

## Council Comments.....

### Good Morning Horseshoe Bay

The frost is on the pumpkin. Really! But it looks like another beautiful day. Fall has lasted a whole month and that may be a record.

Yesterday's Council meeting began with a prayer by Father Reuben from the St. Paul the Apostle Chapel. Since newly arriving in the Bay, this was his first opportunity to kick off our deliberations. Welcome to the Bay – Father.

Mayor Bob recognized Lottie Isaack and presented her 5 year service award. Chief Lane then introduced Rocky Wardlow, his new P.D. investigator. Rocky spent 30 years with the DPS, the last 17 as a Texas Ranger. Welcome to the Bay – Rocky!

During his City Manager's report, CM Stan discussed two City beautification projects. Ground leveling and rock removal will lead to the landscaping of the area fronting the main water treatment facility. The clearing of brush at Martin Park has revealed natural rock steps leading down to the creek and has resulted in a vein of the creek in its natural setting. Other reports from Stan included info that no blasting would be necessary to complete the laying of the new 12 inch water main to HSB West and the letting of the bid for the new larger water storage tank in West will take place in December. That project should be completed by May/June 2011. The clearing of 150 lots along Fault Line completes Phase 1 of that project. Phase 2 will clear an additional 170 lots along streets attached to Fault Line from Bay West to Hi Fault. Right-of-way mowing is also underway. Street repair work at the entry to Bay West from FM 2147 is also complete. I imagine you have also seen our new low water crossing gates. Just trying to prevent anymore SUV's from floating off down the creek during high water times.

A variance was granted for a new longer more visible sign for that Horseshoe Bay historic location – The Tall Texan.

Much time was then spent on Eric Winter and Mike Light's report on residential construction that has either been discussed for demolition, removal or just way too slow in completing.

I'll be brief:

- 116 Arollo Court, now owned by Encore Bank, will be dried in and investigated to determine if current construction can be salvaged and completed.
- 202 Sweet Grass and 110 Amethyst will soon be owned by Arrowhead Bank and the bank's intention is to complete both residences.
- 112 Amethyst has been foreclosed by Integrity Bank and the bank's intention is to complete construction within the next 90 days.
- The Hacienda Townhouses are no more. The buildings have been demolished and the property cleaned up.

- Four of the five Sunray houses should be complete by end of February 2010. Construction is on schedule. The fifth house was built on the wrong lot. That's right the wrong lot. Lot trades have been negotiated to rectify the current situation and procedures implemented to prevent a recurrence of such a problem.
- Work on the house at 406 Lighthouse has picked up and while all aspects are not on schedule, the recent effort is encouraging. Mayor Bob makes a daily inspection of this neighboring property.
- Repairs to the manufactured home at 2100 Crooked Run are on schedule and should be ready for occupancy within 30 days.
- Thanks to Eric and Mike for their good work and also to Citizen Dale Rodman for bringing several of these structures to our attention. Hopefully and improved economy will result in fewer instances of abandoned construction.

The Council approved the renewing of six collateralized CD's at American Bank of Texas totaling \$3.2 million and the transfer of an additional \$4 million dollars from TexPool to the CDARS Program proposed by American Bank of Texas. CDARS are insured by the FDIC and will provide a greater yield on the City's money going forward. These dollars are comprised of funds from the City's Utility Operating Reserve, the Capital Recovery Fund and the General Operating Fund.

The 2010 deer trapping permit has been approved and 200 deer can be removed next year.

Councilman Babcock was then re-elected as Mayor Pro Tem and yours truly given that Council Plum – Chief Information Officer – hence the reason I got up at 6 this morning to provide this column for your reading enjoyment. Ah – the perks of elected office.

The Skywater folks reported progress on the golf course. The safety requirements for a blasting permit are currently being negotiated with the LCRA because of the Ferguson gas pipeline. Those are going to be really deep traps. A Skywater sign variance was also approved.

As usual, much discussion of annexing, plating, re-plating and such was also discussed and approved.

A long discussion was then held concerning the City's relationship with Monte Akers, our City Attorney, and methods currently used to approve and pay the City's legal invoices. More discussion will be held on this topic in the future.

We adjourned about 7:30 after a full afternoon and partial evening of City bidness. Have a great day and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Your Scribe -  
Jeff Robinson