

Council Comments.....

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Bay.

Looks like we're in store for another scorcher. 70 degrees at 7 a.m. and a forecasted 103 for this afternoon means everyone drink lots of agua and you golfers find an occasional shady spot.

Yesterday's Council meeting was again short but productive. Reverend Larry was reminded of the success of Reverend Johnny's mention of rain several weeks ago at our June meeting. Consequently, a humble request for relief was included in Larry's prayer. After Larry prayed, we pledged and moved on to words of recognition and appreciation. Mayor Bob recognized two of the Bay's fire fighters; Cliff Grant for 5 years service and Keith Payne for 10 years service. Way to go guys! The Mayor then thanked Assistant Fire Chief Stephanie Black for seeking and securing approval for the Escondido and HSB Resort fireworks from the Llano County Commissioner's Court. Also, much thanks to all of Chief Lane's and Chief Fiero's officers for extra hours and their good work on a long July Fourth weekend. Also thanks to the City Staff, Escondido, the Resort and the HSB POA for a safe and entertaining weekend.

Mike Walsh then announced that construction on the much anticipated grocery store would begin in August at his current Space Center location. Mike thanked the Council, City Staff, several of his partners in this venture and especially Jim Jamail and his family who will be moving to the Bay to manage this high quality grocery store. Approval by a 5-0 vote was also given to Mike to contract with the soon to be announced LCRA building contractor to provide temporary parking for construction workers building the new power plant. This will possibly result in increased traffic early (6:30-7:00) in the morning and between 3:30 and 4:00 in the afternoon on 2147 between Hwy 71 and the new grocery location. But, more importantly, the parking contract will provide an instant source of income for the grocery development and opportunities for all retailers, including the grocery to serve and sell to the 500 workers on the LCRA project.

Charlie Fowler with Bury + Partners, contract engineers, who are part of the design team for the Bay West Blvd Bridge discussed the lower extremities of the bridge as it relates to design features. He also laid out the schedule for contract bidding and construction. The bid proposal will be available in August, the contract and contractor approved in September. Included in the RFP will be a requirement that Bay West Blvd. cannot be closed until the first Monday following Thanksgiving and must be reopened by March 1, 2012 (90 days).

By next spring, the Bay could have a grocery store, a new bridge and at least one new Council person. Claudia Haydon announced she would not seek re-election. During her two terms on the Council, Claudia's top two goals were successful transfer of HSB POA streets to the City and a comprehensive plan for construction and funding of the street upgrade project. Mission Accomplished! Mayor Bob and Councilman Phil announced they would be on the ballot again in November. Due to City Charter restrictions, this would be Bob's final term. Remarks by the Council seemed to indicate he could count on at least 5 votes. Phil will provide continuity on his primary goal of street improvement.

Tom Schmersahl, past president of the HSB POA during the aforementioned street transfer and the Quail Point renovation and expansion threw his “hat in the ring” to run in November.

That concluded our July deliberations. But – while I’ve got your, I’ll give you a brief update on the Visicom Internet offering. Next Monday, the Verizon copper bundled T-1 line will be available to Visicom for transmission to their HSB location to be followed in August/September with a fiber line to provide higher speeds/ capacity and redundancy. The antennae on the HSB West water tower should also be installed and operational next week. Visicom should be contacting you folks who requested to be guinea pigs for this service prior to the end of this month.

What a day! Groceries, new power plant, new bridge and high-speed internet. Only in Horseshoe Bay. We are a fortunate community. Now if it would only rain. Claudia moved to adjourn and we did. Stay cool.

Your Scribe -
Jeff Robinson