

## **Council Comments.....**

Good Rainy Morning to All –

The week began with a Monday afternoon Streets Workshop. The primary purpose of the gathering was for the Mayor to announce that the “people of the Fairways” have spoken and no further discussion of the Street Upgrade Program for the Fairways subdivisions was necessary. All of the Council agreed that it was time to move on and that the streets maintenance would continue as is in the Fairways with no plan for an upgrade. (Applause followed).

The meeting was short with a brief discussion of an agenda for a December workshop. Several council folks had had conversations with citizens who had an interest in upgrading their neighborhood streets. Suggestions for the December meeting by the Council included blending the use of some ad valorem dollars into the assessment plan to pay for a portion of the upgrade, i.e., the ribbon curbs; emphasizing upgrade of heavily trafficked thoroughfares such as HSB Boulevard and Bay West Blvd; and a definitive study by the engineers and the bond daddy’s to determine the relative cost to home owners of the assessment plan compared to an ad valorem funded bond issue. This study would determine cost to individual homeowners at several different levels of upgrade mileage (the entire 122 miles, the 94 miles of populated streets, etc.). Whatever the result, hopefully it will help put this contentious issue to rest. Mayor Bob asked Stan to collect from the council a list of items to discuss at the next streets workshop in December. As always- more to come. The never ending saga continues.

Tuesday was a bright, cool, sunny day in the Bay. Your City Council meeting began promptly at three as Reverend Johnny prayed and we pledged. Tom Schmersahl, a member of our Broadband Upgrade Committee reported that he had discussed our DSL upgrade with Carl Erhart, President Verizon – Texas, and though delayed, plans were still in place for a late November offering. For those desiring to be on the leading edge following availability, go to Verizon.com website, under the High Speed Internet offer (DSL) you can provide your 10 digit telephone number or street address and you will be informed it is not available to you. BUT – then click on the “advise me when it is available” button and you will be informed when it is available. It is the Broadband Committee’s intention to ask The Beacon to canvas all providers (wireless, cable, telecom, satellite, etc) to provide speeds, capacity, price, etc. so that The Beacon might prepare a matrix outlining the options and attributes for broadband services in Horseshoe Bay. Thanks for your efforts, Tom!

The Mayor then recognized Councilman John Bird. John has served since the creation of our city four years ago. He has been here through all the sticky wicket discussions of zoning, ordinances, streets, P & Z, etc. etc. etc – John, in my view, is our outstanding “detail man.” No rock goes unturned. If we miss an item

– never fear – John will call it to our attention. Thank Goodness!! He will be sorely missed for his dedication and hard work.

For the folks living on Lighthouse Drive who have been wondering about the house under construction for the last 3½ years, the owners and builder were present to plead their case for a Building Permit Extension (usually available in 100 day increments). The owners and builder explained that due to many extenuating circumstances, construction had been delayed – really delayed. The good news is, they have plans and are on schedule to complete the house by April. The bad news is they will continue to require the port-a-potty and trash dumpster. Councilman Babcock asked that these two items be removed as they are unsightly. In the end, it was decided that since the unsightlies were necessary, they would be moved to less conspicuous locations, the front yard contoured and the permit would be for an abbreviated 60 days. The builder would provide a 30 day update and all would gather again at our December meeting to discuss another 100 day extension.

A long discussion was then held concerning 2009-2010 pricing and a contract extension for Allied Waste - garbage to the uninformed. That discussion was witnessed by 30-40 of your fellow citizens, who are now garbage experts.

Jess Koska, our excellent Utilities Director, reported that since our water restrictions went into place on September 1, water usage was down 39% in September '09 compared to September '08. The LCRA goal of a 25% reduction was met and exceeded. Good Job Folks!! This drought is as bad as it gets and the lakes (Travis and Buchanan) are still way down. Come on rain!

The new owner of the manufactured home at 2100 Crooked Run was in attendance to ask for a 60 day extension to fix up the property. It was the best of the previously condemned properties. Upon completion it will be a rental unit.

On another demolition front, the contract for the demolition of the fire damaged Hacienda Townhouses is ready for signature and the demolition should occur during the next 30 days.

Councilman Spence asked that the Council be updated in November on the progress of construction on the 5 Sunray homes which previously had been considered for demolition.

On the annexation front, owners of 3 of the 6 areas have asked for an agreement with the city to not be annexed for 3 years in exchange for a commitment to seek Council approval for any development during that time. The other 3 areas are still on the path to annexation.

Since the demise allowed by the Texas Legislatures Sunset Commission of the TRCC (Texas Residential Construction Commission), contractor registration required by our Building Permit Ordinance has ceased by the State. In order to continue such registration and insure that folks building in the Bay are consistent with our standards and have appropriate credentials, Eric Winter, our Development Service Manager, and his staff will assume that registration responsibility.

The City of Cottonwood Shores has requested a temporary connection to our water system. This is necessary to complete repairs on their system. The connection will be for 30 days and will have no impact on water service to the City of Horseshoe Bay. It's just what good neighbors do.

John moved to adjourn for his last motion and Claudia seconded. Hope you have a rainy day!

Your Scribe -  
Jeff Robinson