

## Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments

Prepared by Tom Schmersahl, Mayor Pro-tem

The June 18, 2013 Horseshoe Bay City Council Meeting was called to order promptly at the posted starting time of 3:00 P.M. by Mayor Bob Lambert. The Reverend Larry Sherwood of the Church at Horseshoe Bay led us in prayer which included a call for wisdom and supernatural decisions by your City leaders. A lofty request Reverend Sherwood! The group then pledged our allegiance to our great country and state.

During the Public Comment segment resident Bill Wines requested that the City discontinue using what he called a closed loop staff compensation system where the City develops a salary survey from like sized cities but rather use a comparison to non-governmental entities and a CPI. We can discuss this more during our first budget workshop on Monday, July 1, 2013.

Mayor Lambert had one of the more enjoyable opportunities any Mayor can have, the recognition of a man who has given 35 years of his life to one employer. Luis Rodriguez came to work for the Lake LBJ MUD on May 30, 1978. Luis's family members were on hand for a standing ovation in recognition of his service. Thank you Luis!

The Council and audience were then provided an update to the City's efforts to mitigate the impact of recent FEMA Flood Plain Maps, which impact an additional 1000 properties in the City and possibly requiring them to have federal flood insurance. A team led by City staff and engineering consultants has been working to develop alternate flood and historic water level data for our waterways which can be used to request FEMA adjust their maps removing some properties.

The City team has been led by Councilman Steve Jordan who introduced Melinda Luna, Texas Water Development Board, who has been providing guidance as we develop the required data. Ms. Luna reported that our studies are almost complete and will be provided to FEMA by the end of July. She expects FEMA to respond within 90 days with a letter while publication of updated maps may take up to a year. Ms. Luna expressed a belief that the acknowledgement letter may act as a tool in keeping property owners from paying for high cost insurance. Eric Winter, Developmental Services Manager, continues to be the contact point for information and updates.

Nancy Ritter, Horseshoe Property Owners Association General Manager was introduced to the Council and assembled citizens. She has been on the job since May 28 but has owned property in HSB for 5 years. If you have not met Nancy, drop by the POA and introduce yourself. Welcome Nancy.

Stan Farmer, City Manager, provided an update on the progress of our City Street Upgrade program. But first, Mr. Rex Norris, who has lived on Sweetgrass in HSB west for 10 year's spoke to inquire why the street in front of his home was not included in the Street Upgrade program. In addition he complained that during the construction process along Fault Line Drive that his street has been damaged. Mayor Lambert explained the criteria used in planning the Upgrade program involved streets that met a standard of 15 improved lots per mile. This standard is prorated for shorter streets. In addition, staff was directed to assure repairs were made to his street correcting damage done by construction equipment.

The Fault Line Drive portion of the Street Upgrade plan began on April 22 on Wennmohs Place with base reconstruction/destruction now complete up to and including Lachite. The concrete curb crew is keeping up with the road base reconstruction. However external factors such as rain and equipment problems have kept the paving crew from keeping pace. They have paved up to the cart crossing on Fault Line Drive between Apple Rock number 10 and 11. We were told that they plan to pave next week until they catch up with the base and concrete crews. Mayor Pro-tem Schmersahl, who is also a block Captain for this phase, commented that the success of the road base and concrete crews have set an expectation for residents that paving and relief from dust and dirt will come quickly. Unfortunately, the paving crew has not been able to complete the process.

The Hi Circle South area will be next up for the Street Upgrade plan with bids considered by Council during July.

Council reappointed Norm Long and Jerry Gray to new two-year terms on the Planning and Zoning Commission through June 19, 2015. Thanks Norm and Jerry for your service to our citizens.

City Manager Staff Farmer and his team updated Council on various monthly statistical data reports. These data reports are a standard portion of Council monthly packets. Julie Oakley, City Finance Director, reported that both the Utility Fund and General Fund were over budget in revenue and under budget in expenses through 8 months of the fiscal year. Fire Chief Jim Fiero reported on a recent newspaper article from his department about storm season and emergency preparedness. He displayed an emergency Weather Radio that he purchased at Wal-Mart and suggested that it may be the best way for our citizens to prepare for severe weather.

Mayor Pro-tem Schmersahl asked for more information and progress updates on the HSB South Code enforcement task force which has been assembled to identify and correct code violations in HSB South. In addition, he questioned Jeff Koska, Utility Director about the effort to offer water conservation rebates and a low flow shower head replacement program in conjunction with LCRA.

The Council voted to accept a bid by M & C Fonseca Construction of Granite Shoals, TX to replace approximately 3800 foot of eight inch water main on Hi Circle South running from Hwy 2147 to the Resort Stables. This line is one of the oldest in the City and is prone to failures. The project is being done in 2013 in conjunction with the street upgrade plan. The bid is significantly below the engineer's estimates.

Finally, Council voted to expend an additional \$75,000 during the remainder of the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year that ends September 30<sup>th</sup>, cutting down cedar and dead trees. This program was suggested by former Mayor Pro-tem Jeff Robinson in November 2011. At the time he described the program as a 3-5 year effort to remove invasive cedar and clear a fire threat in dead trees killed by the drought. With this expenditure your Council will have dedicated almost \$175,000 to this effort with additional funds being planned in the 2013-2014 budget. That budget process begins with the first workshop on Monday, July 1.

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, July 2 at City Hall beginning at 3:00 P.M. Come see your City Government at work! We adjourned at approximately 4:10 P.M.