

JUNE 1, 1999 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was brought to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Leon Whetzel. Aldermen present were Sandra Jones, David Peterson, Inez Speed and Robert Englund. Steven Oldham was absent. After a minute of silent meditation, Mayor Whetzel considered the Minutes of the May meetings.

Minutes. Approved unanimously on a motion from Inez Speed, second from David Peterson Financial Report and Claims and Demands. Mayor Whetzel noted that the package also included preliminary budget input from Melissa and Wayne Gentry, and that Wayne Rawls' request would be copied and distributed to the council prior to the June 8 budget work session.

Robert Englund asked Chief Rawls how, with his department sitting at 84% of his annual budget spent, he was going to manage to end the year on budget. Wayne explained that his big-ticket items were completed, plus the overage on mobile phones would be balanced by the under-expenditure of the pager category. The police dept cancelled the answering service and instead went to cell phone service. James changed to a less expensive digital phone; Wayne will change in July. The pagers cost \$9.00 per pager per month. The only police expenses left for the year are gasoline, mobiles, pager and normal utilities.

David Peterson asked if water revenue would be as budgeted. Melissa answered that although May was lower than 1998 revenue, the year-end projection reflects that the water revenue budget will be met. Harold reported that water usage in May was lower than last year, 4,439,000 gallons this year, as opposed to 12 million in May 1998. But, usage is going up. Also, David commented, mosquito revenue has been billed, so revenue will be in place to pay the bill for spraying.

Mayor Whetzel added that the City of Lubbock had plans to go to their council to ask for a water rate increase, and this increase would pass on to us in the form of 6% this year, 6% next year, and 3% the year after that. These increases will be reflected in the budget.

Inez Speed moved to approve the financial report, David Peterson seconded the motion. Robert Englund asked Wayne Gentry about a bill for water line breaks. Wayne explained that the booster pumps were started up, and a leak showed up in the line just south of the General Store. The line is on rock, and the rock had punched a hole in it. The Mayor then called for a vote, all voted to approve the financials.

Wayne Gentry explained the bids for road resurfacing. The low bid was from Ronnie Zahn paving, for \$64,275. The plan to resurface included the front road, known as Ransom Road. Bernie Gradel from Hugo Reed explained that he had researched the ownership issue of the front road. Craigmont Building Co., the original developer, prior to Lake Ransom Canyon, Inc, owned this road. When property was moved to LRC, Inc., ownership of the front road was not transferred, so legally, Craigmont still owns the road. There is some question if Craigmont is still in existence. One thing is certain, however, the county does not own the road, and is not responsible to maintain it. If the city does not maintain it, and/or claim right of ownership by Prescription, the city cannot control egress from the road, and we could possibly have a really undesirable development outside our front entrance. The road is in bad shape, and at the least, needs resurfacing.

Second issue is that Wayne Gentry requested the budget overage 1. Price is half what we normally pay for resurfacing..2. The designated streets really need preventive maintenance work this year, now, at this time.3. We have been weather fortunate, but this may not be true for the winter of '99. Wayne recommended the low bid, and noted that 9-1 1% of the resurfacing will be refunded by SPEC per their agreement for the work they did when they laid new line. SPEC plans no more work of this nature in 1999.

The council discussed budget restrictions and the need to transfer funds from the General Operating Reserve Fund, purposing as they do so to set aside matching funds in the 99-2000 budget to replenish the General Operating Reserve Fund.

Funding must include \$5,000 engineering fees.

John Sims advised that due to the magnitude of the funding change, an amended budget was in order.

Therefore, Robert Englund made a motion to cover several items:

1. Resolve to address the need for preventive street maintenance this fiscal year, and
2. Resolve to take advantage of the price, which is half what we normally pay for street resurfacing, due in part to the low price of oil at this time, and
3. Propose to accept the low bid from Zahn paving for resurfacing and full depth paving repair, total bid price \$64,275, and
4. Propose to build \$5,000 engineering fees into the expenditure budget, and
5. Propose to fund the project from the Roads and Grounds existing budget balance, plus a Funds Transfer from General Operating Reserve Fund as detailed below:
 - \$ 28,320 98-99 Budget (balance)
 - \$ 40,955 Transfer from General Operating Reserve Fund, and
6. Propose to amend the 98-99 budget to reflect total street contract repair in the amount of \$69,275 plus current YTD of \$1,680 = \$70,955, and
7. Propose to amend the 98-99 budget to reflect budget balancing entry of a Funds Transfer from General Operating Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,955
8. Propose to purpose to budget \$40,955 additional Reserve Funding in 1999-2000 Budget
9. Propose to purpose to facilitate this budget funding by budgeting limited maintenance expense in Roads and Grounds Contract Repair in 1999-2000 Budget.

Inez Speed seconded the motion. Mayor Whetzel asked Wayne Gentry if it made sense to not leave room for street contract patchwork through September. Wayne said he could manage without it.

When the Mayor called for a vote on this multi-faceted proposal, the vote was unanimously aye. Motion carried.

Committee Review found several new appointments to standing committees in the City. The list is attached at the end of the minutes. David Peterson moved to approve the appointments, Robert Englund seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

The changes in the Policy Manual were outlined in the work session minutes. Final copy will be prepared and distributed to the council members and to the city staff. Mayor Whetzel reported that we are subject to ADA, FLA, and asked if we wanted to add this to the manual. Attorney Sims advised the council to avoid putting this in the manual. David Peterson stated the less said the better.

Inez Speed asked about putting identification decals on the police cars. Wayne Rawls stated that the vehicles would need to be registered as marked vehicles, no cost to the city, but the decals would cost \$150 per door. Robert Englund stated we don't need to spend this money on this item at this time. David Peterson also stated we don't need to spend the money on this item at this time. Mayor Whetzel declared a majority did not want to spend the money on this item at this time.

Mayor Whetzel stated that he had read in TML's magazine that police departments of under 5 employees are exempt from overtime/comp time.

There being no further comments on the policy manual, David Peterson moved to accept the manual as revised, Robert Englund seconded the motion, all approved.

Wayne Rawls reported for the police department that activity was picking up. Both officers have been busy policing the pool, the lake, registering boats, and checking fishermen for trespass violations. They are using Lee Kitchen's deck boat to patrol the lake.

The big white sign at the front entrance is in bad need of repair. The cost to repaint would be \$225 - \$325. David Peterson stated the money is not available at this time, but that the existing sign is shabby and needs to come down. Leon Whetzel stated the sign is shabby and needs to come down.

Harold Needham reported for the Water dept that usage is down to four million, four hundred thirty nine thousand gallons for May. Last year at this time we used ten to 12 million gallons. The staff is busy mowing, weedeating, shredding, the chlorine house is 90% finished, L.D. is getting the street sweeper ready for work. Waste Water inspection from the TNRCC reported four minor violations. Three have been taken care of, one is in process of being attended to. The TWA journal has a good article on drought contingency planning. We must have a plan by 2000.

Rand McPherson reported rain for the Fire Department. This makes grass grow waist high in some areas, and this makes for dangerous July 4th if things get dry. Buffalo is doing fireworks this year. We now have a portable trash pump; this allows the firefighters to pump directly from the lake. We also have a carbon monoxide detector meter.

Building Control Committee reported one set of plans approved, one remodel turned down.

Open Forum: Wayne Rawls reported that his department in advance of the 2000 census had accomplished much activity. There are 412 homes "out of the ground" that might be inhabited by the Jan 1 Census date. Hopefully we will have a better census accounting in 2000 than we did in 1990.

Robert Englund asked what the status of the zip code change was. Mayor Whetzel explained that he had written two letters, with copies to all elected officials, protesting the change. He noted that individual letters detailing individual problems with the change would be most helpful. He was not hopeful that a direct approach to the Postal Service would be productive, that our best bet would be an appeal to elected officials. The Postal Service has been non-responsive, disdainful, and definitely not customer service inclined. Perhaps a note on the water bill. Mayor Whetzel also said don't waste time on signing duplicate letters, the congressional staffs just throw those duplicates away. Personal appeals are more effective.

The council adjourned to executive session.

When the council reconvened to open meeting, Chief Rawls was instructed to get the caboose citations from City Hall, take them to Mr. McPherson and have Mr. McPherson sign the citations. Attorney Sims stated he had problems with the city court's solution to achieving service to the citations by sending several of them in a registered letter to Mr. McPherson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion from David Peterson, second from Sandy Jones, all approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Melissa Verett
City Secretary