

Council Comments.....

Good Morning Horseshoe Bay –

Yesterday was a good day at City Hall, but a better day in the great outdoors. Isn't spring nice – we seem to have so little of it.

Reverend Larry of the Church at Horseshoe Bay prayed, we all pledged and then recognized our outstanding City Secretary Teresa Moore for her 5 years of service to our community.

Ryder Warren, Marble Falls School Superintendent, gave us the rundown on the current school year in the Falls. He said all concerned had a really good year. Six of seven construction projects are complete, enough classrooms are available to meet the next 4 years growth projections and the school district is in line to receive \$1.1 million of Federal Stimulus money. This will fund much needed upgrades in areas such as the technology curriculum.

A brief discussion was held concerning moving city funds currently invested with Tex Pool to CD's at American Bank. These CD's would be fully collateralized and yield an interest rate 1% better than Tex Pool – more to come.

The city is undertaking its' first projects related to its' new street ownership responsibilities. Seventy-seven tons of asphalt will be laid to repair potholes and edges. Currently asphalt goes for \$54/ton as opposed to \$77/ton this time last year. That will result in more "pothole fixing" for the buck.

Jeff Koska, our "on the ball" City Utility Director, recently discovered \$35,000 in LCRA credits due the Bay from our provision of services to Sandy Harbor and Oak Ridge. Way to go Jeff!

Lot mowing and cleaning, other new projects assumed by the City from the HSB POA, were discussed. These two activities are not only aesthetically important, but are critical to fire prevention and critter control. An even more aggressive schedule than that proved by the POA is being considered. Personally a three to five year plan for all lots would seem like a good idea.

We received the City financials – Good – one of the few cities in Texas with an increase in city sales tax revenue. We preliminarily replatted and annexed, and now as you can tell – I'm just filling space. Oh well, that's better than two pages of street discussions.

The council then, by a 5 – 0 vote, approved the canvass and tabulation of the Home Rule Charter elections. The final vote count was 392 yeas and 134 nays. An ordinance to adopt the approved Home Rule Charter was then passed 5 – 0. Your council plans to make good use of the new tools provided by this change in city government.

The first item to be considered as a Home Rule City was the creation of a Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission. Each council member has been asked to nominate one or two candidates to fill the three seats on this panel. A vote by the council will result in one – one year term member and two – two year term members. Term limitations will limit each member to a maximum of 4 successive terms (the same as council members). Much more to come on how this will operate.

The much desired Village Square project (grocery included) continues to progress. My hope is that at the June council meeting we can review and bless the final plans for this project. Since this will be the largest, to date, retail and office project in Horseshoe Bay, its needs to reflect the current and future image our residents expect.

OK – that’s all there is – I continue to marvel when I read the Austin paper about the many difficulties other cities in Central Texas must address – how great it is to live in a City, that while not totally controversy free, deals with issues in an intelligent, deliberate and democratic manner. It’s that way because of the folks who live here. Enjoy your day!

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson