

## Council Comments...

The cocktail hour approaches, the temperature is down to 93 and the August 2010 rendition of Council Comments is underway. Since Becky and I are leaving for Santa Fe (temperatures in the 70's) in the morning, this is the evening version.

Father Ruben prayed and we pledged. Paul Langston, 20 year resident of the Bay, kicked off today's meeting with a request that the council look at assuming ownership of our electric utilities from PEC. Paul said several cities such as Fredericksburg, Junction and Llano operate municipal utility operations and since we had experience with water and wastewater perhaps we could do the job with less executive and administrative overhead. Mayor Bob said his remarks were timely since in this morning's Budget Workshop, the council had instructed City Manager Stan to take a very preliminary look at such an undertaking. Best case, this is a "back burner" item behind streets, airports and other issues.

Chief Bill introduced Brad Hardin as our newest police officer. He is a 50 year old retired DPS officer. Just a youngster, but a welcome addition to the community.

Bill Hussey, President of the Hill Country 100 Club, asked for and was given a resolution regarding support of the Llano County "Love Your Child" program, an in home drug/alcohol testing kit program. Kits will be available at Bay Pharmacy for \$5. You older kids enjoying the cocktail hour need not apply.

Two construction efforts were pushed along by 5 – 0 votes of the council. The council agreed to defer 50% of the HSB POA's annual payment for street maintenance for one year. This will allow the POA to make much needed enhancements and an expansion to their Quail Point facility. Also approved was the continuance of planning for a new and improved HSB Police Department facility. Chief Lane stated that comments he received were extremely positive. Bids will be requested in the near future.

Discussions and planning continue on the re-routing of Dalton Circle to alleviate parking problems and aid the parishioners of the St. Paul the Apostle Chapel in expanding their facilities. The council viewed current planning favorably and encouraged them to continue conversations with their immediate neighbors.

The developers of the Marina Club at Applehead received an enthusiastic approval by the Applehead Island POA for their project. Much discussion, give and take has resulted in what appears to be a win-win plan for this ambitious project. Questions still exist concerning issuance and management of a performance bond. Jerry Pawelek of the Applehead POA raised their continuing concerns regarding traffic of the many trucks leaving with excavation debris and coming in with concrete. This is also the council's major concern and much work is necessary to find the best routing for these vehicles. A Planned Development Ordinance containing much verbiage related to bonding and traffic was passed 5 – 0. The necessary replat was passed 5 – 0 also.

A request by the Applehead POA for the city to assume ownership of its two miles of streets and by the Applehead Island POA for the city to assume ownership of the one mile remainder of Bay West Blvd were discussed together. I will now, purposefully digress - In the morning budget meeting Council lady Claudia presented a convincing argument to budget \$1.5 million of the current city funds to fund street improvement in the coming year. Yes, it's those streets again. All agreed that the standards for these improvements would remain as passed last year, a streets workshop would be held in September and funding would remain as the "elephant in the room." I could write several more pages on the discussion, but suffice it to say – "more to come."

Back to Bay West Blvd in the afternoon council meeting. Council agreement was that if the city owns 122 miles of the good, the bad and the ugly; what are 3 more miles. While not that simple, the truth is if we are going to renovate most of Bay West; why not assume ownership of the rest and complete the job. Much work remains on the details of this transaction, but stay tuned.

The council by a 5 – 0 vote approved a city contribution of \$5,000 to support the efforts of the Marble Falls Library. Used frequently by the folks of the Bay, this facility is a valuable asset to the community. Linda Beno thanked the city for their support.

During City Manager Stan's status report, several items were discussed. I'll be brief. The tempo of work on the Bay West street renovation should pick up as work nears completion at Cap Rock. Yours truly commented that the recent lot clearing in HSB West has resulted in a dramatic difference in appearance. You can see the trees, the contours and what's over there. Stan was asked to insure that all seriously dead trees were also removed. It appears "the cats at The Trails" have moved to California. Planning for the Martin Park (next to City Hall) upgrade is underway. A serious jungle gym, playground equipment facility will be provided along with sprinkler system, fence and other improvements.

Congratulations to Eric Winter and Mike Light. During the last year, numerous properties (more than 15) beginning with the Sunray house have been identified as potential public nuisances. All properties have been fixed up, are being fixed up or in extreme cases – demolished. Good job, guys! Our community is better for your efforts. In a new similar effort, a representative of Wells Fargo Bank said they are on top of the unfinished house at Lago Escondido and it will be foreclosed. They will then proceed to rectify the situation.

The update on Skywater was brief – as usual. But it looks like a really fine golf course.

OK – I'm done. A good day, a productive day, a rewarding day. What's not to like – stay cool. I plan to – where is my cocktail?

Your Scribe -

Jeff Robinson