

Minutes June 14 2005
RANDOM CANYON BUDGET WORK SESSION
AND CALLED MEETING
Ransom Canyon City Council

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem David Peterson. Council Members present: Ron Cox, Donna Clarke, Earl Starks, Dick Hulslander. Mayor Robert Englund was absent.

WASTE MANAGEMENT: The meeting was at City Hall, where the council reviewed property lines and land that the city owns that might serve for expansion for a new location for the trash area/recycle project. The property North of City Hall and the current RV storage area is vacant. There is a problem with debris in the area that is used now. It is obvious that the project is taking place on land that currently is owned by LRC, Inc. LRC, Inc. has not indicated lately that they will be developing this area soon. David reviewed the dumpster history. He reviewed the dismal history of the unmanned recycling center. The chipping project grew out of the smaller-in-scope, Christmas tree project. The city started the chipping project to try to save money on dumping. TCEQ has unofficially advised the City that the chipping area must be cleaned up, with official drop-off and containment lanes with defined drive-through areas. David stated that the council can try to do something now to confine, contain and control the waste management, or they can wait for the order. The council traveled to see the recycle project. They convened afterwards at the Fire Station. The council discussed the project, and the need to convert it to a fenced, manned operation. They did not decide on a new location, and determined to put money in the CIP program to fund this project, and will discuss it further in the budget process.

BUDGET WORK SESSION: The council worked through the budget line by line, making changes here and there. They indicated that they did not want to raise the utility rates, or the tax rate. They deleted and delayed all but the most immediate CIP items. They indicated that they were wary of the year's unspoken needs that would pop up concerning the water tower construction project. They agreed to meet again July 5.

POLICE VEHICLE: ADDED AGENDA ITEM. This action was authorized as a called meeting to be held concurrently with the budget work session.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls asked the council what they really wished to do about the repair of the police cars. The Crown Victoria is totaled. It is a 1997 model with 86,000 miles. Last year there was \$1200 in repairs. The two other trucks have window and body hail damage. The council agreed to total the Crown Victoria and take the \$4650 cash and apply it to the down payment. Therefore, the revenue and expense will wash for this year. The council authorized Wayne to shop for the new truck, financing it for five years. The council also authorized Wayne to get the other police cars repaired to the extent authorized by the insurance payment. (Damage less \$1,000 deductible for each Explorer.) Wayne indicated he will take the cars to Smith Ford and will work with them on the repair. He also indicated that the new truck should cost under 25K. Under those circumstances, no public bid is required, only a minority vendor must be included, and the only minority vendor in this area is Smith Ford. So he will probably buy the truck from Smith Ford, if they have one that fits the bill. The action to authorize all of these things was taken on a motion from Earl Starks, second from Ron Cox. All approved.

Back to the budget. The council discussed revenues, and may consider increases for the RV parking. They may also consider another expansion of the RV lot using larger, more expensive parking spaces. They may also consider additional Mosquito abatement measures, and will pass those expenses through to the customers via water bills. The water billing is down, due to increased rainfall and conservation measures. The council does not want to raise taxes and believes that the current year budget can balance without an increase this year.

Department line item entries were discussed for zero budgeting analysis. Department heads defended their requests. Some expense items were shifted.

The revenue budget was increased by \$20K. The expense budget was increased \$70 K.

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The council spent some time on the CIP budget. Years 2, 3, and 4 were cleared of several projects, as the council looked to the changing fund balance of this "Rainy Day Fund." The 6" Lubbock water line replacement item was deleted. The system water line upgrades were reduced and delayed. The items that remained on year # 1 of the CIP were Dam repair, Water Tank Repair and half of the proposed video surveillance repair. The Council decided not to pay cash for a new Operations vehicle. This purchase was moved to the water department and was budgeted for a five year loan payout \$6,000 per year figure.

The budget was balanced by a transfer of \$531K from savings. The total to be funded out of the CIP budget and bond payments is \$364 K. The 04-05 budget transfer figure is \$74K, and the total to be funded is \$381K. The reason for the great increase in the transfer is the expense needed to pay for the Water Tower and the Water Line.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator