

Council Comments.....

Good Morning to you – Citizens of the Bay!!!

A few of my usual observations as I begin my third year as your erstwhile Council Scribe - A light fog hanging over the lake, smoke rising straight up from the power plant and the sun moving more and more south at each sunrise indicates today will be cool, clear with little wind as old man winter arrives in the Bay. Not terribly poetic, but at my salary grade – what would you expect?

Tuesday's Council meeting began promptly at three o'clock as Reverend Johnny prayed and we pledged. The Mayor called on George Byrnes, Chairman of the Horseshoe Bay Home Rule Charter Commission, to give us an update on their progress. George complemented the Council on their selection of the 18 members of the commission. They are evidently smart, hard working and easy to get along with. Sounds like the typical resident of the Bay. They are a diverse group who represent all aspects of our City's life. George says his fellow charter writers spend about 1 ½ hours on homework for each hour they meet. Since by the time this is over, they will have met for over 20 hours, their time card will reflect – oh well - you do the math. They have had help from Mayor Bob and Alderman Babcock, used the Texas Municipal League and other cities as resources and are nearing production of a final draft.

They hope to produce a comprehensive document that is not so specific that it limits future councils from making good decisions in the best interest of our community. Their plan is to produce a final draft in early December that will be available on the City website (and in hard copy at the City Hall) for all to peruse and ask questions about over the Christmas Holiday's. In early January, a City Forum will be conducted to answer questions and explain the details. The Council will then have an up or down vote on the Charter at the January meeting with a final vote by the citizenry in May. Finally George said they couldn't have done the job without Monte Akers, our City Attorney, and Teresa Moore, our City Secretary. If you're visiting with any of the commission members, thank them for their efforts and let them fill you in on the Charter.

The Shoppes at Hi Circle project, after a year of negotiations between the developer, the neighbors and the City, was approved by a 4 – 0 vote. It appears that the process was successful in the eyes of most all participants. An amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Zone 15, the Airport, was then passed by a similar 4 – 0 vote. Residents with hangars (aircraft) were evidently excluded from our original ordinance and little clean-up was necessary. Again, all involved, the Resort, the

neighbors, the aviators and the City seemed satisfied with the result. I really love a 4 – 0 happy conclusion.

We then did a little Council housekeeping for the coming year. Alderman Babcock was elected Mayor Pro-Tem and yours truly as Chief information Officer by unanimous votes. As both jobs are thankless tasks and mine requires extremely early rising 12 times a year, Jim and I will be asking for a doubling of our salaries --- -----Just Kidding! Jim actually gets to be in charge if Mayor Bob is absent (not often) and I actually enjoy my monthly literary effort. So I know you'll be anxiously awaiting this monthly description of "good government in action". To those of you of the Republican persuasion, it may be your only opportunity to observe such a "happening".

Buddy Schrader and Bill Gaylord, as golfing cart partners, then shared opposing views of their thoughts on the recently approved POA financing plan for the "roads". While, as is my normal habit, I will not go into the details, both citizens delivered eloquent soliloquies on their views of the City/POA road deal. Ask them about it over Chardonnay and Cheddar.

Continuing on that topic, the Council then retired to Executive Session to discuss the legalities of the City's proposed contracts with the POA, Resort and Declarant concerning the aforementioned roads. I would tell you what was said – but if I did, I would have to find you and shoot you or maybe Mayor Bob would just shoot me. Just kidding again!

After returning to Open Session, it did become apparent that generally speaking there was disappointment with the drafts presented by both POA and Resort. After making real progress in the last 90 days, we seem to have taken a step or two backward. It is still the Council's goal to have final agreements with all involved by years end. Finally, since the price of oil and its derivative asphalt are down significantly, now is a real good time to get started.

And now on to the only topic more talked about in the Bay than roads – and that is the Red Raider/Sooner game Saturday and also it's impact on the Longhorns – sorry Ags and Bears, your time will come. It just doesn't get any better.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Scribe (again)
Jeff Robinson