

Jeff Robinson is out of state, and I will report on the City Council meeting on Tuesday but cannot come close to his entertaining writing style.

Dr. Pete Christy, Senior Pastor of the Church at HSB, gave the invocation which set a good tone for the meeting.

We welcomed our new City Attorney - Rex Baker, who is an experienced attorney from Dripping Springs.

Al Morgenroth, Field Operations Supervisor, was congratulated and thanked for ten years of outstanding service to our community. Officer T.J. Cox received a Life Saving Award for his actions which ultimately were credited for saving the life of a resident who was attempting suicide. Numerous members of the police department were on hand to show their appreciation for Officer Cox's actions as well as a packed house that saw it fitting to give him a standing ovation.

Five residents who live outside the HSB POA spoke in support of the City's Street Upgrade Policies which would use street assessments to fund upgrades to residential streets in the HSB POA and all expressed opposition to funding an upgrade of residential streets in the HSB POA using ad valorem funds. They stated taxing property owners outside the HSB POA (which make up almost 28% of the City's tax base) to upgrade the streets in the HSB POA was simply not fair. Several were speaking on behalf of their POA.

I then stated: "I am personally very concerned about inaccurate information going around the City in the past few days. I would characterize a lot of it as make believe and irresponsible. However, a significant number of people did sign a petition expressing opposition to street assessments. The question before the City Council is: What to do now?"

There was an extended discussion by the City Council with the following conclusions. There is no consensus in the community regarding the need to upgrade the streets in the HSB POA at the present time or on the funding if any were to be upgraded. The City Council voted (4-0) to terminate the Street Upgrade Policies. The City will not pursue upgrading residential streets in the HSB POA. The community can revisit upgrading and funding when a consensus seems possible. Perhaps an improved economy and the return of a normal market for HSB homes and lots will help make this possible. Proxies are not appropriate for City Council meetings, but I believe Jeff Robinson would have agreed with the conclusions of the council.

Our City Attorney then discussed the petition. He read a memo summarizing certain legal matters related to the petition. A key sentence is the following: "We conclude that this petition is neither a proper Initiative nor a proper Referendum since it does not offer a proposed ordinance or contest an existing ordinance; it is therefore invalid."

Hopefully, the City Attorney's opinion and the action taken by the City Council will put this issue to rest.

Maintenance of streets at the present standard will continue. The City has more cash than HSB POA because of the ¼% sales tax for street repairs and use of ad valorem funds. An excellent maintenance program can be accommodated within present sources of funds. There will be no assessments or tax increase. A formal plan is near completion.

Tony Plumlee, Willis Engineering, briefed the group on major maintenance of Bay West Boulevard. This would include repair of base failures, drainage, broken curbs and adding 2 inches of hot mix asphaltic concrete. This would cost approximately \$500,000. Several safety issues would be addressed at an estimated cost of \$50,000. The City Council voted (4-0) for Tony to proceed with the engineering necessary to put these projects out for bid. These would be funded with available cash.

Tony also reported on the possibility of building a bridge over the low water crossing on Bay West Boulevard. The bridge would be attractive (see rendering elsewhere in the Beacon), would allow for a 100 year flood event and be built mostly of pre-fabricated concrete. It would cost approximately \$600,000 (could be funded with available cash), and Bay West Boulevard would be closed about three months during construction. The City Council is in the very early stage of evaluating this project and would appreciate hearing from you!

After the streets discussion, everything seemed very routine. We approved a one month extension of the building permit for 406 Lighthouse Drive, which should be complete before the end of the permit. A lender has foreclosed on five unfinished homes in HSB West and is making progress consistent with their report at the last meeting. We approved new signs for the Tall Texan building. We made changes to make it easier to get replacement and new signs for existing commercial signs and get final replats approved. We approved a two year extension of the moratoriums on new construction for the properties across from the Marriott and just north of the Cap Rock clubhouse.

Last Tuesday was the only meeting Jeff has ever missed, and he assures me we can all look forward to his participation at our future meetings and his reports to you resuming next month.