

Hello Neighbors!

Whewww! It's a good thing the Mayor and Council Members aren't paid because the overtime rates might start impacting overhead! YOUR City Council gathered for a Budget Workshop today at 9 am where positive outcomes were celebrated with recommendations for the tax rate going forward that should have minimal impact on you as a citizen. THEN the City Council continued with its regular meeting that ended at 7 pm – after another full 4 hour meeting of multiple items needing attention....ending a productive, but slightly draining, 10 hour day of focus! Hug a Council Member, Mayor, or city employee when you see them!

The Budget Workshop reviewed budget revenue and expenditure expectations for 2019-20. A second public hearing on the tax rate and workshop will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by a public hearing and final adoption of the budget, and setting of the final tax rate, on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The draft budget is available for review on the city website (newly revised for easier maneuvering!)

The afternoon regular meeting kicked off to a full house of citizens who joined us in recognizing years of service by some of our exceptional employees.

\***Terry DiSanto**, Field Operator II, specialty area is oversight of the 3,000+ grinder pump systems. With 13 total years of area service, he is also recognized as one of the most customer service oriented workers AND spends any available time working on aging equipment to save the city money. His wife, Christen, joins him in time with their eleven (YIKES!) children and nine grandchildren....and still has time to be an exceptional employee.

\* **Robert Parsley** (aka FLASH), Utilities Senior Electrician, received his 15 year recognition and his years of working up through multiple positions to his current respected leadership role. He is also highly engaged in the SCADA Asset Management, a part of his overall goal of “100% dependability of water and waste water management” with the most efficiency. Robert and his wife, Trisha, also have their hands full with eight children (Something in our water??).

\* **Sheri Pollard**, our resident “Bee Lady”, completes 5 years and serves as the Technical Administrator for Utilities – providing much leadership in the Asset Management and advanced infrastructure monitoring for our city water supply. Beyond being a technical guru, she is known throughout as the ‘go to’ expert as a part of the city’s “Save the Bees” program. On her own initiative she has moved us all from killing off these essential life source pollinators – to calling on her to literally ‘work her magic’ of persuading the hive to follow the queen into relocation boxes. (I can salute her as she came and identified my over 10,000 Bee Hive who squatted in one of my garden columns, and helped put signage to prevent accidental harm to passersby AND the bees).

\***Robert Fox** was awarded his 5-year plaque with the city, though he brings 27 years’ experience as a Communications Operator with an Advanced Telecommunicator license to his work here. His wife, Lori, is a Correctional Officer, and they share 3 children and 3 grandchildren. His son is a Patrol Sergeant with Liberty Hill. (They are all great people to meet...but hopefully you won't cross their paths in their work roles!)

\*Asst. Fire Chief Stephanie Black, acting as Interim Fire Chief following the resignation of Chief Joe Morris, recognized **Ryan Guthrie** for his 10 years of service with the Fire Department (following years elsewhere as volunteer, part-time). Lieutenant Guthrie is the Officer in Charge of Station 2 (B shift) and has a list of certifications a page long...ranging from structural fire work to investigation to swift water rescue and EMT....and brings enormous commitment to service. His wife, Lyndsay, is busy chasing 3 sons while also supporting the crazy hours of a Fire Fighter.

We are a lucky city, indeed, to have so many individuals dedicated to caring for us all!

The meeting moved into general business where the Development Services department was proud to share an increased ISO rating regarding their competence in ordinance quality and adherence. It is rare for a city our size to receive the “3” rating (out of 10, with “1” being nearly unattainable exemplary). Kerri Craig, City Secretary, then further shared the good news as she showcased the city’s new website, updated to ease maneuverability and increased content. TAKE A DRIVE through the website....and don’t forget to sign up for important notification alerts on CivicReady, formerly called Notify Me.

The new nursing home facility due to begin construction by the end of the year (The Brixton at Horseshoe Bay) was presented by Kristopher Dusek of Gotcher’s Trace LLC, highlighting the 120-bed skilled nursing (and dialysis) center that will serve both short and long-term needs. It will be located in “The Parks” development at the corner of HWY 71 and FM 2147. They emphasized their priority on customer care.

A stellar presentation was offered by Horseshoe Bay Resort from Ron Mitchell (Vice Chairman, President & CEO), Bryan Woodward (Managing Director), and Stacey Persinger (Director of Membership). A full drone tour and detailed visual presentation reminded us all of the enormous amount of work that has been completed across our resort/city community. Literally millions of dollars and countless special features for members and resort guests are coming together so that HSBay Resort is now listed among the top 100 in the United States...and recognized in leading golf and resort magazines/organizations. It made us all proud to be citizens in such a unique lifestyle community.

The Council heard an update on plans to engage a plan to move the Fuchs House into a home ownership agreement, where a dedicated owner with historical reconstruction experience will restore the home over the coming years with the intent of taking ownership and living there with his wife. The grounds will be restored and maintained for future tour groups/educational outings, heritage gardens, and Informational Signage pathways to ensure the integrity of this historical treasure carries forward.

Mayor Steve Jordan attempted to clear the air and clarify some misunderstandings and misstatements made previously in relation to the request to rezone the lots on the west side of Cats Eye. Many interested parties joined the discussion during a Public Hearing regarding a petition to rezone some lots on Cats Eye. While solid reasons for positions were shared from both sides, no action could be taken until the following Council meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. [A summary of the full discussion will follow in the September Council Comments.](#)

The Council took action to appoint members to the 2019 Long Range Planning Advisory Committee, a group of diverse backgrounds – living in varied areas of our city, who will work in the coming year to outline a recommended 3-5-year plan of action for the city moving forward. This will be developed following city-wide surveys, interviews with business and key community groups, and town hall forums to ensure full input of the citizenry is included. Please thank your neighbors for giving of their time for service: **Wayne Anderson (Committee Chair); Cecil Burdick, Dan Gillean, Brooks Herring, Mike Kolar, Rick Pitts, and Elsie Thurman.** Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Gray will serve as a non-voting liaison from the City Council (and the Technology Committee).

They also appointed **Bill Knox** to the Board of Adjustments.

The city awarded contracts for the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project and the accompanying Notice of Intention to Issue Certificates of Obligation to pay for the \$6 million project.

A lot was accomplished and all left feeling great (and secretly just feeling great about finally leaving!) But we stepped out into a beautiful sunset (following a two-minute drizzle of rain) and continued to count our blessings, knowing it is always so very good to live in Horseshoe Bay!

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Chief Information Officer