

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – December 15, 2015  
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, Lyle Way, Billy Williams, Donna Clarke, and John Schmersey. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 17, 2015, were approved on a motion made by John Schmersey; seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

3. The Financials

The financial reports and the November 2015 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

4. 2014-2015 Audit Presentation – David Hettler

David Hettler presented the council with the 2014-2015 audited financial statements. David commented that the city is in great financial condition. He addressed questions regarding the scholarship fund which still remains on the books. City staff will continue to research past minutes to see if there is a record of the donation.

5. Venture Communications Presentation – Imre Szenttornyay

Imre Szenttornyay from Venture Communications provided an update to the City Council on the progress that Venture has made since their last visit with the Council in the summer. Venture presented some options for residents and asked the City Council to consider allowing Venture to locate their equipment on the water tower so that residents have the option to purchase services from Venture Communications in the near future. Basic services can start as low as \$85 per month per resident; however, there are some installation fees. Venture can provide the city with a franchise fee or trade services with the City, contingent on what the City would like to do. This item will be considered by the city council as an action item in the near future.

6. Resolution to Apply For a Grant through South Plains Association of Governments

Elena Quintanilla presented a resolution to the City Council to apply for a solid waste grant that will provide easier access to residents who utilize the citizen collection station in between trash pick-up times. The total grant request is \$40,000.00. The City will invest in-kind match provided by the Public Works Department and will provide a cash contribution of \$13,870.00. The resolution was approved on a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

7. Ordinance No. 15-001215

Ordinance No. 15-001215 increasing the water rates was approved on a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously. The increase was 5% in the blocking rates that is passed down from the City of Lubbock because their water rates have increased as well.

8. Building Review Committee

The Building Review Committee met to discuss plans to make improvements to a home located at 78 South Lakeshore Drive.

9. Department Reports

**Administration:** Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

- ❖ The property owned by B.W. Phillips will cost \$20,000 per acre; therefore if the City needed three acres to build City Hall, the total cost for the undeveloped property would be \$60,000.00. There will be additional discussions next month regarding the bidding of City Hall. Hopefully, the seller will come down on price.
- ❖ Elena attended Election Law Seminar in Austin, TX and reminded those who will be running for election this May to pay attention to any notices regarding the process. She reminded everyone that the entire City Staff must remain neutral and cannot assist incumbents with the process in any way. If information is provided to the incumbents, the same information must be provided to potential candidates.

**Court Report:** Elena Quintanilla reported the following on behalf of Gary Bellair:

- ❖ The update on the Sharkey case is that the attorneys on both sides of the suit are reaching an agreement. John Sims asked Harold to review the backflow system at the Sharkey residence to ensure compliance.
- ❖ The pending case with the resident who is in jail has not been addressed by the resident. The Judge asked the Municipal Clerk to review the process for getting his license suspended.
- ❖ There is a new case regarding an individual who failed to stop at a stop sign.

**Operations:** Harold Needham reported the following:

- ❖ The Emergency Road is complete; however, the contractor will come back when temperatures are warmer to place some additional asphalt on the road. The City will not release full payment to the contractor until this portion of the project is complete.
- ❖ The striping of the back hill and front hill was completed. Some of the striping needs to be redone, so the contractor will come back to help resolve the problem.

- ❖ Harold reported on the progress made with tree trimming that interferes with right of ways and public access areas in the City. Staff did not bring an ordinance to the City Council after consulting with legal counsel. Legal counsel agreed with staff that there is no need for an ordinance because the trees create hazards to areas of public access.
- ❖ Letters will go out to residents about the requirement for their backflow/sprinkler systems to remain in compliance

**Police:** James Hill reported the following:

- ❖ James brought forth some ordinances regarding the usage of golf carts in the canyon and there was a discussion on pros and cons.

**Fire:** Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ Engine 1 on the fire truck died and he is not sure what the cost of the repairs will be. There is a 1995 fire truck that he located in Winnsboro, TX, that is being sold at a cost of \$40,000.00. Upon his return from the Christmas Holiday, Rand plans to route to Winnsboro to take a look at the truck to see if it is in good condition.
- ❖ There was one EMS call during the Tour of Homes where someone experienced anaphylactic shock
- ❖ There was one fire call known as the Liberty Gin Fire where Idalou and Buffalo also responded
- ❖ The Volunteer Firefighter X-mas party was a success!

**Library:** Kim Copeland reported the following:

- ❖ The annual Library Christmas Card fundraiser raised a little over \$5,000.
- ❖ The Library Christmas Party was a success. The kids enjoyed a Christmas Magic Show at the Library with Santa, gifts, games, and refreshments.

10. POA Report and Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Linda Williams thanked everyone for their support of the Tour of Homes which is the main fundraiser for the Chapel. This year, the Tour of Homes raised over \$6000.00
- ❖ Eight children and one adult attended the Christmas Across America event at the Chapel. Georgette McPherson donated a cupcake cake for the event.

11. Adjourn

- ❖ A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m. was made by Billy Williams, seconded by Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015

APPROVED:

  
Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary