

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2007 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council met in open meeting July 10, 2007 at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, located at 1 Ridge Road in Ransom Canyon. Mayor Robert Englund was present, Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Cox was present, and Aldermen Donna Clarke, Jack Randorff and James W Overby III were present. Alderman Kevin Carlson was absent. Attorney John Sims was present, and city department heads were present, with the exception of Police Chief Wayne Rawls. Chief Rawls was attending funeral events for his father. Condolences are extended to the Rawls family.

Mayor Englund called the meeting to order at 7:00 and called for a moment of silent meditation.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved on a motion from Ron Cox, second from Donna Clarke. All voted aye.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mayor Englund commented that all categories were in line for this time of the year, according to the budget. Donna Clarke asked if the \$1250 bill for election expense was the total. After confirming that it was, Jack Randorff moved to approve, and Ron Cox seconded the motion. All voted aye.

AUDIT : David Hettler proposed to do the audit again this year for \$6,000 to \$6500. This agreement was accepted on a motion from James Overby III, second from Donna Clarke. All voted aye.

SPEC EXPANDED CALLING: Mayor Englund reported that the election to select expanded calling for the South Plains Co-op customers had failed.

FEMA: The council voted to accept the new FEMA maps that have new flood level references based on the 2002 Maps that reference the 1988 NAVD (North American Vertical Datum) flood maps, rather than the 1929 NGVD, (National Geodetic Vertical Datum), which is the current reference for flood zones in the city. Engineer Bernie Gradel explained last month that this change was not required, but the City of Lubbock had made the change, and if Ransom made the change also, it would help to understand this confusing issue. In Ransom Canyon the datum change is 1 foot.

This action was taken on a motion from James Overby II, second from Ron Cox. All voted aye.

TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT WITH LCAD: The council approved a collections contract with Lubbock County Appraisal District on a motion from James Overby and second from Jack Randorff. The cost is \$4600. The current cost of collection is about \$3600, not including labor, which is a full time staff position. The software that accompanies this function has become burdensome over recent years due to changes made by LCAD. Moving this function will better serve Ransom Canyon taxpayers because they will pay only one property tax bill, and they will deal with only one tax collection entity. The vote to approve the contract was unanimously in favor.

ORDINANCE 07-00400. This ordinance is an amendment of the trailer parking ordinance, and it is intended to prevent people from parking cars in their yards. There was much public support in favor of an ordinance that would prevent their residential communities from becoming run-down due to illegal parking. The council discussed the issues of this regulation, and they passed this ordinance. The amendment adds section 6:

Definitions, and Section 7, Vehicle Parking Space. The highlights of the ordinance are: building permits are required, and all vehicles must be parked on a parking pad that is “an all-weather surface that has been previously approved by the city.”

This amendment to the draft ordinance was offered by Attorney Sims.

The council approved this Ordinance 07-00400 on a motion from James Overby and a second from Ron Cox. All voted aye.

The amendment says that all homes must have parking space for at least one car, and other cars must be parked on prepared parking pads, permitted and approved by the city. There was much discussion, but the general feeling was that this ordinance was necessary in order to help the police keep people from parking cars in their yards.

7. PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING. There was no discussion about the preliminary budget.

8. The Council voted to accept the donation of Block 20 Tract A. This action was taken on a motion from Donna Clarke, and second from James Overby. All voted aye. This land has a 20 foot rear access easement. Mrs. Marty Wells lives at the corner of Cardinal and West Lake Shore, and she commented that she would not like to have a drive behind her house.

The council adjourned at this point to executive session.

They reconvened into open meeting, and took no action relative to executive session.

9. Department Reports:

Harold Needham said he had nothing new. The bids for East Lake Shore and the Dam have been combined to try to attract bidders at a better price. The water department got a clean bill of health from TCEQ.

Fire Chief Rand McPherson requested travel funds to go to McAllen to look at two fire trucks he is considering. The council approved the trip unanimously.

Police Officer James Hill reported that they were having usual mischief. He said that people should lock their cars and take personal items inside.

Librarian Kim Copeland said the summer reading club was a great success with over 50 students in the program. Local residents Andy Wilson, Jim Bertram and Rachel Holloway all taught fun Saturdays on sailing themes and the children were reading a lot. Joe's Crab Shack will feed the readers and parents at their end of summer party. Board members Novice, Angie, Tommy and Rachel were recognized.

Municipal Judge Bellair reported that the building officials were issuing tickets for illegal construction and erosion. The court deadlines were soon and jury trials will be 6 – 8 weeks. The jury pool will be taken from Ransom Canyon and the trial will take place at the Ranch House.

POA: Helen Musiak said the board was pleased with the Ranch House and the two big events that the facility has already hosted were very successful. Many thanks go to Gerry Averett for stepping in and finishing the project.

There was no Open Forum on this agenda. There were, however, forty to fifty people who wanted to discuss police security, so the Mayor entertained the discussion. Rob Keinast, Chris Wortham and several other people spoke about the perception that there was no security due to the patrol schedule that did not have an officer patrolling overnight. Chris Wortham interrupted an intruder as he was breaking into the Wortham home at 4:00 AM. Chris believed that the intruder fled when he heard Chris chamber a round into his shotgun. The intruder did not get in the house, but he also got away. Chris said he called Rick Vasquez directly. He did not call 911. He said he did not call 911 because he did not want the delay of relaying a phone call through the sheriff's office. He knew that the sheriff would just call Rick Vasquez. So he cut out the middle man. Others complained to the council that they should hire security guards. They also complained that the city police cars were being driven to and from Lubbock on a regular basis, adding mileage and exposure to damage and liability. Many approaches to police security were recommended to the council. No action was taken on this subject.

No other action was taken by the council, so they adjourned.

MINUTES FOR CALLED MEETING JULY 17, 2007

Mayor Robert G. Englund called a meeting for July 17, 2007, 6:00 PM, at the Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road, Ransom Canyon, Texas. The purpose of this meeting was to consider a building permit request. Mayor Englund called the meeting to order at 6:00. A quorum was present consisting of Ron Cox, James Overby, Kevin Carlson and Jack Randorff. Donna Clarke was absent, with permission by prior arrangement. Work commenced after a brief moment of silent meditation.

The request was from Bill Russell, for a dock located at 39 East lake Shore Drive. The Building Committee reviewed the plans and took no exception. They referred Mr. Russell to the council for a variance, however, from the requirement that the dock must be built in the middle 50% of the lot. Mr Russell wanted to repair an existing dock that was built at 20% on one side, so the replacement and repair would put the dock slightly off center of the lot in question, instead of the center 50%. The lot has a pie-shape, with a small linear frontage. The dock plans shortened the extension into the lake, so that it did not extend into the lake as far as the ordinance would allow. The lot lent itself to the repaired configuration due to the cove-like nature of the land.

James Overby made the motion to allow this variance because this was a repair of an existing dock. Jack Randorff seconded the motion. All voted aye.

The Called Meeting did not adjourn. The council proceeded with the Budget work session, which was also called for this evening.

The council discussed the budget at length, and mostly considered ways to respond to the public request for police presence and protection. The council commented that some residents who attended the meeting were truly scared, but that some who attended the meeting were supporters of the current police employees. Some balance was needed.

They made several recommendations, and some of the following items made it into the funded budget:

- Housing allowance in the amount of \$250 per month for Ransom Canyon residency. (funded)
- Funding for the purchase of a house that would be used by an employee, not specified, but implied that it would be a policeman. (funded)
- A video camera that we have already.
- A high-tech camera hooked to a motion detector device. (funded)
- Wayne said we already own 2 cameras, but they are just standard cameras. 4 channel DVR's could see in total darkness. On Johnston Road there is no pole for power. (funded)

- The people want real police protection and perception that a light and a camera and an officer will see every car midnight to 4 AM. (contract security patrol funded)
- A new fence running down Johnston Road. (funded)
- Floodlighting looking North. (funded)
- Hiring a 4th police officer employee.
- A Town Meeting. Dr. Cox commented that if the council did not do something, he would decline to serve on this board.
- The Town Meeting idea was supported by all. No date was suggested.

Mayor Englund told Wayne to hire the temporaries to get us through the summer, and to put cameras at the front and back.

The Mayor said the best line of defense is the home. The home must be well lighted, with motion detectors. There would be no guaranteed solution.

Jack Randorff made a motion to allocate \$40,000 for a stop gap measure in this budget year. James Overby seconded, and all voted aye.

The council agreed to leave the librarian's raise as printed.

Kevin Carlson had some last minute adjustments to some line items. Jack Randorff is the only council member who plans to attend the TML conference, so this item was adjusted.

Fire Chief Rand McPherson found two nice fire trucks from Ferrara that were in Houston. They wanted a deposit of 10%, but were willing to wait for the regular August council meeting for consideration of this expense.

After these were addressed, the council stated that they were finished with the budget, and that no more work sessions would be needed. They canceled the rest of the scheduled work sessions for this year.

The meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett