



Mayor's Message October 2022



Welcome home snowbirds! We are ALL ready to settle into the coming autumn with cool temps, good eats, social fun, and pumpkins abounding! The City begins a new fiscal year in Oct with secure funds, safety statistics the envy of others, and top-quality services in place.

City News

Our caring community is ever generous in its appreciation of the City staff who work hard each day to serve the needs of us all. Pizza and cookies are dropped by, holiday gift cards/donations, kind emails, and courteous interactions when staff are in the field responding to calls/needs. None of this goes unnoticed by the staff – and it is one of the reasons we have positive employee satisfaction reports. Most staff do not live in our city, but make the drive in with the same dedication of exemplary work habits they would expect in their hometown. This year with the growth in the tax base, we were able to catch up in the salary/benefit levels deserved by this team which further strengthened the potential for retention of our high-quality staff.

Now is an opportunity for us all to show full appreciation by supporting a professional work environment for staff to have a positive daily work setting of respect. The current City Hall (former MUD/Municipal Utility bldg. from before we were a city) is completely overcrowded. Professionals are being officed in cleared out small storage areas – after hall space was maximized with cubicles and shelf storage. There is no space for shared lunch...or small discussion/planning – and certainly nowhere for the entire staff to come together for cross training/emergency table tops, or team building. The small break room will now house the printer, and potentially an in-house scanner (for reduced costs). It is past time to expand, but the current location does not allow for growth. Even beginning an expansion today will take two+ years to complete so the time for action is immediate. The staff have accepted the limitations with good attitudes – with a trust that an expanded City Center will come soon.

The current City Hall/MUD will continue to house field service staff who can move out of storage spaces and occupy vacated professional office space as others shift to expanded/new facility. The current facility will house traffic heavy departments such as development services, constructive reviews, public works, code enforcement, and some utility. It will allow for planning space, display/map space - as well as functional break/lunch room area. Increased activity at Martin Park parking needs can be met without interference with staff/fire teams.

The new expansion, a new City Center, will then house the relocated administrative teams such as finance, human resources, public records management, utility customer service, technology, municipal court, voting location, Citizens Academy, and City Council/City Manager-alongside adequate conference/training space. It will provide information for those new to the City, heritage preservation displays, and community workshop options. Staff will be able to lead small info sessions on landscaping, safety, and water conservation – along with serving as an emergency response center for all if/when needed. An expanded external space will allow for community events, hiking trails, and citizen engagement. **It will add to the pride of our city.** Go to the city website for visual details and location map and **see the proposed site sign on Hwy 2147 (across from the Escondido construction entrance!)**

The Town Hall held in September was an opportunity for those interested to get more details about the City Center. The meeting was held at the resort as there is no space for community gathering large enough for 50+ at the current City Hall. The City Manager shared that the original quote by architect analysis for the City Center would be about \$12m. Staff and council worked with collaborators to find ways to reduce this without losing the value of the building and its ability to serve the needs for decades to come and spreads the costs for future residents. The resort donated 4 acres on Hwy 2147, LCRA leased the adjacent 4 acres for \$1 to serve as overflow parking allowing for less costs for permanent parking space. A federal grant can assist with utility infrastructure, and local community experts have donated time to maximize space utilization, good conservation practice, and multi-purpose planning. For three years the council has been working on a 'building fund' to help with costs for installation of technology, community information dissemination, and indoor/outdoor usability. The reduced costs ensure the expansion can be built with \$8 million bond and **NO increase in the tax rate.**

Some bonds are already approved to be sold in December for the much-needed West Fire Station expansion and the next phase of new ribbon curbed roads (1.3 miles). The final bonds for the City Center would be sold in January for \$8m maximum. These bonds will be sold only after a final review of the current market interest rate, construction expenses, and a selection of a project management. If all factors are favorable, the bonds can be sold, and construction begin in the Spring of 2023. The whole community will be invited out for a groundbreaking with representatives from all departments/teams of City staff to show appreciation. **Be sure**  **your name is among those who showed up and voted bringing honor to the City profile.**

Early Voting: October 24th – November 4th

Llano County: Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm (Horseshoe Bay City Hall, Llano and Kingsland Libraries)

Burnet County: Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm (except for 10/27 and 11/3 7am-7pm) (Texas Tech Univ at Highland Lakes, 806 Steve Hawkins Pkwy in Marble Falls)

New residents, be sure you are registered by Oct. 11th. If traveling, get 'vote by mail' applications from your county. I will be so proud to be able to announce to the staff we had a record high turnout by the citizens in support of a respectful work environment! Of course, there are State and National elections to bring out our vote this year as well... but be sure you also **scroll down** to the City propositions. <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/429/Election-Information> for details.

The Town Hall also updated attendees on current growth management practices (all is slowing down), water management plans for future secure access, and **internet update**. For details, go to the city website and search for area of interest.

Speaking of Internet! Finally....three towers have been ordered and will be installed by the end of the year (or January, weather consideration). The locations recommended create a full matrix with the existing wireless access from our water towers, the utility tower, and Granite Shoals tower. **This will ensure the fire, police, and water smart have secure communications strengthened** throughout the City. It will also provide more stable internet access for citizens through a variety of vendors. VGI, Zeecon, Vyve will reach out to



citizens with information on service. ATT has a small presence on the west side and is in discussions for future expansion. The City will not be involved in signal provision, but future collaboration steps will continue to run hard fiber to these towers for a backup hard wire should wireless signal be interrupted, providing double security. All has been paid for through Federal grants so that **no City taxes were used**. Go to: www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/internet

Community News

Special thanks to the **Hill Country 100 Foundation** with its successful golf tournament to again raise funds to assist first responders/families harmed in the line of duty. Appreciation to the resort for donation of the Apple Rock course and collaboration on the event. Craig Hayden, Nikki Summitt, Brian Lucas and others took the lead for the success of this important event. THANKS to them (and all sponsors/donors/players) for supporting our fire/police families!!

The 2022 Fall Citizen Academy kicks off with a full class on Oct 13th. The weekly 2-hour sessions have been a tremendous success in letting citizens take a 'deep dive' into each department and to get to know the Director/Chiefs of each area. The small group allows for discussion where all leave feeling clearly aware of how their tax dollars are used effectively and efficiently. If interested, make a note to sign up for the Spring Academy!

We have all **appreciated the tremendous work of the HSBPOA** in expanding services to include over 100 new mail kiosks...and the recent Community Wide chili cookoff! This promises to be an annual event to kick off the Fall Season and bring us all together with friendly competition, good eats, great music, and relaxing under the stars at Quail Point. Speaking of POAs, the **quarterly meeting of POA presidents will be Thursday, Oct 13th**. Let your representative know if there are questions/concerns/suggestions you want brought to the discussion.

Another 'community' experience opportunity can be had in **Cottonwood Shores at their "Legends of the Falls" heritage festival** on Oct 22/23 9-6 pm. Booths, hayrides w/theatrical re-enactments, etc. welcome all to the emerging community development efforts. We have all appreciated CWS serving as a restaurant row opportunity - providing for dining enjoyment without bringing traffic all the way to HSBay. A win-win for all! While at the event, **take a look at the season of Community Theatre productions**. The *Patsy Cline* show is outstanding!

Looking ahead

We survived a scorching summer with no major fire incidents, and we see how even a bit of rain can 'green us up'. We enter the new fall season ready to come together in multiple social events, cooler outdoor engagement, and a positive outlook for the future of our great community. Greet your new neighbors, look up old ones...and celebrate your HSB family.



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

City Website - www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov

