

Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments – November 27, 2012

This is the second edition of Council Comments that I have had the pleasure to write. The first was as a fill-in for Council Scribe Jeff Robinson who penned many letters over his time on your City Council. Hopefully you will find my efforts as informative as those of Mr. Robinson.

Prior to our monthly meeting Craig Haydon, David Pope and Steve Jordan were sworn in as new members of the council. Welcome to each of you.

After Reverend Larry Sherwood led us in prayer for all our political leaders during these critical times, we pledged to our country and state then set out to do the City's business. As our first order of business, Mayor Lambert recognized Animal Control Officer Randy Lane for 5 years of service to the City. The Council then elected yours truly to be Mayor Pro Tem and Chief Information Officer.

Mid-Com Management has proposed development of property they own at the intersection of Hwy 71 and 2147. Their plans involve the extension of utilities to the site and ultimate expansion of the City's utility system at City expense and construction of a convenience store at the corner. They were represented by Jim Babcock who briefly summarized the group's plans and made themselves available for questions from the Council. No action was taken.

Councilman Jordan had asked that the agenda include discussion of FEMA's new Flood Insurance Maps for HSB. He kicked off a discussion of how the new flood designations would impact numerous properties in the city requiring significant efforts by property owners to avoid future costs and decreases in property values. FEMA has designated several properties in the floodplain without providing a base flood elevation making it the responsibility of the property owner to prove that their property should not be included. It appears that only property owners who have a mortgage would have been notified of the change.

A copy of the new FEMA Floodplain maps are available for review at the City Development Services Department and the Council will discuss possible further action including advising all affected property owners in the city of the implications of the new maps at the December Council meeting.

We approved several preliminary and final replats, a construction setback variance for a stucco wall, approved the Council meeting schedule for 2013 and the consent agenda without discussion. The 2013 meeting schedule can be found on the City's website.

City Manager Farmer updated the Council on lot mowing which now involves over 5100 lots, deer trapping which removed 400 from the City, cedar and dead tree removal efforts and the Street Upgrade Program progress in the section east of Ferguson Road and north of 2147. It was noted that the next opportunity to get an update on the Street Upgrade Program would be at a workshop scheduled for 9:00 A.M. on December 11.

The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, December 11 at 3:00 P.M. in City Hall.

Lastly, we adjourned to executive session to get an update on some legal matters. Final adjournment came slightly past 5:30 P.M.

All in all not a bad day for my birthday!

Written by Tom Schmersahl