

## **Council Comments.....**

Good Morning, Horseshoe Bay.

And it is a beautiful morning in the Bay. The sun's shining, birds singing and an all around good day awaits.

Yesterday's council meeting was a long one, but also a productive one. Several issues that have been on the agenda for over a year were resolved and several relatively new issues were either resolved or moved forward.

So let's begin. Father Rueben prayed and we pledged. Lest I be remiss, prior to the meeting Mayor Bob and Councilmen Tom Schmersahl and Phil Lee were sworn in for two year terms. Unfortunately, Council Lady Cynthia Clinesmith is resigning her seat to return to school administrating as school superintendent in Pleasanton, Texas. We will miss Cynthia, but wish her the very best in her new endeavor. She and Jerry will not be leaving our fair community - Cynthia will be here at least once a month.

Clayton Leverett, a young rancher from Llano attended the meeting, introduced himself and announced his intention to seek County Commissioner Johnny Heck's seat next November, following Johnny's retirement.

Rita Kay Kirby was then recognized and commended by Mayor Bob and Fire Chief Jim for her valiant and successful efforts in holding off a fire at a neighbor's condo on the second floor balcony at Cove West Condos. Armed with a garden hose, she was able to contain the fire until the HSB firefighters arrived. Rita is truly a volunteer firefighter.

Chief Jim was then recognized for his 5 years of service as Fire Chief. Another of the fine public safety professionals who make our lives and properties safe.

Eileen Hurd was in attendance and offered a gift of a parcel of land extending from above the mausoleum and following a creek bed past the rear of the Protestant church and down almost to 2147. LCRA pros estimate a cost of roughly \$600,000 to clean and develop trails complete with parking, restroom and appropriate safety measures. The city will seek grants to fund the project, including one from Parks and Wildlife for \$200,000 annually that can be received for multiple years. This is a work in progress, but would not be possible without the generosity of Eileen Hurd. Thank you for all you do!

Appropriately, Michael Wilder of our Park Advisory Committee then reported on their recommendations as a result of a recently conducted survey. Recommendations included improved signage; updated city website; and articles in the Beacon to provide the location and directions to city parks. They also included a recommendation to build 2 tennis courts and a basketball court at Martin Park. Current tennis courts at the Resort are available only to members. They also recommended the establishment of a permanent Park Committee which will be considered by the Council at the December 13 meeting. Lastly to obtain Fox Hollow Springs Park in HSB South from the POA and improve its parking and playground equipment. All of these recommendations will be discussed and many, which require little or no funding, will be quickly implemented. Others will require future council discussions. Another work in progress.

The contract to build the long discussed Bay West Bridge was awarded to Ross Construction at a cost to the City of \$658,000. Bay West Boulevard, under terms of the contract will be closed beginning in early to mid January for a maximum of 120 days. The bridge, as recommended by Bury Partners engineering, will be a double arch construction and result in rerouting of the Ram #10/11 cart part under the bridge. For you folks who can't wait to get to the infamous #11, you will no longer have to wait to cross the street.

Next on the agenda was removal of cedar bushes and trees in our city. Following internet searching, book reading and discussions with folks in the know, I modified my previously discussed motion to eliminate the word "all". The motion made, discussed and passed 5 - 0 was "initiate a plan to eradicate cedar within the city limits of Horseshoe Bay during the next 3 - 5 years to be funded by the city." Among the basic intentions of this ordinance are: Only unimproved lots (no houses) will be cleared of cedars. Lot owners will be notified by U.S. mail and offered the opportunity to decline cedar clearance. Mature cedars of greater than 6 inch diameter offering no threat to neighboring oaks will not be removed. Trees will be chipped on property providing mulch and erosion control.

Current plans call for this project to begin with the 30% of lots remaining to be cleared (primarily HSB South) under our current 2 year old lot clearing program. Decisions concerning the length of the cedar clearing program and associated costs will be determined at future city budget deliberations. An interesting aside, Eileen Hurd, the Bay's longest term resident, made the statement during the meeting that since she and Wayne began the development of HSB, the number of cedar bushes and trees has grown dramatically to the point of taking over certain areas of our city.

An agreement with St. Paul the Apostle Chapel (Father Reuben and his parishioners) was then passed 5 - 0. The agreement provides the legal framework for an exchange of properties which will allow the Church to expand its facilities and the city, at the Church's expense, to re-route Dalton Circle, which will be renamed Scott Drive. A win-win deal for all involved.

As a part of the first meeting of the Council's new year, yours truly agreed to continue as "Scribe" and also serve as Mayor Pro Tem. So much work - so little time. Just kidding!! I appreciate the opportunity.

New councilman Tom and seasoned councilman Phil will become the designated signers on the City's investment accounts and TexPool transactions. Both were elected unanimously. So much work - so little - Oh, I already said that, mustn't be redundant.

Manager Stan reported that road work in Fairway's Section 1 and 2, weather providing, should be complete by Christmas. To date, all is going well on this project and comments by citizens have been very positive. Stan also reported that he had no recent contact with Visicom, a potentially new high-speed internet provider. This gave me the opportunity to say that I had received an email from their management indicating they would be opening an office in the Bay next week and be on site. Hopefully, these folks can provide a new alternative for our internet needs. Discussions continue on a site for a Visicom repeater antennae in original HSB. Old HSB doesn't sound right - maybe HSB Proper. Any ideas?

Louraine Robertson, one of the city's outstanding volunteer citizens, has provided diligent service on the Llano County Appraisal District. While Louraine is willing to continue on, Mayor Bob thought that maybe one of the several complainers he hears from on a regular basis would like to volunteer for this job. Any takers??

Mayor Bob reported we now have a signed agreement from IBC Bank on the funding of water and wastewater facilities for Summit Rock. This is a very, very long standing issue that is now resolved. Letters of credit for the initial work (water tower) and agreement on future dollars to be funded by the Summit Rock PID should be signed this week. The real construction work should begin soon (water tower), but a major hurdle has been cleared. Thanks to all involved, including the Resort and IBC Bank.

OK - we then went into Executive Session, to discuss the contract/funding details so I can't give you all the scoop. While it's a work in progress, Summit Rock is on its way. Back in Open Session, the Mayor was authorized to sign agreement.

A long meeting (3 hours) as I said, but a good one. Have a great day and a wonderful Holiday Season.

Your Scribe -

Jeff Robinson