

My friend, neighbor, and fellow councilman, Jeff Robinson is currently cruising the Mediterranean-with his lovely wife, Becky. In his absence I have assumed the awesome responsibility of writing HIS column. This will be the first column written from the perspective of the female gender. If you expect a report on what everyone was wearing at the meeting, you will be disappointed.

The first business of the day started before the meeting when our two new councilmen were sworn in. Congratulations to Cynthia Clinesmith and Fred Owen. (Jeff will be sworn in when he returns). Quoting Mayor Lambert, who was quoting Rev. Johnny White, "We are all blessed to live in Horseshoe Bay." Furthermore, we are certainly blessed to have Cynthia and Fred on the council.

Thanks were conveyed to Steve Spence and Jim Babcock for their service to the city. Having served with both Jim and Steve on the POA and then council, I can attest to their unselfish commitment to our community. Jim's dedication was certainly unparalleled from the days before incorporation to the oversight of the establishment of the City of Horseshoe Bay. His knowledge and expertise was invaluable and all citizens should be very grateful for Jim's contributions.

Father Ruben of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel gave the invocation.

Dean Blaine from Escondido, Inc. made the exciting announcement that Southern Living Magazine has chosen our city to build their 2011 Idea House. The home is currently in the early stages of construction and is located on lakefront property in Escondido. Local resident and builder, David Mitchell of Casa Highland Construction is the contractor. He will be a very busy man as construction of this fabulous home must be completed by June 1, 2011. Of particular note is the fact that Southern Living generally has three homes each year, one on each coast and another in the central area of the United States. In 2011, Horseshoe Bay will be the only home site. Blaine conveyed special thanks to the city for their diligence in getting permits issued in a timely manner. Can you believe it? Our city will be featured in Southern Living Magazine!

Drew Crosby of the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance reminded everyone of the Holiday Event which will be held from 5-7p.m on November 18. Gathering place will be in the area of A Taste of Thyme. Our local merchants work very hard to entertain and show their appreciation to our community. Looks like the weather should be perfect, so plan to attend this fun celebration. Drew also noted that the community coffee will be held on November 24 at 9:00 a.m. at A Taste of Thyme.

Ryan Guthrie, one of our fine young firefighters, was the recipient of the Patriot Award by the Rotary Club. Ryan was unable to be recognized at the last council meeting because he was attending a class at the National Fire Academy. Congratulations, Ryan. We are all very proud of you.

It's always fun to make your first motion when you are new on the team. Cynthia made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Fred seconded it.

If you see Bill Lane moving about the city with a huge smile on his face, you must know that the construction of the new police headquarters is under way. For those driving by the construction site, the tape on the trees notes the trees that are to be saved. Stan Farmer said city employees are vowing to take daily pictures to show construction progress. What a fun experience!

Also of note for the many citizens who have remarked about our booming deer population, 107 deer have been trapped. We have a quota issued by the Parks and Wildlife of 200. All nets will be removed on Saturday, November 20th and will not be put back up until the new year.

Stan gave a report on the lot clearing, lot mowing project. To date 1,344 lots have been mowed and 1,773 lots have been cleared. Folks continue to compliment the city on the vast improvement of the appearance of our landscape. (Maybe that's why Southern Living chose us!)

If you note on your calendar significant dates, circle the week of December 6th. During that week our new water tower in west will be raised. For exact date, check our website www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov. You may want to pack a lunch and bring a lawn chair because this is a 6-8 hour process.

Still another item of note, there have been 90 street signs installed in Horseshoe Bay proper. A welcome addition for folks trying to find your home!

Final plans and contract for the bridge over the low water crossing in West will be presented at the December meeting.

Doesn't look as though construction will occur any time soon at the Shoppes at Hi Circle. The developers have requested and they were granted a year's extension on their permits.

An update was given on all properties which had not been in compliance with Horseshoe Bay ordinances relative to timely completion of construction projects or unsightly appearance. I am happy to report that thanks to much time and effort from our city staff, significant progress has been made at every location.

Council voted to extend Jeff's contract as Chief Information Officer, so we will continue to enjoy his Council Comments column. I was very humbled to be voted the Mayor Pro Tem.

It was fun taking on the role of Lois Lane. However, I will certainly look forward to Jeff's return.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Claudia Haydon