

Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments – January 22, 2013

These Council Comments are appearing a week later than normal with the apologies of your writer who simply did not get the job done following a lengthy session last week. My apologies!

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order right on time, which has been his practice with a full complement of Council members. Reverend Larry Sherwood called for God's blessing on our community and the Council's action after which we pledged our allegiance to this great country and state.

During the Public Comment section, HSB resident Paul Langston petitioned the Council to support VetRides serving Llano, Burnet and San Saba County veterans and their families. Originally VetRides was supported by the Texas Veterans Commission. But over the past several years support has decreased and even with volunteer drivers, vans and maintenance supplied by Burnet County, the organization needs donations to survive. Sophie McCoy, VetRides dispatcher added that they provide over 400 rides per month for veterans and their spouses to get to doctors, hospitals and other needed services. The Council will consider this request at its February meeting.

A standing room only audience were witness to recognition of our two Hill Country 100 honoree's for 2013. Ryan Guthrie as HSB Firefighter of the year and Captain Richard Baum as HSB Policeman of the year. In addition, Captain Baum was further recognized on the occasion of his retirement from Law Enforcement after 38 years of service. Thank you Ryan and Richard.

Mayor Lambert then called upon outgoing Llano County Commissioner Johnnie Heck. Johnnie was recognized with a Proclamation acknowledging his 6 years of service as our own County Commissioner. Johnnie thanked all our citizens for their support and specifically thanked his wife Mary Kay.

Ron Mitchell, Vice Chairman and President of Horseshoe Bay Resort, provided the Council and audience with a status of the planned sale of the Resort. As detailed in his recent letter to the membership, they have exclusively retained HFF to market the Resort. The Resort team is currently in a research, document and sales packet preparation process which will take 45-60 days. Ron stressed the importance of preserving the value the employees and membership bring to the Resort.

The contract for the next phase of the City's Street Improvement Plan was awarded to Allen Keller Company as the lowest bidder at \$2,001,351. This phase involves 5.6 miles of Fault Line Drive and several side streets in HSB West. The contactor plans to begin this phase in late March with work on Wennmohs Place working back to the south to Bay West Blvd.

The BIG issue of the day involved agreeing to actions the City will take to help its residents deal with the impact of new Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Plain Maps. You may recall that this issue was reported on in our November Council meeting and staff was asked to identify the properties which are impacted by this FEMA Flood Plain expansion and to recommend how the City may help mitigate the impact on these properties.

Staff identified 985 properties impacted by the maps. 694 are basically water front properties which were on the 1991 maps and 291 properties which were newly affected. These 291 may not be aware of

these new federal flood plain identifications unless they have a mortgage and were advised by their lender.

The City plans to take three actions. The first is to send a letter to all 985 property owners advising them of the impact these FEMA maps have on their property. The second is to retain Willis Environmental Engineering to conduct necessary hydraulic, hydrologic and topographic studies and work with the Texas Water Development Board (TDWD) and FEMA to address concerns and provide accurate 100 year flood plain boundaries, and data for determining accurate base flood elevations for affected properties. This work is estimated to cost \$125,000 and once complete can be used to request corrected maps and by the property owners to gain elevation certificates for their property. Thirdly, City staff will serve as a resource for property owners during what is most likely a lengthy process. This project is being handled by Eric Winter, City Development Services Manager and overseen by Councilman Steve Jordan.

City Manager Stan Farmer provided an update on the progress of the Street Improvement program for the phase we call North of Hwy 2147. This 8 mile phase is being built by Allen Keller Company. Currently paving is being done in the Red Sail area, base reconstruction and curbing in the Free Rein/Fire Dance area and crews will be moving soon to the Lucy Lane area. Following completion of the water line project on HSB Blvd work will shift to this final area of the project around the Yacht Club and Hotel.

In conjunction with the Street Improvement Program, city staff recommended that the Council approve moving up the 2014 Hi Circle South Water Line Upgrade capital project into 2013. The eight inch main on Hi Circle South running from HWY 2147 to the Resort's stables is not only one of the oldest in the city but also runs along the South 2147 Street Improvement phase which will begin later in 2013. Council authorized \$475,000 for this 3800 foot project funded by the Utility Rate Stabilizations Fund.

Numerous citizens have commented that we are seeing even more deer than normal, even though we trapped and removed 400 during last fall. One reason may be that with all the lot clearing that they are simply more visible especially this year's fawns. Experts tell us that there is no ideal number of deer, but after discussion, Council decided to authorize the removal of up to 200 more deer before the trapping deadline in March 31.

Architectural Standards for subdivisions within the City are being added to the City's website. These standards along with Architectural Committee contacts are intended to aid property owners in compliance with varying standards specific to each subdivision.

The City Parks Committee has several expired terms and open seats. One member resigned and the terms of Mary Daniel and Carrie Foran are expiring. The Council is seeking volunteers who are interested in helping guide the next exciting phase of public parks development for the city. Appointments to the City Parks Committee will be made at the February Council meeting. Call the City Manager or a member of your Council to express your interest.

Public hearings for preliminary and final approval of five recommended replats were held and approved. One additional replat request was continued until the March Council meeting to allow time for the

developer and Applehead Island POA to meet and consider several property owners' concerns about the replat request.

We ended our day with a lengthy Executive session where the Council received advice from legal counsel regarding the MidCom Development Agreement and utility impact fees. We returned to public session and adjourned at 5:48 P.M.

Continual Progress! Your Council working to make Horseshoe Bay an even more appealing place to enjoy life. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 3:00 P.M. in Council Chambers. Come join us!

Prepared by Councilman Tom Schmersahl