

Council Comments.....

Good Evening! We finished so early this afternoon that you get the “cocktail hour” version of my prose this week. Good news is this will be short. Not a lot of bidness today. Bad news is I write “comments” a second time after tomorrow’s Council Workshop for next week’s Beacon. It’s all about that “going to the presses” deadline.

So, we’re off. Church at HSB’s Master of Music Larry Sherwood prayed and we all pledged. HSB Business Alliance’s Drew Crosby announced a last Wednesday morning of each month Java and Jabber at Taste of Thyme.

Toni Vanderburg was recognized by Mayor Bob for 10 years of outstanding service. Thanks Toni! Sgt. Chip Leake then introduced T. J. Cox, formerly of Levelland, as the latest addition to the Bay’s fine Police Department. Welcome T. J.!!

Stan Farmer reported that the new 12 inch water main from the Bay to Bay West will soon be passing water. Road repairs to Hi Mesa should be completed by March 1, weather permitting. Good luck. Stan also reported that deer trapping has begun. Fourteen trapped so far, with a permit for 200. Plans are to, hopefully, relocate these critters to ranches in the State of Texas.

Sixteen of our neighbors volunteered to serve on the Airport Acquisition Committee. They will meet, discuss, investigate and present the pros and cons to the Council next fall. The Council voted on the 16, all really good folks, and whittled the 16 down to 7. The seven are Evan Roberts, Jim Long, J. T. McMahan, Ken Lindgren, Jim Thorne, John Bird and Bob Mark. We are so fortunate in the Bay to have so many talented folks who will give their time in such efforts. Thanks to ALL!

Jeff Koska, Utilities Director, reported that the low bidder for the Slickrock Lift Station improvements was J. S. Haven Company of Athens, Tenn. Lift stations also pass water, but it’s the dirty kind. The project will be completed late this year at a cost to the City of approximately \$1.6 million.

Councilman Steve then recapped the \$3.6 million dollars in utility projects approved in the past six months. They include:

1. The HSB West “real big” water tower;
2. The aforementioned 12 inch water line; and
3. The Slick Rock Lift Station.

As our infrastructure ages and more folks join us in the Bay, these are the projects that help us keep “Life in the Bay” at the levels we all expect.

The Council then heard from a representative of Whitney Bank of New Orleans concerning five uncompleted houses in violation of the City Substandard Building Codes. We were assured that the houses, located at 101 Jade, 3206 Douglas, 3212 Douglas, 3305 Douglas and 3327 Bay West would be foreclosed and fixed up by the bank prior to marketing the properties. If you need a fixer-upper, they will be auctioned on the courthouse steps on March 2.

During the meeting several re-plats, annexes, zoning, variances, and ordinances were passes 5 – 0.

The Council then met in Executive Session (all alone) and after the Executive Session approved negotiations to reach a final contract with Baker and Associates law firm of Dripping Springs. Another special thanks to Fred Owen, Tony Koby and Councilman Jim on their work to identify our new City Attorney

Mayor Bob then updated the council on Skywater negotiations following our two person meetings with Skywater Developer representatives last week. A tentative agreement has been reached concerning water and waste water facilities necessary as Skywater grows. The costs of these facilities will be borne by the Skywater Developers. The costs of these improvements will be secured by the Skywater PID. The City will grant a Utility Infrastructure Permit for Skywater's Pod 3. Current plans are for the final agreement to be approved promptly.

Council lady Claudia moved to adjourn and we did. Workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 17 on more streets and Skywater stuff. Surprise – Surprise!

Until next week – have a good one!

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson