

**TOWN OF RANSOM CANYON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 13,1995**

Mayor Lee Kitchens called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Inez Speed, Erika Hoeve, Ken Williams and Bill Green were present. Charles Burford was out of town.

**MINUTES: MAY 9:** Ken Williams moved to approve, Inez Speed seconded, all approved.

**MAY: 15:** Lee Kitchens explained that this had been an illegal meeting and therefore it should be considered null & void. Erika Hoeve stated that it couldn't be handled that way, that the minutes had to be approved as typed, the meeting declared to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act, and therefore all action taken at the meeting be declared null & void. She so moved, Ken Williams seconded, and all approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Lee stated that the city was at 70% revenue, 68% expenditure. Erika further explained that although an \$8400 positive net income is on the statement, in fact, due to emergency expenditures, we are in a \$7900 deficit. She also asked why budgeted expenditures had not been made by the fire department. Inez Speed moved to approve the financial report, Erika seconded, and all approved.

**ROCK HOUSE:** Lee Kitchens announced that the individual who had requested that this item be placed on the agenda had called and advised that illness prevented presentation of the subject at this council meeting. This subject was passed at this request.

**COPS FAST GRANT.**

1. Accept the Grant: Acceptance was so moved by Bill Green, seconded by Inez Speed. Erika Hoeve stated that although she was not in favor of grants, she accepts the findings of the Long Range Planning Committee that it was the will of the people to have additional police coverage, and since this will enable us to have this coverage earlier than we had anticipated, she would support the grant. The vote was all in favor of accepting the grant.

2. July 1 is the deadline to accept the grant. John Sims advised the council to amend their budget to show the expense and the offset from the federal government. Bill Green moved to amend the budget, based on the emergency need of a second police officer. Erika Hoeve seconded, all approved.

3. Direct the police chief to hire second officer: Lee Kitchens called for a motion to direct Ray Short to take steps to hire. We are required to advertise for an entry level, Texas certified officer, and be certified as an intermediate EMT, and with one year of hiring acquire a class C water license. Those are the requirements that we need. Wayne Gentry said it would take three years to get the license. Lee was advised to leave this

requirement out. As for the requirements for EMT, Lee said to leave it up to the police chief, with himself ( Lee) looking over his shoulder.

Erika Hoeve stated that we should state that we will hire with Equal Employment Opportunity in mind, and that the job is open to all applicants. Lee restated that this was correct, that we have to open the job to all applicants.

Bill Green so moved, Inez Speed seconded, all approved., Lee directed the chief to place an ad in the Slatonite, receive and review applications, appropriately. One week is appropriate.

#### **DAM REPAIR REPORT:**

Greg Nauert from Hugo Reed presented the dam situation. He had interviewed several companies, taken several bids, and several recommendations. He went over all of them in detail. The situation is that the joints have eroded and created cavities. The joints have eroded due to water getting in, the seals breaking, and erosion occurring due to the expansion and contraction of the joints. The cavities must be filled, the most damaged cavity and erosion is at the valve discharge point on the south side of the dam. Repair is going to be \$ 12 to \$15 K, conservative estimate. With all of the repair work done, plus engineering fees, we will be looking at \$30,000 to do this repair. In the meantime, the water should be kept from running over the roadway of the dam. Wayne stated that as long as the water level was down, we could wait until next budget year. The council was not in favor of a temporary fix at this time.

Chip Polk requested clarification about several things-what made the dam erode, what was the designed level of the water, what was meant by "low"...Much conversation followed that stated the following guidelines for the POA.. "Low" is the top of the weir. The boards were added, artificially raising the level of the water, the water has flowed over the roadway of the dam, erosion has resulted. The upside of the roadway was repaired in 1986-87 with a curb that was meant to keep the water from running over the dam. There are six joints, and the cost to repair it now will be \$30 K plus, depending on the extent of damage to the other five joints. No action was taken on this matter at this time, the council choosing to wait until this year's summer recreation season is over, plus, there is the need to wait for next budget year to allocate the funds.

**BUDGET:** Lee Kitchens explained to all departments that zero based, line item budgets need to be turned into the City Secretary by June 27th. A projection had been prepared for end of the current fiscal year showing no extra dollars for frills, so the budget will have to be looked at very carefully. Our preliminary values roll states values have increased by 10 million dollars this year. The tax rate will drop accordingly.

**POLICY MANUAL:** A meeting has been set for 7:00 July 12 to work on the Policy Manual.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CITY SUPERVISOR:** Wayne Gentry reported on a home that is in violation of health, building code, and police ordinances. The neighbors had made a formal complaint. Lee stated that the ordinances are on the books, and the family had been contacted two years ago. At that time vehicles were moved. Now there are seven vehicles, four in violation. John Sims suggested that the people's personal circumstances be considered, and repairs be given a reasonable order of completion. He suggested 1. Haul the cars off, 2. pick up the trash, 3. Repair the structure. The first two items wouldn't cost any money and might help pay for the building repair. If they don't have money they can't fix the building anyway. He recommended writing a letter to request what should be done. The council did not take action on this, but noted their support of the police and building inspection departments in their work.

Block 20 improvements have not been completed yet. Greg Nauert from Hugo Reed will call the contractor, and Harold stated the man has not been paid.

**ARCHITECTURE CONTROL COMMITTEE:** David Williams stated for the committee that they had met almost weekly in May, approving five homes and two remodel projects.

**POLICE:** Ray Short reported 1 accident investigated, 1 arrest on outstanding warrants from Lubbock County, 28 calls requiring service: 9 alarms, 3 loud parties, 3 motorist assist, 4 suspicious vehicles, 2 fires, 1 unwanted guest. He issued 1 ticket, 2 offenses, 9 traffic warnings, 26 trespass warnings, and one family violence call. In May Ray taught a school which was attended by twelve people.

**FIRE DEPT.** Wayne Rawls reported no fire calls, one medical call taken outside of regularly scheduled EMT hours. July 1 will be the picnic and auction. They need donations, and they will pick up. June 1 was the auxiliary meeting, the dues will update the landscaping. The final note payment to the city has been paid.

Item 2 on the fire dept. agenda was a request to purchase a computer. Wayne explained he wanted the computer with modem and fax to track EMT continuing Ed hours and requirements, and to write the disaster plan for Ransom Canyon. Inez asked where the software came from, and Wayne stated it came from DPS. When they prepared their budget last year, they did not think they would need the computer. He has the funds available in his budget to purchase this item, even though it was not listed in his budget last year.

Lee stated that they were not asking for additional funds, they were asking to shuffle Vs.

Bill Green asked if the council was responsible for detail purchases. Inez Speed answered normally the council doesn't have to, but this was not a budgeted item.

Erika Hoeve stated that at best we will be 3400 in the hole at the end of the year, so there is not funds enough for unnecessary, unbudgeted items.

Bill Green asked if they would exceed their bottom line. Inez answered no, but this is not a budgeted item. The purchase is not an emergency.

Hearing no motion to approve this expenditure, Lee moved on to the next department.

**LIBRARY:** Susan Williams announced that the library had hired Kim Copeland as a new librarian, and they had agreed to pay her \$300 per month. She stated that they were not asking for additional money. They had worked out an alternate expense for the rest of the fiscal year, showing expenses for insurance, utilities and salaries. They plan to lapse \$400 even so.

The council had several questions. Bill Green asked if the person had already been hired. Susan answered yes. Erika Hoeve asked if departments can hire persons without asking the council. She read minutes from library meetings in which it frequently stated, " the Mayor said this, or the mayor advised us to do that, ... " indicating that the mayor had been present at library meetings all along, and she therefore held him partly at fault. Susan Williams stated that the problem was that the Long Range Planning committee survey wasn't fair.

Erika Hoeve stated that there was dissension among the council members over this issue and that she held the mayor responsible. The result is that an individual had already been hired, and the city was now obligated to pay her. Susan Williams stated that the library was paying her, not the city, because the county grant money went to the library board.

Erika corrected her stating that the money is a grant to the city, not to the library board, making the city responsible for the expenditure of grant funds. This grant is \$3500 per year, and at \$300 per month, the library expenses have exceeded their budget, not even considering operating costs, or purchases of books. Erika asked what does the city do now, fire the librarian?

Erika stated that the council had a meeting in February and the council voted at that time to not fund the library's request for increased librarian salary for this fiscal year. We now have a 20 hour per week exposure with related payroll taxes that the city will have to pay at a later date.

Lee Kitchens stated that if this was not allowable, we would unhire her. Inez stated that the April request had been turned down. Erika stated that the city was now in a position to expect to pay tax dollars for this program. Bill Green stated that to unhire the new librarian would effectively shut down the library, and he didn't see anything wrong with it because it was not going to cost any more money. There followed some discussion about the legalities of contract and minimum wage employees.

John Sims noted that if the library was not open, we forfeited the grant anyway.

Bill Green moved to transfer reserve funds to care for four months remaining in this fiscal year to cover what the library needed. Inez Speed seconded this motion.

The mayor called for a vote. Inez Speed and Bill Green voted yea, Ken Williams and Erika Hoeve voted nay. The Mayor broke the tie by voting yea. Inez stated that this motion covered the library only until the end of this budget year. Susan reported two new board members, R.L. Porter, who is Beth Averett's father, and Don Conger. Motion to accept made by Inez Speed, second from Bill Green, all approved.

The September meeting was moved forward one week from the 12th to the 5th.

**OPEN FORUM:** The POA flag project is meeting with success. July 4th will be the first day for this activity.

Move to adjourn from Ken Williams, second from Erika Hoeve, all approved.

Melissa Verett