

## Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments – December 11, 2012

These comments will encompass two separate meetings which began with a three hour Streets Workshop in the morning and the regular monthly City Council Meeting in the afternoon. If you have not attended one of our workshops you should. While they are posted and follow an agenda they allow for much more flowing discussion between the Council and audience.

The focus of the streets workshop was on how we best complete and fund the 53.5 mile street improvement program. To date we have completed approximately 13 miles with an additional 8 miles currently in progress. We were quite honestly disappointed in the actual versus projected costs on the first phase of the program. We were able to bring the costs more into line with anticipated costs during the last two phases but project the completion of the entire plan to cost somewhere around \$22 to \$24 million rather than the original projection of around \$17 million. Some of funding will involve the use of annual general fund surpluses, possible temporary transfers from the Utility Rate Stabilization Fund and the issuance of additional certificates of obligation in 2014-2016. Whatever mix of funding sources we use, be assured that your Council is intent upon following a conservative approach that keeps our tax rate low and maintains our AA credit rating.

Your Council decided to bid and construct the Fault Line Phase in HSB West next. Construction should begin sometime in February. In addition engineering will begin soon on the Hi Circle South Phase which will begin sometime this summer. Following completion of the current construction and the two phases mentioned we will have approximately 21 miles of the 53.5 remaining to engineer and determine the construction sequence. An update to the Street Improvement Plan has been posted on the City website.

The monthly City Council meeting began on time at 3:00 P.M. with an invocation offered by Reverend Johnny White and the pledge of allegiance to our country and state flags.

Outgoing County Commissioner from Precinct 1, Johnnie Heck thanked everyone for their encouragement and support during the past 6 and one-half years that he has served us. Thank you Johnnie!

Staff reported that they were working with FEMA and others to fully define the impact new Floodplain maps will have on our community. Current estimates are that up to 1000 lots will be brought under expanded flood plain maps. This item will be on the January 22 agenda for approval of a letter to the effected lot owners advising them of the future impact of this flood plain expansion.

One addition to the Street Improvement Plan comments above. After City Manager Stan Farmer reviewed the events of the morning meeting, Council passed a motion to amend the plan to include a portion of a street that is not currently in the plan if a home faces a street being improved but its garage/drive access is off a side street. That portion of the side street running past their drive will also be improved.

In other action we approved a blue over grey and HSB logo design for the new Summit Rock water tank, delayed a decision on spending further funds on cedar and dead tree removal until trees leaf out in

March and approved a two replats and one rezoning requests. The rezoning request involved changing the zoning on several lots on the corner of HWY 2147 and Thanksgiving Mountain from residential to commercial subject to approval of a planned development ordinance where its use is reviewed and approved by the city.

We ended the day around 4:30 P.M. after adjourning to executive session where we discussed annual employee appraisals. See you at our January 22, 2013 meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Written by Tom Schmersahl