

Council Comments.....

It's a good morning in the Bay –

On Monday afternoon, the council met once again for a Streets Workshop. Very little new ground was covered. I'll give you my view of the high spots and the new issues discussed.

Mayor Bob met recently with three Central Texas appraisers who were experienced with street improvement projects. Each gave a very positive reaction to our proposed upgrades and the subsequent impact on property values in the Fairways. As you'll recall, the Fairways (surrounding Slick Rock holes 2 through 8) is proposed as the first area to receive upgraded streets. One of the appraisers from Austin has been hired by the City to prepare a report to be delivered within a month.

Calculations indicate that an average street front footage lot of 85 feet will be assessed approximately \$3,000 for the upgrade. In the Fairways, this will generate the necessary \$1.475 million to upgrade their 4.94 miles of streets to the proposed standard. That standard is – arterial streets will be 24 feet wide, residential streets 22 feet, all bordered by 18 inch ribbon curbs. Arterial streets will have 2 inches hot asphaltic concrete mix, residential streets 1 ½ inches.

American Bank of Texas is considering our request to provide a 5 year installment billing plan for those desiring to spread their assessment over several years. The plan would include the going interest rate.

While our various subdivisions are undergoing the streets upgrade, water and wastewater infrastructure will be laid under the new streets and utility companies will be offered the opportunity to lay new conduit to hopefully someday enhance our telephone, cable and internet services in the Bay (a brief personal editorial). The Mayor also suggested (tree hugger that he is) that the water lines might be extended to our "trees in the middle of the roads" areas to provide sprinklers for those trees.

Our "work in progress" to prepare a concrete proposal is nearing completion. Based on the many workshop and council meeting discussions, I expect the plan to be based on the standards mentioned earlier. This standard was developed based on much discussion and expertise provided by Willis Engineering. The costs of each subdivision upgrade will be borne by the residents of that subdivision through an assessment based on street front footage, with exceptions for corner lots, irregular shaped lots, etc. The Mayors' recent paper on the City website is an excellent source for the details of the proposed plan.

Following our Fairways town hall meeting, the Council is hopeful of a final council vote on the proposal at our October 20 City Council Meeting. In order to continue Horseshoe Bay's street improvement project which began with incorporation 4 years ago, took a giant step 6 months ago with the transfer of ownership from the HSB POA, we need to complete the plan and begin

construction. The hope is that the Fairways will be completed in 2010. As Yogi said, "It ain't over 'till it's over."

The 20 or so citizens at the workshop asked lots of questions, made several suggestions and as always are a key part of the process we call "representative democracy." While not always successful and often compared to "making sausage," it remains the best there is or ever was. Workshop adjourned.

Tuesday morning at 9 we reconvened for the September Horseshoe Bay City Council meeting. Reverend Larry prayed and we pledged. Assistant Police Chief Glen French was recognized for 10 years service, as was Allyson Cokendolpher for 5 years. Also acknowledged were Police Officer Tom Kingery and Firefighter Keith Payne as recipients of the Marble Falls Rotary's 2009 Patriot Award presented to them on 9/11. Way to go Guys and Lady!

A brief Telecom/Internet update was provided by Craig Haydon and Tom Schmersahl. Our AT&T 3G/4G tower was caught in a capital budget cut at Ma Bell, but may be scheduled for next year. Nothing new from Verizon. September is the month for their proposed rollout of DSL. Hopefully more to come.

Bill Lane introduced an ordinance to reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on portions of Hi Circle North, HSB Blvd and Island Drive. Approved 5 – 0.

While discussing the location of the new HSB West water tower and tank, Alderwoman Haydon asked the color – pink was suggested.

The 2010 city budget and tax rate were passed 5 – 0. The tax rate will be 33 cents per \$100 assessed value, a reduction of 2 cents from last year and 17 cents in the last 3 years. 2010 water and waste water rates were also approved.

Stan Farmer then proposed transfer of unused 2009 Utility Fund dollars to a project to build a more attractive fence at 2147 and Ferguson Road (across from the 7-11). This is the site of the Slick Rock Maintenance Facility. Seemed like a good idea to everyone. Aesthetics are always important in the Bay.

Several replats and sign ordinance variances passed 5 – 0. The demolition/removal orders for The Hacienda Townhomes and the four manufactured homes in HSB South are scheduled to begin shortly after October 1. Plans are underway to implement those orders promptly.

A discussion was then held on the city's upper level management structure and how it impacts hiring and firing of employees at all levels. The desire expressed in the City Home Rule Charter by the council and by the Chiefs is that the people with the skills, expertise and experience make those decisions for their organizations. But it is also recognized that the City Manager plays a role in those decisions. More to come.

Adjournment followed. How about that Precip!

Have a great day

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson