



Message from Mayor Clinesmith



November 2023

What a wonderful kick off to a new (fiscal) year in Horseshoe Bay. With cooler temps and some much-needed rain, we are poised for a full cornucopia of Autumn experiences. Be sure to take advantage of the **Nov. 4th Holiday Bazaar at Quail Point** for gift shopping – and end the month with the **annual community tree lighting celebration on Nov. 28th**, hosted with the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance/HSBB HOLIDAZE showcase (look for details to follow)!

City News

Last week we stepped out **as a city team to literally ‘break ground’ for the 1st ever real city hall for our community.** It was a celebratory moment as city department directors showed appreciation to the community for supporting a quality workspace, and council took the first step in finalizing a promise to residents for a city/community center for all. The completion of this project, along with the upgrades to the West Fire Station, will complete the major building projects for years to come. There is a five-year plan to address the infrastructure of water/wastewater, and the replacement this year of a major arterial pipeline will be a powerful step in that process. Join me in resting easy that our city is well positioned to continue high quality living at a fiscally conservative cost.

I have always believed that real community begins with conversation. My hope has been that the monthly newsletter (wordy, I know) has actually just been a conversation with you. I have sought to share how your tax dollars are being

used to provide excellent services and lifestyle support – and encourage us all to ‘pinch ourselves’ at our good fortune. We have been a passionate citizenry – seeking answers as far back as when we decided to incorporate in 2005 (I remember those debates well!). **Our 1st Mayor, Lambert**, and council built a foundation for services and standards. Later in 2015, over five hundred gathered when the fear of our borders being invaded with rock quarries and high-density building was a emerging. **Our 2nd Mayor, Jordan**, ensured we were free from such predatory development when annexation agreements were formed to provide local control along Hwy 71 (ironic, given the current naysayers who forgot the original intents/relief). And here, another decade later there has been real concern about fast growth and water capacity. I hope that our communications/conversations have provided confidence in our safety and preparation. **As our 3rd Mayor**, I have found that in the end, truth wins out through honest information sharing – along with roll up your sleeves work by the city team and citizens. **Though we are 4x the population we were when I moved here**, we still live an exceptional life – not by accident, but through proactive planning and actions.

This will be my last newsletter after over nine years on our council – though I am certain there will be a seamless continuation of communication from the new (4th) mayor to keep you informed (hopefully, with fewer words!). It has been a truly wild ride as we literally ‘weathered some storms’ together. We’ve endured floods, wildfires, snowpocalypse and electrical grid blackouts; struggled through CoVid lockdowns, two years of excessive drought, and the management of extreme ‘gold rush’ migrations to the hill country (and all of central Texas) with escalated construction costs impacting the city budget. I am so proud of our city staff, councils, and citizens who stood tall in the face of it all – coming out on the other side a stronger city.

Each challenge resulted in opportunities to review our status and improve services/practice. **We have a city that has received state and industry recognition/awards in all areas** of operation. It is financially solid, has ordinances in place to protect our borders and manage growth with high quality building standards. We have water conservation practice prioritized to sustain us for decades to come, exceptional first responder services to secure us, and a commitment to hill country preservation through native planting, image corridors, dark skies, monarch pledge, and emerging hike/bike/alternative transport plans. As a proactive focus, the challenge of traffic management is on the front burner of planning and advocacy.

We have intentionally supported businesses with ‘aging in place’ development plans that allow for residents to come here and work from home if they desire (with full internet strength), live out their empty nester years in a stellar resort setting, with excellent retail providers and active lifestyle options for outdoor and indoor social connections. We will be able to transition to independent or assisted living - even retire to nursing/memory care services if needed, with

community support of a wonderful local hospital. **HSBay can be a secure forever home with 'ageless' friendships reflecting our city motto** - "Preserving the Past while Preparing for the Future". I was about 40 when we moved here, now 70 is on the horizon. Still, I feel as comfortable in my daily living as ever-thanks to a continually engaged community.

I know that the coming year will give a new council/mayor the opportunity to build upon our successes. Please welcome them and support their willingness to volunteer their time and talent. **I encourage you to consider serving on one of the city committees** to lend your hand to the emerging work for the next decade of our city development. So much is lifted up by the positive support and encouragement of all of us as citizens. Ignore the grifters (pray a little for them) who often fail to see the good fortune we share and will always cry 'the sky is falling'. They will surface from time to timebut the majority of our neighbors choose gratefulness and focus on living large in our small town.

It is with great appreciation that I will return to a 'civilian' role to share your joy of living in the **2023 "Scenic City of Texas"** – a place where the real beauty lies in our residents/ neighbors/volunteers/city staff working together. (Look out golfers- I am coming back, my new chant will be "FORE!"; pickleball is a possibility, or relaxed mah jongg, bridge, canasta – oh my! Mostly, the gardens and travel beckon!) And volunteer options abound for us all.

I have intentionally asked to not have anything named after me. Instead, I am touched that a bench will be placed at the new city center entry to encourage people to sit before and after city hall gatherings to talk together. In this way, the concept of "community" being strengthened through "conversation" will live on and be a small reminder of how we can continue to preserve this beautiful HSBay life. **It has been a blessing to serve.**

CC Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor
City Website - www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov

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