staff of 77 employees led by City Manager Stan Farmer. With the retirement of our esteemed Police Chief Bill Lane, Rocky Wardlow has been promoted to be the new Police Chief. Also, Joe Morris was recently hired to be our new Fire Chief.

As your Mayor, my guiding principal has been to preserve the quality of life we enjoy with a minimum of expenses and taxes. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Mayor for another term.