

City Council Meeting
January 14, 2003
Minutes

The City Council for the Town of Ransom Canyon came to order just before 7:00 P.M. January 14, 2003. Mayor Robert England presided, and the councilmen present were Leon Whetzel, Kyle Ashley, Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson. David Peterson was absent. Attorney John Sims was present.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved on a motion from Leon Whetzel, second from Glen Robertson. All approved.

The Financial Report and Claims and Demands were approved on a motion from Leon Whetzel, second from Dick Hulslander.

Tax Collections are at 60%, which is normal for December. The council discussed the possibility of a program whereby city hall could accept credit cards in payment for taxes. Taxpayers have made this request this year because more than ever wish to build up frequent flier miles on their credit cards. The council mentioned that the city would need to be protected against added expense if it chooses to do this. Robert explained the 2-3 step process. Customer pays 2.5% fee. More information will be gathered for more discussion at a later date. This item is scheduled for next meeting, and would be considered for planning next year.

The CD term expired and renewal rates were low. We shopped for investments and banks were cash rich, therefore were not encouraging. Citizens Bank in Slaton would only renew at 2.5%. We have a Money Market and I&S accounts at 4% through May-July. Other neighboring banks were not any better. The council decided to invest the money short term in the Money Market. No action necessary, just information item.

The PEBSCO statement was included in the council package for information. Nearly all of the mutual funds lost money, a \$20,000 hit this past year.

Engineering projects. The drying beds are finished. We have not heard from Ches Carthell on the City of Lubbock water purchase. Bernie will go to him one more time to make this request. The contract was extended during the sludge settlement, but the quantity guarantee has not been increased. Robert explained to Bernie that if he had no commitment from the City of Lubbock, He should calculate the project based on the current quantity, and go forward.

Work release program is going well. Some of these workers are paying off fines by doing this work. They go back into the jail at night. They come from the Lubbock County facility, not the Montford center. We are using 2 workers.

In the budget, we have \$3600 for the chipper rental. Since we have a chipper, now, Harold asked to use that money to install a watering system and landscape city hall and the shop. Glen Robertson suggested getting some solid bids for the work.

There was brief discussion about the hiring of the third employee. Harold has some applicants and interviews will start the first week of February.

The building control committee has not met.

Librarian Kim Copeland made a half-off book sale at Hastings, spent four hours and \$200 buying books on the Accelerated Reading list at Roosevelt and Slaton. She also made a good sale at Hobby Lobby for seasonal decoration items. The library moves on and has a steady stream of customers.

Police Chief Rawls described the Christmas season with all of the traffic. Ransom Canyon has lost First Responder status with the 911 district. Chief Rawls is working on this situation. (Can't hear report on tape). The Police department is working on an operations manual, has submitted it to Kyle Ashley, and hopefully will have it ready to submit to the council by February.

The Fire department no fire calls, no medical calls. One new EMT student will be starting class this spring. The weather recording device provides an annual report of temperature and wind calculations. Chief McPherson suggested putting a hydrant by the sewer plant. Dick Hulslander asked how much hydrants cost. Robert asked Harold to price total installation of hydrants.

Carol Hulslander reported on a fund raiser for the POA.

Kyle asked if the city could stripe the front road and front hill, perhaps when the work on West Lake Shore is done. Chief Rawls commented that the front road is not wide enough, so if we stripe it we must build it wider. Robert suggested putting reflective tags in the roadway.

Leon Whetzel moved to adjourn, Kyle Ashley seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett was absent from this meeting, so minutes were extracted from cassette tape recording which is on file at city hall.

Melissa Verett