

Council Comments.....

What a day --- Golf in the drizzle – and then “A Horseshoe Bay City Council Meeting”.

The meeting began with a moving rendition of “America the Beautiful” and “It’s a Grand ‘Ole Flag” by the Horseshoe Bay Men’s Chorus and a prayer from Rev Pete Christy of the Church at Horseshoe Bay. These moments of tranquility were followed by discussions of several contentious issues reaching a climax with passage of the “Blasting Ordinance”.

Before I review today’s high points, let me review one item from February’s Council Meeting, which I inadvertently neglected to report. Alderwoman Wines proposed establishment of a Planning and Zoning Committee, Alderman Rantzow seconded and after much discussion the motion was defeated 3-2. Following defeat of this motion, a motion was passed to not discuss this issue again until January 2008. Alderwoman Wines reminded the Council today, that if any one of the affirmative votes changed their mind, the issue could be revisited at an earlier date.

Ten-year Service Anniversary Awards were presented to Bobby Abernathy and Terry Hawkins. It’s always a pleasure to recognize our many outstanding employees - The same employees who were on the job during the recent deluge. On a related note that was discussed later, the Council voted by a 5 – 0 vote to add an additional manager who would devote time to drainage issues in addition to other duties. Included in this reorganization would be personnel time for road maintenance; an issue remaining to be resolved.

After our special 6 ½ hour City Council Workshop of last week to discuss the Skywater Development, the Council today passed by a vote of 4 – 1 the following documents related to this new development –

1. Development Agreement
2. Water Utility Service Agreement
3. Wastewater Service Agreement
4. Resolution authorizing the PID
5. Resolution authorizing Preliminary Service Plan and Assessment Roll.

Each of the Agreements was between the City and the HB Texas Development Partners.

Several changes were made to the documents. At last weeks workshop Bill Wines raised an issue concerning a requirement for Skywater residents to purchase

natural gas from a single provider. That provision was deleted. Several other motions were made and died for lack of a second.

Dean Blaine representing Lago Escondido made a presentation concerning changes made to their development plan. These changes were initiated following remarks by concerned neighbors at last month's Council meeting and two subsequent informal meetings of representatives from these neighborhoods and Dean Blaine. Much progress has been made, but a binding agreement between the City and Lago Escondido is still a work in progress. No votes were intended and none were taken at today's meeting. Once the Development Agreement draft is completed, at least one additional meeting with the neighborhood representatives will be held prior to next month's Council meeting. Several neighbors, formally and informally, did indicate their approval of the concessions and commitment made by the Lago Escondido developers in the two initial meetings. Much work remains to be done, but recent progress could lead to resolution of a difficult issue.

Lots of Variances, Plat, Re-plat, Zone and Re-zone followed. None was controversial (thank goodness) and moved toward approval. These are the types of issues that will be with us as long as vacant lots remain in the "the Bay".

And now – I know you've been waiting – "The Blasting Ordinance" – Good News – Bad News! Bad news first – not much exists in the way of State and Federal licensing and regulations on actual blasting. Storage and transport of explosives – yes; blasting, no. Good news – we have the most comprehensive ordinance a city can have under those circumstances. Problem is most Cities don't have blasting, since they don't have rock. Horseshoe Bay –We Got Rock – Lots!! We have an ordinance but will continue to pursue something more comprehensive. And we thought Fireworks were tough. Blasting ordinance passed – 5 – 0.

Just a thought, Council business isn't easy, but it is rewarding. Blasting Ordinance passing 5 – 0 seemed like a big deal. A consensus! But the truth is – if we didn't have discussion, opposition, controversy and 3 – 2 votes then we probably wouldn't be doing our job.

Oh well, too late and too deep. Until next month the CIO is signing off...

Jeff Robinson