

Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments – February 19, 2013

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order right at the hour of 3:00 P.M. Reverend Pete Christy of the Church at Horseshoe Bay led us in a brief prayer and we pledged our allegiance to our great country and state.

During the public comment period Councilman Schmersahl announced his intentions to file for the office of Mayor in August for the November 5, 2013 General Election. He cited several future challenges he believes the next mayor will face including transitioning the city to an after Mayor Lambert operation, the completion of the promised street improvement program in an economical manner, managing the impact on the city of a new resort owner, keeping our excellent city services ahead of the curve and preparing for the next phase of HSB expansion which is sure to come. This public announcement comes after one via email by Councilman Steve Jordan earlier in the month. It looks like all of you will have the opportunity to vote to elect your next Mayor in what will be the first contested Mayoral Election since Incorporation. Mayor Lambert is prohibited in seeking the office again due to term limits.

Mayor Bob then had the opportunity to recognize two of our great city employees for service anniversaries; Connie Harris and Tim Webb for five years of service.

The next two agenda items involved the development of open space or parkland within the city. After several years of work, the Mayor was able to announce that the city has accepted property from Mrs. Eileen Hurd, The HSB Resort, and HSB POA, which will provide for a future park/hiking trail down along Horseshoe Creek from the Mausoleum all the way down to Hwy 2147 by the main water treatment plant. This project was the idea of Wayne and Eileen Hurd and will be developed through the direction of the City Park Committee's Master Plan. This project has been covered several times in the past, including maps.

Parks Committee Chairman Michael Widler presented the Parks Master Plan draft which will be placed on the city website and on the agenda for discussion on March 19, April 16 and for adoption at the May 21 City Council meeting. Adoption of a Parks Master plan is needed to facilitate application for Texas Parks and Wildlife Grants which will be needed to develop our parks system. Council reappointed Allan Kettlehut and Carrie Foran to the Parks Committee until January 2014. We are still looking for two additional individuals who are interested in Parks development for appointment to two year terms. Contact Teresa Moore at City Hall if you are interested.

During our January meeting a group named VETRIDES approached Council asking for a donation to continue operations. They supply transportation to veterans and their families in Llano, Burnet and Lampasas Counties under a program which was funded by the Texas Veterans Commission. This funding has been removed so they are seeking

funds to help our veterans. Texas law will not allow the city to make such a contribution but the Church at Horseshoe Bay has stepped in and provided the funding.

Councilman Jordan provided an update on the ongoing effort to provide city property owners information and to convince FEMA that their property does not belong under the new FEMA Flood Plain maps. You may recall, at the January council meeting, we approved a contract to spend up to \$125,000 for this effort which will save city property owners countless dollars in future flood insurance premiums and property restrictions if the new FEMA maps can be adjusted. The city staff is working with The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) who works closely with FEMA. The project involves approximately 1,480 properties and at the recommendation of TWPD has been broken down by creek flood plains. Walnut Creek data will be used since LCRA has flood data, which can then be used to develop flood data for Pecan Creek and Slick Rock Creek flood plains. 648 of the total properties are newly affected by the new FEMA maps and 832 were affected to some degree by the 1991 maps. The Council also discussed the placement of flood monitoring equipment along our creeks so that we can collect data for future use.

The Council voted unanimously to rename a portion of Mountain Dew to Dew Drop. This name was selected from among suggestions from citizens since we aired the story of confusion at the corner of Mountain Dew and Mountain Dew last month. City staff will coordinate with the 911 Coordinator, city street sign replacement and the five impacted home owners during the implementation of this decision. This project involves changing street names for a portion of Mountain Dew, a portion of Great Western, removal of the name Buzzard Roost, all in HSB south.

During the city manager Stan Farmer's administrative report, Councilman Schmersahl challenged city staff in two areas. The first involved deer trapping which this budget year is targeted to remove 600 deer at a cost of \$90,000. The challenge is to identify holes in our deer fence and determine what level of removal is prudent along with deer fence investments needs prior to the budget process this summer. The second area involves water. The challenge involves identifying ideas that we can implement to cut down on wasted water both by end users and by the city through leak detection, new conservation programs, advanced water use audits, or meter replacements. Both items will be discussed further as we plan for the 2013-2014 city budget.

Stan Farmer provided a Street Improvement Plan update for the area identified as N of HWY 2147 which showed most all sections have had curbs installed and are paved. The contractor is in the Bay Point, Harbor Light areas and will begin Horseshoe Bay Blvd now that the 12-inch water line replacement project is complete. The next Project area will be Fault Line and some side streets beginning in late March down on Wenmohs Place working south. In addition several decisions were made relative to the project to follow

the Fault Line project which will be the Hi Circle South area which will be bid for construction start in the fall of 2013.

Finally we dealt with a couple rezoning and replat amendments and provided a variance for a side yard setback for Pastor Ruben's new residence during expansion of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel. We briefly moved to Executive Session to discuss the City Finance Director Position prior to final adjournment.

Our next City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 in Council Chambers beginning promptly at 3:00 P.M. Come see us.

Written by Mayor Pro-tem Tom Schmersahl

