

Council Comments.....

Good Morning Horseshoe Bay –

And a warm good morning it is – yesterday morning’s workshop saw a return of the topic of choice the past three years – “The Roads.” Good news is that instead of discussing ownership, we’ve moved on to plans for their upgrade and maintenance. Included in that discussion are lot clearing, lot mowing and deer management. Concerning road maintenance and the latter three items, the city will, for now, continue the HSB POA’s methods and procedures. An accelerated schedule of lot clearing was actively discussed and for the sake of fire safety, varmint control and general appearance, all agreed that a plan to clear all lots in the coming years was appropriate. Two things – these plans are “works in progress” and conversations will begin with all POA’s, since city ordinances concerning these issues apply city wide, not just to the HSB POA.

On to the Roads – the city has contracted the use of 77 tons of asphalt for road maintenance, “patches and potholes,” and begun management of that process. A portion of HSB POA maintenance fee dollars are flowing to the city and Stan’s team is learning the ropes.

On to the big ticket item – The Street Upgrade Plan. I would use three words to describe our discussion – standards, longevity and fairness. Standards to describe the width, depth and composition of the streets (a subtle change), including the base and curbing. I would describe longevity as a “do it right the first time” mentality. If we’re going to expend the large amounts of time, effort and money to upgrade the streets – let’s make it last. A three to five year plan to upgrade about 40 miles of our most trafficked, highest resident density, poorest quality streets would comprise that 40 miles. (Plus any specific streets the residents of which asked for the upgrade.)

When completed the goal is for the streets to last 30 years. I will again emphasize that this was our initial planning session of a “work in progress.” We will be ably abetted by Tony Plumlee of Willis Engineering. Since a project of street upgrades of this magnitude has never been undertaken in the Bay, we will plan, listen to Tony, learn from experience and make adjustments as we progress.

“Fairness,” folks, is how we pay for it. As discussed previously, it will most likely be a blend of assessments, ad valorem taxes, sales tax and Resort commitment. Keep in mind, the approximate \$400,000 we receive from the HSB POA will go to continuing maintenance requirements, not the upgrade. Although, over time, as more streets are upgraded, less maintenance on those streets is anticipated.

A ¼% sales tax election (dedicated to the street upgrade plan) will likely be called in November. Remember, this allows visitors to our fair city to contribute to the effort. Once again, please keep in mind, we have only just begun (I think that

was a song title – maybe The Carpenters). Again, I digress. The council approved a contract with Willis Engineering to develop a detailed plan with multiple options at a cost of approximately \$15,000, to get us started. In addition, Streets Council Workshops will likely be a monthly occurrence. City wide and neighborhood (Streets) town hall meetings will be held. All of this, to arrive at the best, most economical, fairest, most long lasting plan possible. Again, this is a work... you get the message. Much more to come.

By the way, the mayor will soon be publishing in The Beacon a Major Points of the Street Plan article. It is well written, concise and covers the pertinent points. A draft of this document was used for discussion purposes at Tuesday's workshop. It is not the plan, but raises issues and possibilities.

After Reverend Johnny prayed and we all pledged, we began the afternoon Council meeting. Dennis Hill, Superintendent of the Llano ISD gave us a report on the recently completed school year. It was a good report card. Standardized test scores in math were up 26% and in science 19%. I like those numbers. Recently approved bond issues have resulted in new, expanded and renovated campuses. This school district has made great strides in the last 5 years. Dennis recognized Horseshoe Bay's part in that improvement. Not only our tax dollars at work, but also the time and effort of our citizens, has contributed to the effort.

A discussion was then held concerning a veterinary clinic to be located near the northeast corner of Highway 71 and RR 2147. It is not in the city limits, but is in our ETJ. The facility will be an indoor, small animal clinic with no exterior housing for the animals. The developer has agreed that the facility, 4000 square feet, will be built to Horseshoe Bay's commercial standard. There will be more council discussion concerning the development of the entire 100 acre tract in the future.

Without going into great wastewater detail (never a pleasant subject), the Resort's irrigation water, utilizing the City's effluent water, has recently had a smelly problem. This is not a health hazard, just a stinky problem. The neighborhoods most affected are near Ram #9 and Apple #'s 2 and 4. Uh- oh, that's where Becky and I live. This has been a periodic, seasonal problem, but never to the extent of the current situation. The folks at the Resort and our city wastewater team are addressing the problem and progress has been made in alleviating the odor. Plans for new equipment and procedures will hopefully reduce future likelihood of a reoccurrence.

OK – this is getting too long – so now you get the shorthand version. Stan reported that revenues were down in the Utility Budget, but expenses were down more and revenues were up and expenses down in the General Budget. I like it!

We approved a sign variance, a new City of HSB Personnel Policy, continued work on the Escondido Clubhouse plans and changed September Council meeting from 3 p.m. to 9 a.m. All by a 5 – 0 vote.

Two other items of interest – Jerry Gray, Sharon Botello and Norm Long, were nominated and elected as our first Planning and Zoning Commission. They

all have experience with some combination of P & Z work, government and/or our recent Charter Commission. Congratulations and thanks to this team.

A subject of many recent Council discussions has been five started, stopped and uncompleted structures on Sunray. They are in a word “a mess.” Attempts to resolve this problem with the builder, developer, and financier have proved unsuccessful. The Council approved by a 5 – 0 vote to notify all involved that they have 30 days to demolish and remove these structures. If they do not respond positively, other action will be taken.

With that, the Council went into Executive Session – can’t tell you – that’s why it’s an Executive Session. But it took an hour and then we adjourned. Overall, a good productive day. Have a great day today and stay hydrated.

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson