

Council Comments....

Good Evening Horseshoe Bay –

This salutation means you get the glass of wine, bit of cheese version of the “Council Comments” instead of the somewhat sleepy and dry early morning version. Actually, after a day that started at 9 a.m. with a council workshop and a council meeting that ended at 5:30 p.m., I’m now on serious overtime. But alas, overtime pay is the same as 8 to 5 pay – Nada! No complaint here – just wanted you to know that your elected civil servants are hard at it.

OK – enough of the humor – here we go. I’ll begin with a few notes from the 9 a.m. workshop. We discussed three topics. First was the much discussed “Resorts” development of the previous moratorium area adjoining HSB Boulevard and the Marriott. I will not reiterate what you have heard and read, but make a few key points.

1. Properties designated Residential will remain Residential.
2. Properties designated C-2 have always been designated to be recreational amenities and will remain such. There will be no retail shops other than those residing in the Tennis Court Area as a Tennis shop in the Fitness Area as a Fitness Shop, etc. etc.
3. A 20 ft. setback will be required to buffer any existing town homes from C-2 zoning in Tracts 4 and 9, including a 5 ft. landscape buffer.
4. The Resort initiated Traffic Study indicates that following completion of re-development on HSB Boulevard a stoplight may be necessary at FM 2147 and HSB Boulevard.
5. Traffic signs (Stop, Yield, etc.) on the roads maintained by the Resort and HSB POA should comply with state requirements as related to size, color and shape.

Mike Walsh, the Trails developer then described a new retail development he proposes east of the Post Office that would have office space, restaurant space and perhaps space for a hardware store. (We could have lots of hardware stores.) The good news is those “attractive” storage sheds, boats, etc. would move to the rear of the property.

A discussion was then held concerning a possible billing glitch concerning our two largest commercial entities – The Resort and The Marriott. They appear to have been over-billed. This will hopefully be corrected at our February Council meeting.

Alderman Babcock made the point at the 3 p.m. council meeting to encourage citizen attendance at Council workshops as the forum provides for a better exchange of ideas and concerns – I agree.

A brief adjournment for lunch and then – Reverend Johnny from the Church at Horseshoe Bay kicked us off. A couple of really good personnel items followed. Teresa Moore was sworn in as City Secretary – she'll be a good one. Three of our public servants who were recognized by our Hill Country 100 Club at their Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet last week were recognized – Jason Graham – Horseshoe Bay Police Officer of the Year, Jeff Isom- Horseshoe Bay Firefighter of the Year and Debbie Roper – Support Person of the Year. These folks are a big part of the reason we all love “Livin in the Bay”.

General Manager Mike Thuss reported that all employee appraisals were completed and the corresponding merit increases reflected on January 11 paychecks. Your city government looks for the very best employees and feels they should be paid accordingly.

Our new Fire Department pumper truck was on display. It's a Hi-Tech Pumper and doesn't come cheap. It may even, at \$235,000, have a bigger window sticker than those Ferraris and Lamborghinis I occasionally see at the Post Office.

In connection with expansion of the Yacht Club and renovation of the Marina, the Council will annex part of Lake LBJ. I won't try to explain – it just needs to be done. Call me if you have a question.

In connection with the new Marina Village (we may have more villages than we have hardware stores), the council discussed approving 5 stories instead of the original 3 stories. Presentations and discussions with neighbors indicated this would not be a problem. But – two very legitimate concerns were raised:

1. Alderwoman Haydon said that several citizens were concerned that the exterior architecture needs to be more Horseshoe Bay and less California Contemporary. This issue will continue to be discussed with the developers.
2. Alderman Rantzow raised an issue, always on the front-burner, concerning our fire folks, with the existing equipment, ability to deal with a five story fire. This situation, currently a concern with the Marriott and The Waters is an ongoing issue until we are able to purchase a 100 ft Ladder Truck. Currently an agreement with the Marble Falls FD, who has the “Big Ladder Rig” and stringent fire retardant building requirements are our means of addressing this problem. Further plans call for again seeking a Federal Grant to aid in purchasing this \$750,000 truck. In the meantime, Chief Fiero is comfortable with our ability to deal with any eventuality. This is an important issue that will continue to be front-burner.

The real estate folks were front and center today with a request for two directional and one lawn sign for Open House situations. This seemed a reasonable request as the realtors work hard, pick up their signs and if any of us sell our house will want them to be able to do their job. The new rules passed 5 – 0.

Finally, residential sprinkler systems were discussed. Chief Fiero has recommended an ordinance requiring fire arresting sprinkler systems in all new residential construction exceeding (a yet to be determined) square footage. A healthily, informed exchange of ideas followed. As a matter of fact, Chief Fiero continued the discussion with a local builder in the parking lot after the meeting. This will be a continuing dialog and your input is appreciated. It's obviously a "you don't need till you need it" issue – but when you do "you really need it".

OK – I'm done – Dinner Time – see you next month.

Your Scribe,
Jeff Robinson