

Council Comments

Good Afternoon Horseshoe Bay –

A message there --- we adjourned at 3:53!! A fifty-three minute Council Meeting. And we even had the dreaded “Cats discussion”.

The day did actually begin at 2 o’clock with a” Farewell from the City” reception for Mike Thus, the City’s first General Manager. Mike worked first for the MUD and then was instrumental in the transition from MUD to City. Mike has a new job working for a San Antonio Water District, but he and Patty will continue to reside in the “the Bay”. Good Luck Mike!!!

Larry Sherwood, Minister of Music at the Church at Horseshoe Bay, led us in prayer and after the pledges, we launched into, not Andrew Lloyd Weber’s version, but the Horseshoe Bay version of “Cats”. An application for exemption from the Horseshoe Bay Animal Control Ordinance limiting residents to 4 animals was received from a resident of The Trails. These exemptions pertain only to residents who had more than the prescribed 4 animals at the time of the passage of the ordinance. The ordinance was passed September 18 of last year. The ordinance allows the resident to keep the “grandfathered” animals, but not acquire additional animals until the originals pass on and less than 4 remain. This particular request was for 20 cats and 2 dogs. The Council determined that until proper verifications and enforcement procedures were installed, a vote on the request would be deferred. Numerous suggestions were made concerning the two procedural issues and hopefully these can be resolved prior to April’s meeting. A very good suggestion was also made by Alderwoman Haydon that the Exemption Requests amendment have a deadline. Stay tuned --- more to come.

A City Franchise Ordinance with Perdenales Electric has been executed, and the really good news is that the fees paid by PEC will not be passed directly through to our citizens.

Once again, the Council voted to continue the moratorium on new construction in the Cap Rock Zone and Tract BBB-2A on HSB Boulevard. These moratoriums will not be lifted until a comprehensive development plan is presented to the community and the council.

We then completed the annexation of the muddy lake bottom under the resort marina and adjacent to the Yacht Club. I know you’re been anxiously awaiting that news.

Horseshoe Bay Cleanup Day, April 22, was proclaimed by the Mayor – Alderwoman Haydon explained that last year's was the best ever. "City and POA employees, along with residents tidy up our town" - Has a nice ring to it. Free barbecue for all the workers at Martin Park following the effort. Volunteer at the HSB POA office.

Yours truly then led a discussion concerning our community's lack of state of the art telecommunications and video (Cable) services. One of the most common complaints I hear during cocktail and cheese standing around visiting time is the poor quality of high speed internet service. One of the prime solutions to this problem is the use of land line (telephone or cable) broadband technology. Verizon does not provide that service to residential customers and cable only exists in HSB proper. Our City Attorney Monte Akers has prepared a resolution which outlines our dissatisfactions with Telco and Cable providers and Verizon had evidently gotten wind of our unhappiness – and guess what – they showed up at the Council meeting. I didn't even know the "tie and suit" guys from Dallas knew where we were. Although to the fellow from Dallas's credit—he wore jeans---a nice touch. While not making any commitment concerning when, where and what Verizon will do, hopefully we can begin a serious dialog with that will result in our community moving in to a least the 1990's. We'll probably get Craig Haydon, AT&T, and Tom Schmersahl, Verizon, two of our retired telecom guys to help in the negotiations. One other bit of good news, Time Warner, who has a contract with Escondido and is negotiating with Skywater, will be taking over for Northland Cable. TW is the big Kahuna of cable providers and can provide all of the gee-whiz Telco and TV stuff we like. A little competition between these two deep-pocket corps couldn't hurt. Lots more to come on this, but a least the "game is a foot". (I don't know what that means, but Sherlock Holmes always said it when things were getting interesting.)

Our City Manager search is in the back stretch (racing jargon for almost done). We should be making an offer in the next 30 days and have the new manager on the job in 60. Our current unpaid City Manager, Mayor Lambert, will be sooooo happy.

And then – we adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Keep it in the Fairway –
Your Scribe
Jeff Robinson