

Council Comments.....

Good Morning Horseshoe Bay!!!

Today's Council meeting was brief enough that it won't be necessary to arise at the crack of dawn tomorrow. The meeting had, for the most part, very little controversy. That will result in a short report for this week's Beacon. For those of you disappointed by a short report, you either are easily entertained or need to get out and about. OK, here we go.

The prayer was an event, since none of the local parsons were available – yours truly did his best. The new pledge to the Texas Flag was interrupted by a laptop projector malfunction, resulting in a moment of silence. I told you it was a slow day.

Jason Graham and Wes Aiken, two of our outstanding Public Safety Officers, were recognized by the Marble Falls Rotary Club with 9-11 Public Safety Awards. Way to go guys!

The Sign and Outdoor Lighting Ordinances were passed 4 – 0 with little discussion. Way to go Lifestyle Committee.

Next on the agenda was the Animal Control Ordinance – never an easy topic. Again the Lifestyle Committee had done its job well. But – two changes were made. First, Mike Walsh, the developer of The Trails of Lake LBJ asked for clarification on the licensing by the City of Animal Foster Homes and Residential Breeders. These licenses could result in more cats/dogs in a residence than allowed by individual POA deed restrictions and covenants. Changes were made to the Ordinance to insure that City Ordinances do not override POA agreements.

The second issue involved the disposition of feral cats reported to the Police Department as a nuisance. The Ordinance, as written, stated that a feral cat reported as a nuisance by a resident would be trapped by the City and released to the Trap-Neuter-Release advocates who could then release the animal back in a neighborhood. If reported and trapped a second time, the animal would be turned over to the Animal Shelter. Several Aldermen, including yours truly, felt that the T-N-R process would not improve the animal's disposition and a return to the neighborhood would just return the nuisance for a repeat performance. My wife, Becky, and I had a particularly bad experience when a feral cat attacked our domesticated pet cat, Casey, resulting in her being put down. Our remote corner of Horseshoe Bay West has a large colony, several of which are very unpleasant.

The Council agreed that a second chance for cats reported as a nuisance was unnecessary and decided that those reported by homeowners would go directly to the Animal Shelter following trapping. Obviously the good Samaritans who seek sanctuary for these cats have their hearts in the right place and wanted a different outcome for many good reasons. The amended Animal Control Ordinance passed 4 – 0.

The much worked Annual HSB Budget passed 4 – 0. This budget, the recently passed sales tax (dedicated to ad valorem reduction), the reduction in the water rate subsidy and the increase in property values will result in a 20% decrease in the City of Horseshoe Bay's Ad Valorem Tax Rate. The \$.50 per \$100 of property value was reduced to \$.40 per \$100. While all concerned are pleased and comfortable with these reductions, the roads issue and the age of a portion of our utility infrastructure could lead to a reversal in the future. Continued growth in the number of homes and their value could certainly reduce the likelihood of such a reversal.

Our Horseshoe Bay General Manager reported that the LCRA may lower Lake LBJ by 5 feet for 3 – 4 weeks between December 1 and March 31. The message here is if you need work on your dock or bulkhead, or if you need dredging – make your reservations with a contractor soon. As our newest Alderwoman, certified today, likes to say “if you snooze, you lose”.

Along these lines, Mayor Lambert, Alderman Bird and Alderwoman Claudia Haydon were certified as winners of the November uncontested election.

That's all folks! We adjourned at 4:45 and will do it again next month. Until then, this is your scribe saying Hasta Luego.

Jeff Robinson