

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

Good Morning Horseshoe Bay!!!

Due to the length of yesterday's Council festivities and a desire on my part to call it an early evening, here I am watching the sun rise over the power plant. Actually a glorious sight – down the fairway, with the lake, hazy in the distance.... Oh well, back to the business of the Bay.

The Council day began with a budget workshop at 10. I'll not bore you with the details. Chief Fiero reported that a grant request for \$642,000 to purchase a new ladder truck had been denied by Homeland Security. Those guys are everywhere. Our request was well done and received 3.6 points out of 4. We made the cut, but finished out of the money. The Chief pledges "to try again next year". The budget for next year includes dollars for 2 additional police officers and 1 additional firefighter. More to come later on our outstanding Police and Fire Departments. Increases, over the past three years in both permanent residents and visitors, have resulted in the associated increases in traffic, crime, emergency situations, etc.

An interesting aside, a budgeted reduction in mixed beverage tax receipts led me to observe that the Folks in the Bay were drying out. I was quickly informed that was not the case. This year's numbers actually include tax receipts for two years – what a relief.

We then adjourned until 1 o'clock. At that time we convened in Executive Session. I'd tell you what we discussed, but if I did, Chief Lane would send me up the river. Oh well, it was just a legal briefing, nothing very exciting.

The primary Council meeting convened at 3 o'clock to a packed house – a sure sign of a long day.

Phil Lee, President and Claudia Haydon, Vice President of the Horseshoe Bay POA discussed the Road Improvement Assessment, currently under perusal and voting by the POA's members. Claudia announced that an important "Road Rally" would be held at Quail Point on September 10 at 7 p.m. The issue is extremely important to our community. Discussions continue concerning transfer of these roads to the City. Successful passage of the assessment will be a first step in what will eventually result in first-class roads for our city. Be there on the tenth especially if you still have questions or concerns.

Ilene Perkett announced that she is withdrawing from the upcoming Council election. Ilene has provided much assistance to our Lifestyle Committee and promises to run in the future. She is one of many outstanding candidates available to manage the business of our community.

On to the Horseshoe Bay production of CATS, better known as the Animal Control Ordinance. The item at this meeting was "For Discussion Only". And we had some – discussion. The TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) advocates made a presentation, as did some folks opposed to the numerical limit on dogs and cats kept by individual residents. The Council appeared to favor "grandfathering" pets currently exceeding the limit with an intent to allow attrition to aid in reaching the appropriate number of pets. Dale Rodman, supporting the Lifestyle Committee's recommendation, was available for questions and indicated he would save his comments for the September Council meeting when the proposed ordinance will be discussed again and voted up or down.

Two re-zoning requests were discussed at length. First the re-zoning of three lots on the southwest corner of Hwy 2147 and Hi Circle South from two family residential to general commercial. The proposal consists of two retail buildings 6,000 and 7,800 square feet on the three lots requested to be rezoned and one large lot already zoned commercial. The buildings would be one-story with walls and landscaping separating the project from residences. Entry to the parking would be near the corner of 2147 and Hi Circle. The project is not planned for a convenience store or gas station. Three neighboring residents had concerns relating to safety, traffic and property values. Each of these is a legitimate concern and needs to be address by the developer in meetings with the neighbors. The Council encouraged such a meeting, and telephone numbers were being exchanged as the Council postponed acting until September.

The next project, which has been discussed at several previous Council meetings, is located across from the American Bank on Hwy. 2147 backing up to Stone's Throw. The current plans call for a small grocery store/deli and additional space for small retail outlets. Neighbors' concerns related to garbage pick-up, product delivery and parking were addressed as follows. Garbage will be picked up on the same schedule by the same truck that picks up the residents' on Stone's Throw. Deliveries will be made by small trucks to the front of the store (2147) and no parking will be allowed on Stone's Throw. Much other give and take was discussed by the Council, neighbors and the developer. The defining point was made by Chief Lane as follows. The property is currently zoned multi-family residential, which could result in a two story apartment complex, complete with multiple dumpsters, traffic and a variety of residents. A planned, negotiated and tasteful commercial project could make for a much preferred neighbor." One of the Stone's Throw residents agreed with this assessment and approved of the project. The re-zoning application passed 4-1.

Please keep in mind: one of the reasons we became a City was to manage growth and limit the impact of that growth on residents. Projects such as these two, are studied, discussed, negotiated and hopefully result in the best solutions for all the citizens of Horseshoe Bay.

After a brief recess, the action slowed at this point. The sign ordinance and outdoor lighting ordinance proposed by the Lifestyle Committee will be on the City's website. Both have had extensive revision since first proposed. Discussion among citizens, developers and the Council have resulted in much improved proposals. Check 'em out.

A resolution was passed to schedule a Public Hearing for creation of the Escondido Public Improvement District. This will allow the developers of Escondido to recover from their property owners, the approximate five and one half million dollar cost of water and wastewater facilities. This is consistent with the original agreement between Escondido developers and the City's predecessor, the LBJ MUD. This is also consistent with the agreement made between Escondido developers and property owners.

Finally the developers of Marina Village and HSB Resort are asking for the removal from the current moratorium of a 4.42 acre tract on the west side of HSB Boulevard in order to build a mixed use project. This would encompass an area from and including the spa/fitness center through and including La Bahia. Keep in mind – this is the beginning of a long process of community meetings and discussion, Council – developer negotiations and Council meeting discussions. Current approvals are for a three story complex. The developer may request approval for up to two additional stories. Traffic and parking studies for the entire HSB Boulevard corridor must also be submitted. In football vernacular, this project is at 1<sup>st</sup> down and ten on its own 5 yard line. For you non-football fanatics – we have only just barely got started on this project. Lots more to follow.

Before I wrap this up and move on to more physical activities, I mentioned our outstanding police and fire emergency personnel earlier. Josh Nail, firefighter, was recognized for 5 years service. Years of service (experience) is important for very obvious reasons. Next, Amber Taylor, firefighter, was awarded a Certificate of Commendation and Wes Aiken, firefighter, was awarded a Medal of Valor for their efforts in the Marble Falls Flood. All sorts of thoughts came to mind concerning being good neighbors in the time of need, but Amber and Wes take it to a new level. Burnet County Judge, Donna Klaeger sent a letter of thanks to our City for our help during a difficult time. And let's not forget, in the game of "cops and robbers", Chief Lane's Horseshoe Bay cops are pitching a shutout over the local robbers. I'm done!

Have a great day – Jeff Robinson