

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Donna Clarke. Council members present were John Schmersey, Billy Williams, Jana Trew, and Jack Randorff. Mayor Robert Englund was away on vacation. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular June 14, 2011 meeting were approved with one correction on page 2, Department Reports, Fire, the first sentence should read, "There were two fire calls for grass fires, one in Roosevelt and one in Buffalo." Jack Randorff made a motion to approve the minutes, John Schmersey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

3. The Financials

The financial reports and the June 2011 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

4. Information Item

The Council acknowledged the information regarding the partial payment to West Texas Paving. Mayor Pro-Tem Clarke asked Harold Needham and Mary Brown if there was an update to the information contained in the packet. Harold replied that he had spoken with the engineer who agreed that back-dragging and sweeping was needed. Mary said that a messenger from West Texas Paving had picked up the letter and check on Friday, July 8th, and that she had not heard further from them. John Schmersey asked for clarification regarding the agreed payment amount and whether the City was paying the engineer from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper. Additional discussion centered on the quality of the work, the color of the gravel, and the process required if the City is left with the removal of the excess gravel. Ms. Clarke asked Mary if City Hall had received any complaints about the seal coat and Mary responded that there had been no complaints. Harold asked how long the City should wait for WTX Paving to clear the streets of the excess gravel before doing it ourselves. Mary replied that in the mediation agreement there was a deadline for the job to be completed by July 31, 2011.

5. Building Review Committee Report

No new activity.

6. Legislative Update

Jack Randorff reported that the legislative session ended with four major pieces of legislation passed, including one regarding school funding.

7. Department Reports

Administration: Mary reported the following:

- ❖ Murvat is away on vacation and everything is running smoothly at City Hall, but Murvat is missed.
- ❖ Jack Randorff asked if panic buttons for the staff had been installed and a brief discussion followed regarding placement of the panic buttons and police response procedure if a panic button is used.
- ❖ Billy Williams asked Mary where we are on the Citizen's Collection Center. Mary answered that the fences are up, the gates are installed, the software has been installed in the office, and key fobs have been received. All that remains is for the Council to approve a policy for use of the area, for the dumpsters to be moved behind the fence, and for the citizens to learn of the new procedures for disposing of their trash. Her understanding is that the new system will not be implemented until October 1st. Council members discussed various aspects of this area between themselves and with Mary, Harold, and Wayne.

Court Report: Judge Bellair reported that he held a hearing for an appearance by someone who had been charged with an ordinance violation for pumping water out of the lake. The defendant disagreed with the ordinance, but paid the fine and court costs and the case has been resolved.

Operations: In addition to Harold's written report, attached, he reported the following:

- ❖ A resident has expressed concern that the City is in danger of losing a lot of Elm trees due to the Elm Leaf Beetle. Harold contacted Greg Grothusen of G & G Aerial, which is the company that sprays the City for mosquitoes, and Mr. Grothusen is working in Wyoming for the remainder of the summer. He did say that he did not think that the chemical that kills the Elm Leaf Beetle is approved for spraying over a city. Discussion followed; the opinion being that Elm Leaf Beetles cause a tree to lose leaves but do not kill a tree unless the tree is weakened already. Additionally, the expense of spraying Elm trees should be the responsibility of the property owner.

Police: Wayne Rawls reported the following:

- ❖ His department is in the middle of a death investigation on one of our citizens.
- ❖ The lake is going down drastically; the mark on the weir is 8" from where he has had to close the lake in the past. If the lake is "closed" Wayne will put up a sign stating that boaters must observe a no wake speed of less than 5mph. Buffalo is not sending any water over their spillway and our lake level continues to drop. If the trend continues, he expects he may have to close the lake around August 1st.

- ❖ His department participated in a joint fire arms training with the Odessa Police Department. They completed their long-arm training with rifles and one officer qualified with a hand gun.
- ❖ Mayor Pro-Tem Clarke asked Wayne if there were any fireworks violators on the 4th of July. We had no violators and there were only a few in the county. Wayne reminded everyone that we are still under a burn ban, although citizens may use their barbecue pits.
- ❖ Wayne reported that his department is sponsoring two reserve officer candidates to go through the Academy right now. These men do not live in Ransom Canyon but their families own property here and one of them serves on the volunteer fire department. They will graduate from the Academy on the 2nd of August and then will sit for their state licensing exam the third week of August. If they both pass, Wayne will bring their names to the Council for approval to serve as reserve officers for the City.
- ❖ Billy Williams asked Wayne if it is illegal to drive on the meadow area. Wayne stated that the meadow is private property owned by the POA and the City doesn't have an ordinance restricting access. On the 4th of July there were a couple of four-wheelers on the meadow and Wayne spoke to them about it and the people did leave the meadow. The POA has posted signs in the past and could do so again. John Schmersey asked if we could charge violators with something and Wayne answered that someone could be charged with criminal trespass; however, if they do not own property in Ransom Canyon, they are told to leave anyway.
- ❖ Jack Randorff asked if it would be appropriate to notify citizens, through a flyer in the water bills, that now would be a good time to do dock repairs while the lake level is low. Wayne responded that he would not recommend lowering the lake any further.

Fire: Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ His department has responded to two medical calls, one of which was the death call that Wayne spoke of.
- ❖ The 3rd and 4th of July went very well and everyone who attended had plenty of good food to eat.
- ❖ The burn ban is still in effect and it will take four or five inches of good slow rain before the ban can be lifted.
- ❖ John Schmersey asked Rand if there was any word on the condition of the fire trucks; specifically, the electrical wiring. Rand responded that the department is on the schedule to have them evaluated.

Library: Kim Copeland reported the following:

- ❖ The awards party for the Summer Reading Program is on Thursday, July 14th at the Ranch House. It will start at 6:30 p.m. with food, games, and door prizes; she encourages everyone to come. She had sixty children attend the program this summer. All children who participated will receive a certificate signed by Governor Rick Perry and the State Librarian, as well as various prizes. The top readers will be honored and awarded prizes that include family passes to the musical "Texas!", to Joyland Amusement Park, to the Corn Maze, or to Stars & Stripes Drive-In.
- ❖ Kim highlighted the various activities that she offered during the summer, including a wonderful "dinosaur dig" activity that Lubbock Lakes Landmark provided. She also showed some artwork called "torn paper collage" that 47 children made with the help and direction of Carla Temple. Mrs. Temple provided all of the supplies for this art

project and Kim expressed her appreciation for Carla's contribution of her time and supplies.

- ❖ Lastly, Kim reported that the park near the Library is infested with ants.
- ❖ Jack Randorff said that Kim uses her car a lot for library business and an allowance needs to be inserted into the budget process to reimburse her for her mileage.

8. POA Report and Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Jackie Lindsey reported that she has been filing liens on property for overdue POA dues.
- ❖ Ranch House Manager, Shawnda Martin, will no longer be the Ranch House manager after the end of July. She will continue to manage the Swimming Pool until the end of the season. The POA is currently seeking someone to take her place.
- ❖ Jackie asked Wayne Rawls about a report that she had received that the upper portion of the stream on Brookhollow had been dammed up. Wayne said that the stream is so dry that it has just pooled in that area because there is not enough water to run further down.
- ❖ The raffle earned \$2,956.00 for the POA; the TV was won by Sandra Jones of Slaton.

9. Adjourn

- ❖ A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Billy Williams, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 9th day of August 2011

APPROVED:

Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:

Muvat Musa, City Secretary