

Council Comments.....

Tuesday was another day for Counciling in the Bay. As usual we had some good news and some bad news. The good news was we had a 30 minute Council meeting – the bad news, the second meeting lasted 4 hours. Oh well, it was a hot and humid afternoon anyway.

The first meeting at 10 a.m. was necessary to insure that replatting done in 2005 and 2006 was correct in every way. Only one of the replats required discussion and it was quickly resolved. All replats were passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 – WOW!

The 3 o'clock meeting was begun with prayer and pledges and recognition of one of our outstanding firefighters, Jeff Isom, for his 5 years of service to the Bay. Following that, Mike Thuss introduced Jerry Lovelady and Eric Winter, the Bay's new Director of Public Works and Development Services Manager respectively. Welcome to Jerry and Eric and their families!

Ryder Warren, Superintendent of the Marble Falls School District, discussed the recently completed school year. As with most things in our area, everything is growing. The year ended with 3,980 school attendees and several approved building projects. Later in the meeting, the Bay's G.M. mentioned that the City had approved 120 building permits through May, 2007. Last year, 2006, 121 permits were approved for the entire year. The Bay area is truly vibrant and dynamic.

The Council then discussed and passed unanimously a City Contribution Policy. The basic tenet of the policy is that contributions by the City will be made to only those organizations that provide a public service, used by a significant number of Bay residents and that the service provided could be considered a city service. All contributions will need to be discussed and approved by the Council. A request received by the Council in August, 2006 for a \$5000 contribution to the Friends of the Marble Falls Library was subsequently approved. It was a good example of the policy criteria approved by the Council.

The next hour was spent on discussions of burning, lighting, garbage, billboards and sex (actually sexually oriented businesses). These were ordinances prepared by our hardworking Lifestyle Committee. The Outdoor Burning Ordinance passed with light discussion and several improvements. The Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was sent back to the Lifestyle Committee with minor revisions. The Sanitation, Trash and Litter Ordinance, garbage to most of us, required more discussion. Primarily the question was – should plastic bags be approved as animal proof containers. Evidently the raccoons in Horseshoe Bay proper either have better taste

than the garbage provided by the residents or have evolved to clawless wimps that can't tear the bags. This is not true in HSB West where the raccoons are big, vicious and hungry. The Ordinance was left as is, which means; don't put your edible leavings in garbage bags. They can be used for leaves, paper and assorted non-edibles. Also, if you own a vacant lot, don't let the weeds get over 2 feet tall or the city will abate (cut) the weeds and send you the bill. This Ordinance also passed.

The other two Ordinances were for discussion only. SOB's (sexually oriented businesses) were discussed briefly, as no one knew much about them anyway. Suffice it to say – while SOB's cannot be banned, they can be regulated to the extreme. And that is what the Bay's ordinance does. It will be an arduous task for such a business to pass muster in the Bay. The Sign Ordinance was discussed at length and all agreed that signs should be attractive and unobtrusive. They can and should be helpful. After much discussion, the mayor requested council members to review and offer suggested revisions to the proposed ordinance. More to come on sex and signs.

The next topic of interest was – speed limits. Our community poll led us to the conclusion that folks wanted us to either change the speed limit or leave it the same. Huh?? Oh well, the wisdom of your Council is that we will discuss changing to 25 mph the speed limit on Lighthouse Drive, The Peninsula, The Trails, Applehead Island and Pecan Creek – with all remaining limits remaining unchanged. Each of the 5 locations proposed for change have a single primary entrance and a restricted street system. This proposal will be discussed at the July council meeting. If you have concerns or questions, please attend.

And finally – Fireworks – literally. July 4th is approaching and for the first time Horseshoe Bay residents will not be allowed to shoot their own fireworks. The City and the Resort will sponsor a “Big Show” of fireworks on the night of July 4th, in what we all hope will grow into a real extravaganza.

Your scribe and his bride will be touring the great northwest next month and will miss both the Council meeting and the opportunity to provide my humble comments. I hope you will pardon the interruption and know that I will return refreshed and invigorated in August. Until then – Happy Fourth of July!

Jeff Robinson