

Good afternoon, Horseshoe Bay (from Death Valley, California)

Left yesterday afternoon, after the council meeting, for a week in the wine country. Bad news/good news from Death Valley. Bad news – is the temperature is 119 degrees. Good news that's hotter than it is in the Bay. Moving on now to the “bidness” of the Bay.

Yesterday's meeting was a short one. Reverend Larry prayed (several times in a polite reverential way for moisture). Pressure is on since last month following Reverend Johnny's similar prayer; we actually had a brief downpour. We then pledged and began the deliberations.

Diane Simmons, a resident of HSB South, described recent trash/litter problems in her neighborhood. She has been a Good Samaritan and policed the area since moving here several months ago. She also commented on cigarette butts in the area. Folks, one smoldering butt under our dry conditions could result in a real fire disaster. In addition, trashing the Bay is a bad thing and can result in a significant fine. Chief Lane commented that his officers will be even more diligent in looking for the litterbugs. The problem seems especially bad around the mailbox stations. Thank you Diane for helping with the trash pickup and raising the issue.

Jeff Koska, our waterworks director, then stated that the two reservoir lakes, Buchanan and Travis are dropping 1 to 1½ feet per week and will reach the triggers for mandatory water restrictions for water customers this week along the LCRA waterways. By a 5 – 0 vote the council approved the immediate implementation of the city's Stage 2 Drought Contingency Plan. That means that residential customers may irrigate their lawns twice a week (odd number address (last digit) on Wednesday and/or Saturday; even numbered on Thursday and/or Sunday). The discussion that followed made several important points. Since La Nina may return in the fall, the lack of rain could continue well into 2012. The mandatory restrictions are intended to reduce consumption in HSB by 10 – 25%. Generally, when these restrictions are implemented, everyone sets their water gizmos between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Director Jeff asked that if some folks would water between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. or 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. peak times of usage could be leveled out. Letters will go out to residents this week with more detail. This is a really important issue for the Bay, so let's all get on board and save that water.

Now that I've discussed all the bad news, let's look at all the good stuff happening in the Bay. City Manager Stan reported that 100 dead trees have been removed during HSB West Phase 1 dead tree removal. Phase 2, the other half of west, will result in removal of 52 more dead trees. This project will encompass all of our city. Also, “the price is right” work is being done in exchange for the wood. The irrigation system (to be used 2 days a week) has been completed at Martin Park. Bids for the HSB West (Bay West Blvd) bridge are out, to be opened on 9-13 and contract awarded at the September Council Meeting. Construction to begin the week following Thanksgiving.

The HSB PD now occupies their new digs and the City's Developmental Services folks have moved into the PD's vacated space. The City of Horseshoe Bay has received the

Scenic City in Texas/Bronze Level Award and much thanks must go to not only the city staff, but also HSB Resort for their help in achieving this honor.

Two other items, not discussed, that are making progress are: the new grocery store – construction to begin soon on the recently cleared Space Center site and to open in the spring. Visicom internet has placed their antennae on the HSB West water tower and service is up and running at Escondido. Obviously more to come on all the above.

Another important milestone was reached on the Street Improvement Program. By a 5 – 0 vote the Allen Keller Company was awarded the contracts for the upgrades to HSB South and The Fairways. While the bids were higher than expected, work continues on several issues that will result in cost reductions. Arriving at a point where construction will soon begin required much hard work and diligence. It is a real big project and we all know it has required lots of planning and re-planning. Special kudos on this project go to Mayor Bob, Council Folks Phil, Fred and Claudia and former Councilman Steve Spence. We still have a long way to go, but ground will be breaking (literally) soon.

As I said, this was a short meeting, but also significant in many ways. Stay cool, hydrated and pray for drought relief for not only our community but all of Texas.

Your Scribe,

Jeff Robinson