

Hello Neighbors!

YOUR City Council began today with a prayer for guidance and a note of appreciation here on Constitution day. As we all thought of the 200+ years of our country's heritage, we had an even deeper reminder as we stood to applaud and wish **Dick Schumacher** – longtime HSBay resident – a Happy 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday (yes...103!). Dick was presented a flag by Senator Buckingham's office by Martha Tyroch – and then he walked forward to share his own joy of living in this great country- and to acknowledge Susie, his lovely bride of 74 years. It certainly inspired all of us in the room.

**David Vaughan** received his 5-year recognition as an officer with HSBay following 10 years of service in Harris County. David (our resident celebrity from his win on Wheel of Fortune!) showed his leadership skills early and was quickly moved to the role of Lieutenant. David has a son in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Marble Falls...who we believe is now moving into Quarterback leadership himself! As always, deep appreciation to all our first responders was shared.

Public comment by **James Kealley** indicated his concern that staffing levels should be reviewed in the Utility Department as he feels, as a builder, the department may be unable to work through the volume of water and wastewater tap requests. The Mayor thanked him for his comments and the City Manager will follow up.

**Patty Gillean** of Gillean and Assoc Realty provided the quarterly update on housing sales in HSBay. The report generally showed a consistent pace in building and selling from last year, with some increase in lot sales overall. The consent agenda items (posted on the city website) were then approved without change.

The second public hearing to allow temporary office buildings on the Phoenix development site on Hwy 71 was approved unanimously. **Sarah Garrett**, joined by Board members Ron Mitchell and Paul Brady, summarized the exceptional work the Phoenix Center does through counseling services for families and children who have been victims of trauma. HSBay is excited to have the new facility moving forward to create a new home for the work. Sarah also reminded all that there will be an exhibit and reception on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 5-7 pm at Marta Stafford's Art Gallery on Main St in Marble Falls. There will be a showing of art work by the Phoenix Center students. Come out and support the center, the art gallery, and these brave kids!

The final public hearing to consider a rezoning of Cat's Eye west side lots from their current R-2 Duplex to an R-1 single family residential brought out a crowd of interested citizens. **Patty Thuss** spoke clearly about her concerns for property rights of those R-2 Property Owners who would be impacted and offered several suggestions for concerned eastside homeowners to explore. **Vicki Adcock (and Mike Riley and Don Hunt)** continued an earlier presentation citing similar property owner rights for those living on the East side. She underscored the concern was not specific to duplexes, but to this location for a high-density zoning. With 46 lots zoned for duplex, the potential for 90+ homes (and perhaps 180 cars) on a dead-end (not cul de sac) street raised varied concerns. Jim Bellevue, attorney for the owner of 5 of the R-2 lots, indicated they understood the concerns and emotion of those requesting the zoning ordinance. Several spoke to the potential for some compromises – and further conversations with

owners who may not intend to build R-2, but in fact are planning an R-1 (allowed already) or not to build at all. It seemed clear that further conversation and alternatives could be considered. A motion was made by Jerry Gray to issue a “continuance until April 2020” to allow 6 months for all parties to explore options to rezoning. This was seconded by Cynthia Clinesmith – and approved 4-1 with Kent Graham dissenting.

The council accepted the proposed budget and adopted it without change (following 3 earlier reviews) with a 5-0 vote. Agenda item 10D then ratified the property tax levy necessary to support the approved budget, acknowledging it will be an increase in the amount of taxes raised last year. Further, the 5 year Capital Plan was viewed and accepted as outlined for anticipated expenditures in 2020-2024.

Agenda item 10E received a 5-0 approval vote to approve Ordinance 2019-42 indicating the property tax rate will be increased by the adoption of a 0.27000 per one hundred dollar of assessed value – effectively a 5.85% increase. The average impact on a home valued at \$600,000 will be \$1,620 annually.

Jeff Koska, Utilities Director, presented the recommended utility fee charges for: water service, sewer service, water meters and sewer connections, city tap charges, payment for service, deposits, penalties for delinquent bills, garbage collection, and efforts to build the reserve fund for the utility department to the level expected of 3 months expenditures. The increase of 15% will still have Horseshoe Bay the lowest (and second lowest) for 5,000 and 10,000 gallon usage rates among 14 comparison area cities. The monthly increase for a home using 10,000 gallons in a month will be \$7.76 for water and \$7.11 for sewer.

All were pleased to approve the appointment of **John Minyard** to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate....and share appreciation for his willingness to serve.

The council convened in executive session as allow by state statute...and was then able to adjourn a very productive – and community focused meeting within 2 hours. Jerry Gray was happy to make the motion to adjourn!

We heard lots of chatter from folks at the meeting returning from wonderful summer excursions in cooler temperatures....and goaded them a bit for not bringing it back with them. Still...everyone agreed it is hard to complain when you live in Horseshoe Bay!

Cynthia Clinesmith, Council Member and Chief Information Officer