

MINUTES JULY 5 2005
BUDGET WORK SESSION

The City Council met in budget work session July 5, 2005 at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road, Ransom Canyon, TX. The meeting convened at 6:00 P.M. Earl Starks, Donna Clarke, Ron Cox and Dick Hulslander were present. Dick Hulslander presided over the meeting until Robert Englund arrived later. David Peterson was absent per previous notice.

TML Group Benefits 25% increase was discussed. Competitive bids will be solicited. Claims handling experience is mixed. One employee had good experience, and the other had really bad experience overall with several claims. The loss experience ratio of the group is high, made worse because it is such a small group. More later.

The roof repair bids were not ready for discussion.

TML did not total the Crown Victoria. They will pay the repair cost, minus the \$1,000 deductible, which equates to \$3600. The council instructed Wayne to see what he could get on a trade-in, but to get rid of the car. This will not affect the coming budget, but might have an impact on the current budget.

The council discussed water rates and decided to go to a tiered rate system. They also decided to go to a \$25.00 base fee, up from \$23.20. This will increase water revenues overall by \$25,000. Sewer and garbage rates will remain the same. If the garbage rate goes up, the council will revisit that issue mid-year.

The council discussed the building inspection job. This budget was cut in the previous work session, and Harold asked to have it restored, with permission to relieve him of the responsibility. The council declined, commenting that any contracted inspections would be passed through in building permits.

The council looked at staffing and raises and agreed to leave the proposed increase at 3%. One new operations employee was approved, and one office staff position will go from part-time to full-time.

Tax rates were discussed. The council commented that expenses were justified and revenues were set. The gap in the budget was still around \$20,000 short. The council agreed to a proposed tax rate of .635, which is 1.5 cents increase. This increase will raise \$13,000. The transfer from savings was close to the transfer from last year.

One last request was presented re: holidays, and the council agreed to grant the Martin Luther King holiday.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator