

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – August 9, 2016
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Jana Trew, John Schmersey, Brandt Underwood, Lyle Way and Billy Williams. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 12, 2016, were approved on a motion made by Brandt Underwood; seconded by Lyle Way; motion carried unanimously.

3. The Financials

The financial reports, including a financial investment report, and the July 2016 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Billy Williams, seconded by Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Participation Opportunity

There was a second public participation opportunity for residents to comment about the Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality in 2015. There were no comments from citizens regarding the report.

5. Chip Seal-Coat Agreement with Ronald R. Wagner & Company

An agreement with Ronald R. Wagner & Company, LP Wagner & Co., LP, to conduct new chip seal coat services for the Town of Ransom Canyon in the amount of \$56,661.66 was approved on a motion made by Brandt Underwood, seconded by Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

6. Tax Assessor/Collector's Report

Jana Trew made a motion to consider the current tax rate of .6592900 per \$100 valuation for the Town of Ransom Canyon property tax rate. Brandt Underwood seconded the motion. The 2016 effective tax rate for the Town is .6161376 which is lower than the proposed tax rate; therefore, the Town has to host two public hearings to obtain comments from the citizens. The rollback tax rate is .6651564 which would provide the Town an eight percent increase in taxes to conduct all maintenance and operations for the Town. The City has maintained the same tax rate for several years, and the Tax Assessor certifies 100% of the tax rate collected. Last year's taxable value was \$115,375,107, and this year's taxable value is \$125,237,629. There is approximately \$502,686.00 of current protested property estimates. With a record vote of Jana Trew, Brandt Underwood, Lyle Way, and Billy Williams, the City Council voted unanimously to continue with the current tax rate of .6592900 for the publication notice in the Slatonite prior to formal approval at a future City Council meeting.

7. Building Review Committee

The Building Review Committee met on July 25, 2016, to discuss plans for an art studio addition at 47 East Canyonview Drive.

Administration: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

- ❖ Angie Fikes, the new City Librarian was introduced to the City Council.
- ❖ The next City Council meeting will take place on August 23, 2016. This meeting is a property tax rate hearing for the public to comment regarding the tax rate.
- ❖ The City Council orientation will be held on August 26, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ The bid opening for City Hall will take place on August 19, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. City Council members are welcome to attend. Staff hosted a preproposal meeting on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. There were approximately 19 attendees.
- ❖ We will be interviewing candidates next week to fill the Executive Assistant position.
- ❖ Elena will be attending Municipal Clerk Training in Granbury, Texas, on August 10-12, 2016.
- ❖ The Texas Municipal League Meeting will take place in Austin, Texas, on October 4-7, 2016. Elena will need to know how many City Council members will be in attendance at the meeting so that she can register attendees.
- ❖ Kim Copeland sent correspondence to the City Council to thank them for the reception that was hosted for her retirement.

Court Report: Gary Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ No new citations were issued except a parking violation.
- ❖ A pending citation is still being addressed with a minor who promised to appear and has not appeared to the Court.

Operations: Cory Needham reported the following:

- ❖ The new irrigation system at the front road of Ransom Canyon is now complete.

Police: James Hill reported the following:

- ❖ The Police Department had approximately 120 people in attendance at the first "Movies on the Island." The Property Owner's Association raised a little less than \$500.00 through their concessions, so it was a successful evening for all involved.
- ❖ The Police Department has unveiled a new operation to "crack down" on the burglaries and nighttime activity. Police officers are rotating more regularly on the night shift to mitigate the recent problems in the Canyon.

Fire: Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ The firefighters responded to two fire calls. One of the fire calls involved a pick-up truck that caught on fire. There was a large fire in Dickens County, and a resident could smell the smoke in the air so they called in to report a fire.

- ❖ There were five medical calls.
- ❖ The Fire Department was not awarded the water tender truck through the Texas Forest Service; however, the agency will issue another disbursement in October, so our grant will remain with them for that grant cycle.
- ❖ The City of Lubbock Fire Department has not released their truck in the auction. Ransom will bid on the truck when the opportunity arises.

Library: Angie Fikes reported the following:

- ❖ She purchased new books for the library.
- ❖ The Library is undergoing a reorganization to allow for new books for teenagers. The number of teenagers attending the library has increased this year.

8. Property Owner's Association (POA) Report and Citizen Comments:

The swimming pool has been very busy over the summer months. Activity will slow down in the next couple of weeks because school is starting back. Linda Williams reported that the Chapel had 19 kids at Critter Camp, and the event was a great success.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the regular city council meeting at 7:01 p.m. was made by Jana Trew, seconded by Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

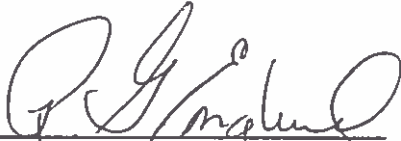
The City Council took a fifteen-minute break and reconvened for Budget Work Session Number Two.

Major discussions included additional funds to cover any overages for City Hall. The City Council agreed that all construction needs to be covered with the \$650,000.00 allocated for the project. There was dialogue regarding a \$10,000 pay increase for Police Chief, James Hill. He has undertaken an additional task as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City. In addition, James works additional hours and is available at City Hall for special projects as assigned. City Council discussed the seal coat project as a possible capital project if the project is not completed this year.

The City Council adjourned the budget session at 8:05 with a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 23rd day of August, 2016

APPROVED:



Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary