

Council Comments.....

Greetings to the Good Citizens of Horseshoe Bay –

Let's start with an update on the happenings at the Capitol Building in Austin. Llano County is again making a run at a county wide hotel/motel tax (SB213). The good news is that unlike four years ago, the City of Horseshoe Bay is excluded. The tax will not apply to the Marriott or any other short-term leasing done by the Resort of individual homeowners.

We also heard from Ilene Perkett who is a driving force behind SB669, the "No Billboards on Highway 71" bill. The Council endorsed the bill and all signed on to the petition. This bill, if passed, will prohibit any new billboard on 71 from the Travis County line to the City of Llano. Since Austin is pushing a similar bill, guess where the new billboards will be located – you got it – west to the Hill Country. Ilene says our State Rep, Harvey Hilderbran, who represents Llano County (most of us) and who many of us have voted for and funded, is being rather non-committal.

Folks – this is good legislation. The guys on the other side, The Texas Outdoor Advertising Association, is a strong lobby with big bucks. I think a few phone calls - 512-463-0536 and e-mails - harvey.hilderbran@house.state.tx.us - will provide a little encouragement. I'm planning a call to Harvey in the morning. Mention the Bill Number (SB669), where you live and your desire for him to get with the program. I much prefer ----- BlueBonnets to BillBoards.

OK – no more lobbying. On to Hill Country fun and games. Our County Commish Johnny Heck did a show and tell on the Hawgs 'n Hills Rally to be held in Llano County the weekend of April 27 – 29. That's right 10,000 bikers spending the big bucks in Llano County. While I don't think we're talking Angels or Bandits, it might a good idea to get that bluebonnet tour in soon. There'll be lots going on, including the election of Miss Hawgs of the Hills 2007. Drive carefully!!

A couple of quick building/property issues:

1. The Lago Escondido Re-plat/Re-zone was withdrawn by the developers. They will proceed with their original plan approved in 2006.
2. The moratorium extension on new construction in the Cap Rock and HSB Boulevard Zone was passed unanimously.
3. The Skywater Planned Development Agreement was passed by a vote of 4 – 1. Alderwoman Wines voted no due to the lack of a traffic study on the development's road system.

Our City's new Utility Administration Building is currently going through the final tidying-up phase. It will be open for occupancy next week and dedicated shortly thereafter.

We have 19 applicants to replace our much-missed Public Works Director, Glenn Jones. We will be interviewing 5 – 6 of the applicants soon. We are also advertising for a new position, Development Services Manager.

The Council approved hiring of several consultants to aid the council on issues involving utility rate structures and plans for long-term capital financing. Much, much more to come on these important issues, especially as we begin next year's budget planning.

The Council unanimously passed a new procedure for appearing and speaking at Council meetings. This is an important issue that will remain a work in progress. While the basic three minute rule is still in effect, a spokesman representing a group will have 10 minutes for his group. Additional time can also be requested by contacting the Mayor in writing at least 3 hours before council meetings. No one ever said that the good folks of Horseshoe Bay were short-winded. While these meeting require structure and limits, no one on the Council wants a citizen denied their right to speak their input.

Speaking of input – send an e-mail to the City or drop by or call an Alderperson and let us know if you would prefer the speed limit on Horseshoe Bay streets to be 25 or 30 mph. Chief Lane has been asked by several neighborhoods to lower the limits from 30 to 25. A little personal input – I would like to see all our streets at the same limit (easier for signage and enforcement – and for us elders easier to remember). We have many roads where 30 is just not appropriate and I for one like 25. But – I can be convinced otherwise. By the way, this is quite a turn-around from my younger days. Uh-oh, another sign of aging? Not hardly, just a bit more prudent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 today and I completed my report to you. It may be time for an adult beverage.

Have a good weekend –
Jeff Robinson