

July 1 and 2, 2013

Horseshoe Bay City Council Comments

Prepared by Tom Schmersahl, Mayor Pro-tem

This month's Council Comments will actually be two separate sets of meeting notes, the first covers our first 2013-2014 City Budget Workshop which was held on Monday, July 1ST and the second our monthly Council meeting held on Tuesday, July 2ND. Both are appearing a week later due to early print deadlines during the week of July 4TH.

Our Budget workshop began promptly at 9:00 A.M. called to order by Mayor Lambert with all Council members and senior city staff present. Our workshops are more informal than Council meetings but for the first time in my experience, no member of the general public came to listen and participate. Don't worry, we will not tell ourselves that no one cares about how we spend your money.

The Budget Workshop is the process where Council and the public learn about the City Budget as prepared and proposed by The City Manager, Finance Director and Department heads. City Manager Stan Farmer introduced the proposed budget calling upon first Finance Director Julie Oakley to cover General Fund Revenue and Expenses. Jeff Koska, Utilities Director followed with a discussion of utility staffing and Utility Fund Revenue and Expenses.

We spent considerable time discussing the future of our Cedar and Dead Tree removal program that was started in 2011. At the time it was proposed by then Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Robinson it was contemplated to be a five year program whose cost would be determined by our early efforts. While to date the city has spent almost \$170,000, the program completion is nowhere in sight. Council members support continuing with the program for health and safety reasons but differ on how to fund the program, some wanting to assess the cost to lot owners.

We took a break from the budget around 11:00 A.M. to hear an update by Jennifer Douglas regarding bond interest rates and the timing of issuing Certificates of Obligation to cover the remainder of the Street Improvement Plan and our Capital Improvement plan for the departments.

The budget contemplates keeping the City Tax Rate at \$.25 per 100 dollars of assessed valuation. This rate includes \$.222 for the general fund and \$.028 for debt service.

We then heard an update on the cost to date of the Street Improvement Plan, progress on the Fault Line Drive Project, discussed the bid for the Hi Circle South project which will come next and decided to schedule the remainder of the Street projects in Horseshoe Bay West as the next phase to follow completion of Hi Circle South. We also voted to accept Buffalo Street from the Resort which was overlooked in prior street transfers.

We then heard from Michael Widler, Chairman of the Park Committee, who discussed ideas for projects to move our Park Plan forward. These plans include making additional improvements at Martin Park, laying out the route for a portion of the hiking trail in what will become Horseshoe Creek Park, and

possible enhancements to the POA Park at Fox Hollow. These items will be considered in our final budget.

We then heard from Fire Chief Jim Fiero, Police Chief Bill Lane, and Development Services Manager Eric Winter. We later returned to the discussion of the Merit Increase budget for employees, the developing cost increases for employee health care brought on by the Affordable Care Act and reduction in the tax base. Finally we reviewed Utility Plans to encourage water conservation during our continuing drought.

We adjourned the Budget Workshop at approximately 4:30 P.M. and will meet again on August 27 at 9:00 A.M. to review the next version of the budget.

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

All I can say is thank goodness that our Council meeting was short after the marathon Budget session we held on Monday. Reverend Pete Christy led us in prayer followed by appropriate pledges to our Country and State. It is July 4th week after all!

Chief Lane introduced Garth Davis who replaces Jim Denman on our Police Force. Both are former Texas Rangers. Garth comes to us from the Burnet Police Force and Jim has moved to reserve status due to family concerns. Councilman Craig Haydon reminded us all that this July 4th Horseshoe Bay will salute all our First Responders. Thanks for the leadership, Chief Lane and Fiero.

We then passed a Resolution establishing November 5, 2013 as a General Election in Horseshoe Bay including elections for Mayor, City Council and reauthorization of the ¼ cent sales tax dedicated to the Street Improvement Plan.

The City has undertaken a Code Enforcement project in Horseshoe Bay South at the request of several homeowners. A Task Force has been established and with this increased emphasis they have identified 77 violations of city ordinances and 33 have been resolved.

City Manager Stan Farmer provided the Council a status report of the progress of the Fault Line Drive phase of the Street Improvement Plan and we voted to award the contract for the next phase, Hi Circle South to the Allen Keller Company in the amount of \$2,739,403.95. This phase presents some difficult construction conditions with solid rock shelves, minimal soil depths, steep slopes and multiple drainage culverts. The very unfortunate news in their bid was price increases for full depth reclamation, concrete and asphalt that averaged about 20%.

Eric Winter, Development Services Manager informed Council that as of this week, all of Horseshoe Bay's flood plain submissions have been turned to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Everything will be submitted to FEMA this month and the 90 day clock starts. We are encouraged that FEMA may provide a ruling earlier than the 90 day window. Property owners should contact Eric at City Hall, should you want to know where your property stands in the process.

The Council voted to accept the Draft Report from the City's Impact Fee Committee. The Draft Report will be posted for a first public hearing on August 27, 2013. Public comment from this first hearing will be considered by the Committee and possible edits made prior to a second public hearing.

The Council voted to reauthorize the City's Juvenile Curfew Ordinance. Law requires a Triennial Review and based on a recommendation from Chief Lane Council voted unanimously to reauthorize the curfew ordinance.

We approved three replat applications and finally we postponed ordering demolition on a manufactured home in HSB South. Staff advised that the property has a new owner and the delay until the August 27TH meeting will allow for proper notice to the new owner.

Your City Council and Staff hope you had a wonderful and safe July 4TH Holiday.

We adjourned at approximately 3:24 P.M. and do not meet again until Tuesday, August 27 at 3:00 P.M.