

COUNCIL COMMENTS
JANUARY 20, 2014

This month's meeting began promptly at 3 PM, as usual, followed by Pastor Johnny White's invocation and pledges to the American and Texas flags. Today's meeting was preceded by a 3 hour "workshop" which was for the purpose of gaining input on and discussing our iPad use policy, financial status and next steps of the streets project, the need for a City mission statement, possible formation of three proposed new committees, status of our Emergency Management Plan and goals of our respective City Department heads. No action is taken in these workshops. That is saved for the actual Council meeting.

First order of business today was to recognize Officer T.J. Cox for 5 years of service in our police department. Congratulations, TJ, and thank you!

We then heard from David Mitchell, builder of a home at 409 Lighthouse Drive regarding the projected finish out schedule of this home, which required a new building permit to be issued due to a lengthy construction timetable. March 1, 2015, is the current target completion dates, not including landscaping.

On an encouraging note, City Manager Stan Farmer announced discussion is underway with a potential new internet provider, Sky Beam, which may be able to provide higher speeds on a broader geography than any current provider. This is still in the early investigation stage. Stay tuned. Stan also announced the estimated completion of the current HSB West streets project in the April – May time frame. Currently, that phase is some \$30,000 under budget. Terrific! The next and last phase of the street improvement project is a 7.5 mile area covering the Clayton Nolan and Highland Blvd area. Plans are complete and funds on hand so the Council approved putting it out for bids with anticipated contract awarding during our March 17 Council meeting. Construction would begin within 30 to 60 days of awarding and should take approximately 9 months to complete. This is the final phase of the streets project – halleluia! We also discussed a possible change order to the current HSB West contract to cover the upgrade of Ferguson Road. More on this at next month's meeting.

Larry Anderson, our City Financial Manager, reported on our finances as of December 31, 2014, which is the end of our fiscal first quarter. Our City operates within four funds – the General, Utility, Debt Service and Capital project funds. They total \$18.2 million in income for the 2015 budget year. All four funds are "on plan" from both an income and expense perspective year to date. A question was raised regarding the potential financial impact (income) to the City from the significant drop in the price of oil. Due to our primary funding being related to property taxes, there is no concern about its impact on this year's budget. However, it is something to keep an eye on for the 2016 budget year.

As you may be aware, our City is required to have an "official newspaper" designated for communicating announcements, meeting agendas, etc. The Highlander has been, and was approved to continue as our official newspaper.

Your Council has decided the City of Horseshoe Bay should have a “Mission Statement” and your help is requested in developing one. You are invited to submit your mission statement suggestion in writing to our City Secretary, Teresa Moore, no later than February 10, 2015. The Council will select a mission statement during our February 17 meeting. How would you define our purpose? Here’s a hint – keep it short, simple and easy to memorize. Let us hear from you.

Next action was to approve the establishment of two new committees to assist the Council. Both are advisory and single purpose committees. The “Information and Communication” committee will be established for the purpose of developing a promotional brochure for use by realtors as well as general distribution to promote the City of Horseshoe Bay’s most outstanding attributes. The “Long Range Planning” committee will be charged with helping determine what our citizens think our City should be 3 to 5 years down the road. We are looking for volunteers to serve on these committees. If you are interested you may go to the City Web site www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov to obtain a committee application form and submit it to Teresa Moore. We would like to select members for these committees during our February 17 Council meeting so if interested please get you application in no later than February 10, 2015.

Stan Farmer presented an amendment to the 2007 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. An improved ordinance would be part of the application for an “International Dark Sky” community designation. We all enjoy being able to see the stars at night, don’t we? This designation would recognize our desire to do so. The HSB Resort hasn’t had an opportunity to properly review the ordinance so this issue was tabled for action at the February Council meeting.

Finally, we convened as the Board of Adjustment regarding a request for a small set back variance on lot # 19089 (600 block of Sorrell Court). The variance was approved.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM and was followed by an Executive Session, which convened at 4:25 PM for the purpose of discussing reuse of effluent from the City’s waste water treatment plant. No action resulted from this discussion and the session adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Hope you found this report to be informative and that you will get involved in the mission statement and /or committee application process. Good day!

Jerry Gray