

Council Comments.....

Good Evening Residents of the Bay –

Where did all this wind come from? It's really blowing over here in the west end.

The City Council kicked off Tuesday morning with a workshop to discuss "Roads" – streets to City Folk. The folks from the Horseshoe Bay POA Board were in full attendance along with several other citizens. Let me make this brief and begin with several facts –

1. The recent HSB POA assessment vote fell short of the required 67% by about 4% of those voting.
2. Since the last professional evaluation of our roads 4 years ago, there has been significant deterioration, according to a recent similar evaluation.
3. The cost of road repairs is increasing and will continue to increase due to cost of asphalt (oil based).
4. The HSB POA has a static income stream.
5. Under the current arrangement roads will continue to deteriorate.

So those are the facts – how about some conclusions:

1. The long-term solution to road maintenance is city ownership.
2. The city will not assume ownership of HSB POA roads in their current deteriorated condition.
3. The only financing vehicle available to the HSB POA to improve road conditions is an assessment.
4. The only viable means for passage of such an assessment is through a sound, well thought out agreement between the City, the HSB POA, the Resort Owner and the Declarant (Wayne Hurd).

Another workshop on this vital issue will be conducted prior to next month's council meeting. While the issue is urgent; much research, discussion and explanation will be necessary to solve the problem. It is regrettable that this issue continues to overhang the Bay – But – it is not going to go away and doing nothing (business as usual) does not strike your scribe as an option.

The afternoon's Council meeting was brief and productive. We welcomed our new City Manager, Stan Farmer, who then presented Mayor Bob with a plaque from the staff thanking him for his tireless efforts as Interim Man in Charge. A question of Chief Lane concerning changes in the speed limit on FM2147 resulted in his comment that it was now in TxDOT's hands. The wheels turn slow in Austin.

A really, really special recognition was made of Luis Rodriguez, a 30 year long employee of, first the LBJ MUD and now the City. WOW!! Thank you Luis!

During the Alderperson comments portion of our meeting two suggestions were made concerning ongoing issues. A letter sent to the Public Utility Commission and various elected officials, including our Senator Fraser, expressing our dissatisfaction with advance high speed telecom and cable services (including our resolution) will also be sent to the TML (Texas Municipal League), the lobbying outfit that represents cities before the legislature. The pot continues to stir. Also, our state's relative poor performance in obtaining Federal Grants for worthwhile city projects continues to be a serious problem. While the approval process is supposed to be non-political, a dozen smaller, less populated states (Illinois, Pennsylvania, etc.) receive as much as twice the Federal Grant money Texas receives. The Council intends to communicate with Senators Hutchison and Cornyn and Congressman Conaway concerning this issue.

The Council unanimously passed a Junk Vehicle Ordinance (get rid of) and a Substandard Building Ordinance (repair or demolish). A good discussion was then held of Amendments to our Fireworks Ordinance. Bottom line on the Ordinance to be voted next month is more flexibility that will allow more than just "Sparklers" by the citizens. Flexibility will not be extended to those desirous of conducting a fireworks display on residential decks and porches or high density areas. Approval of a permit will also be required by the Fire Chief. Remember, dry summers will always make fireworks dicey.

Following a recent Brush Burning incident (not a fire problem, but lots of smoke), a Brush Burning Ordinance was approved. All the players were involved, Police, Fire, Public Works and City Manager. In another Brush-related item, the Council discussed at length – how to keep non-Bay brush and debris out of our disposal site. Discussions were held on permits, fees and fines, and methods to limit debris to the home grown variety. More to come next month. A cautionary word to the Non-Bay accumulators of brush, trash and debris – Take your mess elsewhere!

An extended discussion was also held concerning a Noise Ordinance. It will be placed on the City website and potentially voted at the June Council Meeting. It appeared well thought out and fair. Chief Lane chaired (refereed) a committee of 3 lawyers and an engineer to produce the proposed ordinance – all in the line of duty. Thanks Chief!

The winds calmed down a little, the sun's going down and I've had a full day.

Have a good week – stay cool!

Your Scribe –
Jeff Robinson