

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – August 14, 2012  
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Donna Clarke, John Schmersey, Jana Trew and Jack Randorff. Billy Williams was out of town. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular July 12, 2012 meeting was approved on a motion made by Donna Clarke, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

3. The Financials

The financial reports and the July 2012 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

4. Texas Municipal League Continuation of Coverage Agreement

The Administrative Agreement for Continuation of Coverage for Health Insurance from TML was approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

5. Texas Municipal League Service Agreement

The Service Agreement for the Section 125 Flexible Spending Account from TML was approved on a motion made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

6. Interlocal Cooperation Contract – Texas Department of Public Safety

The Interlocal Cooperation Contract for the failure to appear program was approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

7. Downgrading from Stage 2 to Stage 1 Water Restrictions

After much discussion about whether or not to downgrade from Stage 2 to Stage 1 water restrictions, the motion passed by a three to two vote. The motion to downgrade was made by Jana Trew, seconded by Donna Clarke. Jana Trew and Donna Clarke voted in favor of the motion. Jack Randorff and John Schmersey voted against the motion. The Mayor broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion.

8. Tax Assessor/Collector's Report

The Tax Assessor's report was accepted and a proposed 2012 tax rate of .65929 was approved with a motion made by Donna Clarke, seconded by Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

Since the 2012 proposed tax rate exceeds the 2012 effective tax rate, a record vote was taken with Donna Clarke, Jack Randorff, Jana Trew, and John Schmersey all voting for the proposed rate. Two public hearings have been scheduled for August 28, 2012 and September 10, 2010 at 6 pm at City Hall.

9. Building Review Committee

The BRC met on July 9 and July 16 to consider plans for a garage addition. Those plans were approved at the July 16 meeting.

10. Department Reports

**Administration:** Murvat reported the following:

- ❖ She is very busy with the budget and tax rate process.
- ❖ All departments are busy trying to schedule summer vacations for employees.

**Court Report:** Gary Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ One fine has been collected for a citation.
- ❖ A dangerous dog hearing is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

**Operations:** Harold reported the following:

- ❖ The lift station at West Lake Shore continues to be clogged with some type of large cotton towel or mop head. In the past two months, it has stopped nine times. The new breakers installed to shut it down when this happens are working well.

**Police:** Wayne Rawls reported the following:

- ❖ Two citations have been issued.
- ❖ There have been reports of a stolen US flag and a garden gnome.
- ❖ There were three dog bites in July. One was to a 7 year old female, another to a 5 year old male, and the third was to Robert McCarver. All dogs were properly quarantined.
- ❖ The lake level has declined by 16 inches. We may need to close it to high speed traffic.

**Fire:** Rand McPherson was unable to attend the meeting. Wayne reported for him that there have been several EMS calls but no fire calls.

**Library:** Kim Copeland was on vacation and therefore no in attendance. Murvat reported that the summer reading program is over and Kim will provide a complete report to them at the next meeting.

11. Proposal to drill wells within the city limits

Jason Sharkey presented an idea for a variance that would allow for drilling of wells within the city limits (see attached letter outlining the plan). Much discussion and debate followed including:

- Mr. Sharkey's plan included charging residents an annual fee for the wells that is equal to what profit the city would otherwise receive for the sale of the water.
- The Mayor was concerned that allowing wells would deplete the lake level since water from the lake seeps into the aquifer. The Mayor stated his position as being opposed to the idea.
- John Sims' opinion was that because the city has wells, other wells may jeopardize the amount of water in the aquifer that may otherwise be available for city use. The city may one day need to rehabilitate those wells.
- Donna Clarke's opinion was that Mr. Sharkey purchased the property and landscaped it with the knowledge that it would need lots of water that is very expensive. Therefore, she does not feel the city needs or should accommodate him.
- Jack Randorff pointed out that the POA Deed Restrictions also do not allow for wells and that would be another hurdle for Mr. Sharkey to overcome. He suggested the Mr. Sharkey contact the POA first before requesting a variance from the city. Dr. Randorff also suggested Mr. Sharkey speak with an engineer concerning soil and erosion control to find an alternative for the expensive landscaping that is currently in place.

12. POA Report and Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Jackie Lindsey announced Music on the Lake concert this Friday, August 17 at the Ranch House beginning at 7:00 pm. Thus far, 101 reservations have been accepted.
- ❖ Ms. Lindsey also thanked the city council for approving the City/POA agreement in which the City will work with the POA to further our common interests.

13. 15 Minute Break

The council recessed from 7:10 pm until 7:32 pm.

14. Budget Work Session #2

- Murvat Musa went over every aspect of the proposed 2012-2013 budget.
- Donna Clarke suggested that in light of the financial stability of the city and the dedication of all the employees as evidenced by the low turnover, she would be in favor of a 5% pay increase in lieu of the usual 3%. After discussion on the issue, Murvat was directed to include the 5% increase.

- Murvat cautioned the council about the City of Lubbock's impending water rate increases which will be reflected in the block rates instead of the flat meter rate as previously planned. This may cause Ransom Canyon to revisit our rates in December when the rates will go into effect. Murvat believes that this will impact our rates tremendously.

15. Adjourn

- ❖ A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. was made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012

APPROVED:

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Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Murvat Musa, City Secretary