

December 14, 1999
City Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was called to order by Mayor Leon Whetzel at 7:00 P.M., December 14, 1999, at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, located at # I Ridge Road, Ransom Canyon. All council members were present, Steven Oldham, David Peterson, Sandy Jones, Inez Speed and Robert Englund. The meeting began with a silent meditation.

Minutes of the November meeting required corrections. Mayor Whetzel noted Page 1, paragraph five, line 2, should be corrected to read "the council decided that the ordinance..." Page 2, first paragraph, line 7 should be corrected to read "...and Pat explained that Lubbock is requesting an increase in volume output, as well as permission to distribute in solid sludge form as part of the entire program." The last sentence of the first paragraph should be deleted entirely. The last correction requested by Mayor Whetzel was on Page 2, second paragraph, line six. "(1989)" should be deleted. As corrected and changed, David Peterson moved to approve the minutes, Inez Speed seconded the motion, all approved.

Mayor Whetzel reported that according to the financial report, all was in order for the expected end of November, the second month of the fiscal year. Inez Speed had questions for the police department about the hard drive that was purchased for the computer. Chief Rawls explained the external hard drive with 4-gigabyte memory was needed to back up the lap top computer information. This required additional software. David asked if a zip drive would not have accomplished the same thing. Chief Rawls answered that the external hard drive will allow complete back up to frequent and complete changes. Inez asked if the hard drive will last, or if a new one will be needed next year. Chief Rawls answered this equipment will last. Inez asked about the labor hours that were required to enter data and maintain the reports in this computer. Chief Rawls stated more hours were needed at first to enter data, but now report writing and record keeping was easier. Inez asked how long the backup takes, and Wayne answered about 45 minutes.

Robert Englund asked what happened to the shredder, and David Peterson commented the gearbox had to be repaired. The permits from TNRCC are higher, but Buffalo Lake will share the cost of the sewer TNRCC permits. No further comments, the Financial Report and the Claims and Demands were approved on a motion from Robert Englund and a second from David Peterson. All approved.

Ron Howell from Mason Warner & Co delivered the annual audit. He reported that a clean report was issued by their audit firm for the City. The statement contains a Y2k disclaimer, just like last year's audit, next year this disclaimer won't be needed. The auditor reports fund types and expenses for operating costs, and for Construction In Progress, and for changes in inventory and fixed assets. The \$1 1,000 overpayment from Lubbock County was treated as defer-red revenue, which will make audits in future years look more balanced as far as revenue and Library expense is concerned. Payroll makes up 44% of the expenses, which is normal for a small city. Mayor Whetzel commented that he would like to see a departmental breakdown of payroll related expenses, so we could get a true picture of departmental burdens. After two or three small adjustments for franchise revenue and adjustments to the fixed assets, the report was normal and in line with the reports that are prepared monthly.

Inez Speed moved to accept the audited financial statements report for the year ended September 30, 1999 as prepared, Steven Oldham seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

The council discussed Ordinance 165, the next amendment to ordinance 56, the building permit ordinance. This amendment stated only that permits would be required as outlined by the Uniform Building Code. The council discussed this in detail. Mayor Whetzel commented that he thinks another section should be added to this ordinance stating that a topographic survey is not required where the topo is not a significant issue. Building Inspector Wayne Gentry would be the decision making authority on whether or not topos would be required. This is because the cost of a topographical survey is considerable, and might be overkill for projects like an add-on or a remodel. Inez commented that the council discussed this issue last year and the compromise was in the four-corer requirement for a flat lot ordinance # 157. Discussion followed. No action was taken at this time on the adoption of Ordinance 165, because the council wants to discuss this issue again with Robert Morris, who serves on the Building Control Committee, and is versed on the details

of the Uniform Building Code. Mayor Whetzel again stated that the council is concerned with the problem that is created by lot development. If it is not done in compliance, it creates a violation of the neighbor's rights, in that it changes the landscape of the natural terrain.

Mayor Whetzel reported that the easement issue is not ready for closure, but he did have a long talk with the city engineer, and many requirements were clarified. Bernie Gradel will have a report for the council for next meeting. Mayor Whetzel stated that Bernie apparently did not understand the council's specific questions. Yet to be explained are issues involving location and dedication of city drainage easements, and recommended solutions to the problem on Canyonview. The question also is still unanswered about the front road, whether the road actually lies within the surveyed Metes and Bounds. This information will be obtained from Bernie, and the Mayor will follow up.

The Building Control Committee issued one set of plans for a remodel. The individual plans to enclose an existing garage and add an unattached garage at the back of the property.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls described a very busy month for police, EMS and fire departments. There have been several accidents. There were two EMS calls in addition to the EMS service needed in addition to police calls to the accidents. Traffic has been heavy to see the Christmas lights. An as-yet-to-be-identified vehicle ran over the front road retaining wall. The police have this individual on film, and the film has been submitted for detail analysis so the tag number can be read. There were two calls on criminal mischief, and a Santa Claus was stolen from a front yard.

The Lubbock County wide Y2K preparedness meetings and information systems are very busy. Ransom Canyon is prepared, and the fire station will have generated heat and power. No food will be distributed. Water rationing, if necessary, is planned. We have been assured that the power companies, and LP&L&Water do not expect problems from the Y2K. They are prepared with contingencies just in case. The police and fire will have a separate cell phone link if telephone service and regular cell system goes down.

Ransom Canyon is ready for Y2K. Lee Kitchens and Charles Burford are certified Ham Radio operators and can communicate if all else fails.

The Energas increase study committee is still working on the rate increase, and Energas has delayed their request for increase another month.

The council adjourned to executive session to discuss litigation with the city attorney, John Sims.

The council reconvened and took no action relative to the executive session. The meeting adjourned on Steve Oldham's motion and Robert Englund's second.

Melissa Verett, City Secretary