

## Horseshoe Bay City Council Notes – April 16, 2013

By: Tom Schmersahl, Mayor Pro-tem

Our April meeting was called to order right on time, amidst the beautiful Bluebonnets that cover our hill country landscape including the City Hall lawn. The Reverend Johnny White asked for God's blessing on our homes, families and governmental process. He offered a special blessing for those in Boston impacted by yesterday's terrorist attack. We then pledged to our great country and state; hope someday I can learn that short Texas pledge.

City Manager Stan Farmer introduced Julie Oakley, the City's new Finance Director who comes to us after a time at the City of Lakeway. Julie and her husband James live in Burnet County and have five kids. Julie is a CPA with tons of city finance experience. As noted last month, husband James is a former Burnet County Commissioner and he is a current candidate for PEC Board. A big Horseshoe Bay Welcome to Julie.

The next several items kept the City Manager front and center providing some updates to ongoing projects. Deer trapping was completed by March 31 with a total approximately 600 removed from the City during the two trapping seasons for this year. The fire Department is painting fire hydrants and look out for an article concerning water conservation by city departments in our paper next week. Remember we are still under stage 2 water restrictions. And while we are admiring the wild flowers remember the city plans to mow roadsides by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Council then received an update on the Road Improvement Plans. The area North of 2147 is progressing toward completion with paving of HSB Blvd. this week and cleanup to follow. The 5.6 mile Fault Line Drive project begins down on Wennmoh's Place on April 22 followed by the 6 mile Hi Circle South area in October, 2013.

The City Flood Plain modifications studies are also progressing nicely with Pecan Creek study almost ready to go to the Texas Water Board (TWB) for review and forwarding to FEMA. This study will be followed by the Slick Rock Creek study which will benefit from the hydraulic models and surveys created for Pecan Creek. The quality of our efforts has been recognized by the TWB and will be used as a model for other communities. The City has learned that a property owner may not need a Base Elevation Certificate but rather may benefit from "Out of, As Shown" process which will be less costly.

The Parks Master Plan was placed up for discussion for a second time. While no new comments were offered, there still is time, as it will be posted for discussion a third time at the May 21 City Council Meeting. The Council appointed Diane Land and Neil Younker to fill the remaining two positions on the Parks Committee.

Fire Chief Jim Fiero and Police Chief Bill Lane have recommended that the City adopt an ordinance requiring Knox Switch Rapid Entry System access systems on all 130 privately owned electric gates in the community of which 94 are within city limits and 36 are in areas outside the city where we provide emergency response service. These systems will cost the property owner approximately \$250 to install

but assure that our first responders can access the property without having to pull down a gate system. This system has been in use for over 40 years in other areas and will greatly improve emergency response service. **The proposed ordinance was posted for “ discussion only” and the City Council seeks public input prior to the next council meeting.**

The next item was also posted for “Discussion only”. It involved the possible donation of the Fuchs House from the Resort to the City. If you have never seen the Fuchs House it is at Mountain Dew and Stagecoach in HSB South. It was built around 1880 by Conrad Fuchs and sits overlooking the Fuchs Hollow Park. While it was restored in 1972-1973 by Norman Hurd, it is in need of extensive repair which maybe complicated by a Historic Designation. This item will be carried forward for future consideration and study.

We handled several property related items including a replat in Horseshoe Bay West, a rear yard setback variance in Applehead and the rezoning of property included in the parkland donation from R-1 Single Family Residential to A-1 Recreational. This rezoning memorializes the Council’s clear intent that this donated property be used for nothing but community parkland. In addition we approved an amendment to the Horseshoe Bay Center Planned Development Concept Plan (the Jamail’s location). This revision is to allow for development of an Ace Hardware store and 5084 square feet of garden center exterior display and improvements on a portion of the remaining vacant property.

Finally the Council went into a brief Executive Session to discuss Litigation Status in J.S. Haren Company vs. City of Horseshoe Bay, Texas. Final adjournment was at 4:23 P.M.

Our next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 starting promptly at 3:00 P.M. in City Hall Chambers. Please plan to attend. We would love your input on several items in this article.