

Council Comments.....

Good morning Horseshoe Bay!

Top of the morning to you. And literally, it is. The sun is rising over the power plant, soon to be replaced by a new version. My impression is the replacement will have a lower profile and be less noticeable. We'll see.

A record was set once again at yesterday's meeting. From Reverend Larry's prayer to adjournment - a total of 28 minutes. So, I'll be brief.

Following the praying and pledging, Dean Crosby, as he has done many, many times previously, brought us up to date on the HSB Business Alliance activities. The monthly coffee klatch will be held on Wednesday, April 25 from 9 till 10 at the Hill Country Community Theatre. The Annual Spring Fling with all the picnic fix-in's will be held at Martin Park (next to city hall) on May 3 from 6 till 8. Come one, come all.

Bill Gaylord shared his concerns about recent roadway incidents on Thanksgiving Mt. Road. Since this is a major thoroughfare, especially on Sunday morning, a prompt assessment of any hazards will be made by Chief Lane and City Manager Stan.

Captain Jeff Isom, one of our City's highly trained Firefighter/EMT's was recognized for his 10 years of service. Thank you Jeff!!

City Secretary Teresa then reported that she has certified that sufficient citizen signatures were obtained on the two petitions submitted in March by Karen Wines, thereby, requiring an election on November 6 to approve the Charter amendments.

The first amendment is a basic reiteration of the Texas Local Government Code Section 9.004 and 9.005 that outlines the procedures for calling such an election. The basics are that 5% of the City's qualified voters (5% of 2735 is 137) may petition the city for an election by qualified voters to amend the City's Charter.

The second petition calls for such an election on any acquisition of ownership interest of any airport by the City of Horseshoe Bay. I reckon this is directed at the airport currently owned by the Resort, since it's the only one handy to our immediate area. If such a proposal is offered to the City, it will be reviewed by the City's airport committee and additional briefings will be held with TxDOT and the FAA. In addition, numerous workshops and council discussions are certain to follow before action is taken. The ordinance to hold an election on these two amendments was approved 5-0. Obviously, more to come and a topic to discuss during the dog days of summer.

On this same issue, at the March council meeting, Bill Wines requested a Council Resolution stating that no actions would be taken prior to a vote on the charter amendments. All seemed to agree that such a resolution was unnecessary. No motion was made to adopt such a resolution.

Stan report that there were complications concerning the release by our City of the Oak Ridge ETJ that could hamper the reacquisition of said ETJ at a later date. This issue appears to be

dead at this time. Stan also reported that a resumption of the lot mowing program was coming up soon. A brief discussion followed concerning coordinating a continuance of dead tree and cedar tree removal through the summer months. More discussion on this topic will continue at our May council meeting.

Our Utility Director Jeff asked the council to consider adding a Field Operations Foreman position to his organization. Through improved organization structure and new technologies, Jeff's organization has maintained its current staffing level for the past 10 years. The City's water and wastewater infrastructure has grown 20% in the past 10 years. Recent experiences with the Fairway Street Improvement project indicate that new capital projects and additional maintenance will result as this project expands throughout our city. This new position will be filled from within Jeff's organization and a new hire will replace that individual. Jeff's request was approved 5 - 0.

We then platted and replatted, approved sign variances for Escondido and Jamail's (it's almost time) and approved an Amendment to the Home Occupation Zoning Ordinance to allow the occasional Home Party (make-up, clothes, jewelry, etc.) sales.

After the meeting, yours truly had a brief discussion with Dean Blaine, a contractor for the new Bay West bridge. He told me the bridge is on schedule and projected to be open for traffic in mid-May.

All in all, a good day. The meeting was short, but the issues discussed were important. The blue bonnets are fading, the days are longer (and hotter), but soon we'll have a new grocery store. Always something to be thankful for in the Bay. Have a good month!

Your Scribe -

Jeff Robinson