

Council Comments.....

Good morning, Horseshoe Bay -

A little hazy out there, but it looks like a good one coming up. Spring (pollen) is in the air and summer (hot) around the corner. And now on to yesterday's Horseshoe Bay version of good government in action.

Reverend Larry, the music man of the Church at Horseshoe Bay, prayed and we honored our country and our state.

Drew Crosby of the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance announced the Annual Spring Fling from 5 to 7 on April 14, brought to you by the merchants of the Bay.

Shelly Linder, one of the City's more tenured employees was recognized by the Mayor for 15 years of service. Then a very special recognition plaque was presented to a citizen of the Bay - Carole Keiffer. Carole has, for at least the last 10 years, been an annual contributor (over 20 grand in total) to our Police and Fire Departments. Hugs by Chief Bill were in order for this fine citizen. Thank you Carole! The men and women of the PD and FD appreciate your generosity. These contributions go into a fund used for the purchase of facility amenities for our fine public servants.

Before the council meeting, we were treated to a tour of Marble Falls' new Special Response Team Mobile Command Post. This is an RV equipped with all the law enforcement "bells and whistles" used for communication and surveillance in times of police or fire emergencies. It is available (at a minimal cost) to all fire and police units in Blanco, Burnet and Llano Counties. It was recently utilized by the HSB PD at a serious incident in South. The Falls PD Chief, Mark Whitacre, explained that the purchase of the used vehicle was funded with seized drug monies from the Round Rock PD.

The Martin Park Phase 1 Plan was discussed by Lacey Smith and Carrie Foran. A vendor, Game Time, has been selected to install playscape and safety surfaces for kiddos aged 2 - 5 and 6 - 12. A fence around this area, including the Pavilion, and appropriate irrigation is also on the drawing board. As mentioned in previous meetings, the Parks Committee will look at other parks in the Bay also. Pete Dysert, a citizen in attendance, suggested a dog walking area and walking paths for the two-legged creatures also. This is a work in progress and thanks to the committee for the initial planning.

Charlie Fowler of Bury Partners Engineering discussed plans to accurately bid and construct the Bay West bridge. Bids will be sought for both an arch bridge and a standard bridge. Determining factors will be appearance, cost and construction time. Current plans are for construction to begin after Thanksgiving and be completed before the arrival of spring. A year from now - no more stinky and slippery low water crossing.

Along similar lines, Councilman Phil discussed the continued planning of the Street Improvement Project. A Project Manager will be contracted to oversee this important project. The goal is to get her done not only in a high quality/low cost manner, but also limit the impact on those who drive the streets under construction. In addition, several 2011 budgeted items, including improvement to HSB Blvd, the aforementioned bridge and entrance to Bay West, a total of \$1.1 million, will be rolled into the budgeted account for street improvements. This is

a budgeting and accounting transaction resulting in no more or no less dollars being budgeted for these projects.

One more note, the transfer of Pecan Creek streets will require more work on the dreaded meets and bounds (legal location descriptions). This will delay the turnover, but the job will get done.

A discussion was then held concerning Escondido's plans for high speed internet access for not only their business purposes (extensive), but also offering of this service to their residents. Plans for a 90 - 100 foot antenna on their property have been scrapped, with a request now to lease the new west water tower for the antennae and utilizing this high spot and signal repeaters (boosters) in other locations to provide the same services to other businesses and residents in the Bay. Visicom, the broadband provider, proposed a reliable, guaranteed high-speed service, in which you pay based on the speed you desire. The technology is wireless and requires a box smaller than a shoe box on the exterior or interior of our home. I have asked Visicom to provide a price list based on speed and capacity levels for the folks in our community. They have also agreed to initially provide several residents and businesses with the service on a test basis. Since the water tower was engineered to accommodate such antennae, this work in progress may be on the near horizon. If you're interested in being a test subject, give me a call.

A request by the Burnet County ESD to allow formation of two (Granite Shoals and Marble Falls) Emergency Service Districts, partially within our City's ETJ was denied 5 - 0. The folks living in Wilderness Cove (within our ETJ) would prefer to contract with their own service provider. A similar request was denied last year for the same reasons.

A request by the Llano County Tax Appraisal District for a budget amendment transferring excess revenue over expense dollars from last year's to this year's reserve for litigation was denied. Some of you folks may be involved in such litigation.

An Order to Repair the garage at the home at 1303 Prospect was approved. At January's meeting, the owner requested additional time to repair his garage. To date, not a nail driven. So, if nothing happens in the next thirty days, the City will repair and bill the homeowner.

A replat of the Escondido Clubhouse tract was approved 5 - 0. New plans for a Private Residence Club on tract 2 will be submitted as a Planned Development Agreement with the City at a later date. This will insure that nearby homeowners and the Council have input to future plans. Tract one, the Clubhouse, will be deeded to Escondido members in the future. This discussion and resulting decision is a prime example of developer, homeowners and the City being on the same page and reaching a "win-win" conclusion.

Don't forget. April 30 is Horseshoe Bay cleanup day. The HSB POA volunteers will be dragging those big green plastic bags and collecting refuse and debris along our streets and in the vacant lots. Also, for you folks who have been collecting household hazardous waste; paint, batteries, chemicals, wmd's (kidding), March 26 will be the day to drop off that stuff at the Burnet Fairgrounds at 1225 Houston Clinton Drive in Burnet (follow the signs). A good spring cleaning opportunities for you guys with over-crowded garages.

We then adjourned to executive session with our attorneys to discuss continuing financial difficulties at Skywater, returning to open session an hour later.

And with that, the ladies, Claudia and Cynthia motioned, seconded, we 5-0'd and called it a day.

Enjoy the day in the Bay -

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson