

Hello Neighbors!

Hope this finds you having shared a 'loving' Valentine AND getting out to VOTE with early voting starting at Quail Point. YOUR City Council met today to complete several on-going action items.

The meeting began with a celebration of Lt. David Vaughn, the Hill Country 100 Club award recipient for Police Office of the Year. Lt. Vaughn is well respected by peers across the area as a superior first responder. We are fortunate to have such depth of quality officers in our community and proud to have them represent us so well. (He also, you may remember, is our resident "celebrity" as a recent winner on Wheel of Fortune!)

The Mayor updated the City Monarch Pledge with the National Wildlife Federation, underscoring Horseshoe Bay's efforts to sustain the dwindling population. Mowing practices include delaying cutting of the essential milkweed plant as well as education partnership with the Earth Day to encourage growth of milkweed and other preservation efforts.

Several neighborhood specific requests for City support were approved (The Hills roads, Cliff Run road), alongside several recommended rezoning plans. Well delivered comments were shared by Cliff Run residents Scott Anderson and LaFon Pearson, as well as by Cynthia Jackson from The Hills. All pointed to an appreciation of City staff who had worked with them through the process for consideration of their requests – as well as to the Council Members and Mayor who extended cooperative attitudes and efforts. The public hearing for zoning and final annexation approval for the Phoenix Center to be annexed into the City pave the way for this important work for children of trauma to have a future therapy/camp site in our area.

Mary Cunningham, Llano County Judge, shared some of the work at the county level – in particular, work being done to draw attention and action to the very real need for expanded broadband access for the Hill Country residents. Mayor Pro Tem Craig Haydon, liaison to the City's Broadband Advisory Committee, echoed some of these efforts which will be shared more fully in the committee's report in March.

Citizen Dale Amstutz was approved as alternate member for the Board of Adjustment. His willingness to step up and provide of his time and talent are appreciated by all.

City staff offered items for action and updates on a variety of interest areas, including:

- Adoption of a Municipal Access Rate for the City to access funds as calculated by the Public Utility Commission to support future City internet technology plan recommendations. While the rate will generate minimal pass through dollars, it will allow for beginning actions toward a larger goal.
- Awarding of a contract for a long overdue comprehensive salary survey for the City.
- Awarding of a contract for small addition/renovation to the central fire station, with a focus on public service areas; final bids required prioritizing funds so that a long-term goal for a training facility for the firefighters was moved forward so that immediate physical plant needs could be met – allowing the contract to fall within overall budget
- Development of a purchasing policy manual to formalize already compliant practices by City staff and provide guidance for most efficient leverage and use of funds
- Presentation of the annual racial profiling report, reflecting (with no surprise) the absence of discrimination exhibited by City of Horseshoe Bay officers in the course of their work

The council meeting ended with Police Chief Wardlow requesting (and receiving) approval of a maximum speed limit of 35 mph on Ferguson Road. To most all present, it was a surprise to realize that for years the stretch of road on Ferguson from Hwy 2147 toward the power plant has had a maximum speed of 40 mph, while the same stretch of road coming from the west toward Hwy 2147 is set at 20 mph! These limits were set by the LCRA when they owned the road prior to deeding to the City a few years ago. Gotta love random action sometimes! You could be ticketed for going too fast on one side of road (and maybe too slow on the other!) This ordinance will standardize the speed (both sides of road!) at 35 mph. (Note: This speed was set keeping in mind the occasional golf cart using this road – recognizing that there is a prohibition of such use on any road with a speed limit above 35 mph). Good sense prevails.

A positive ending to a relatively short meeting with completion of good work reminded us all that it is always a great day to live in our Horseshoe Bay.

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member/Public Information Officer