

Town of Ransom Canyon  
City Council Meeting  
March 11, 2003  
Minutes

The City Council of the Town of Ransom Canyon met in open session at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 11, 2002. Council members present were Mayor Robert Englund, and Councilmen Leon Whetzel, David Peterson, Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson. Councilman Kyle Ashley was absent.

Attorney John Sims was present. Mayor Englund led the silent meditation.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously on a motion from Dick Hulslander, second from Glen Robertson.

David Peterson commented on the Financial Report that the Town had been notified by SPAG that their solid waste grant funding had been cut, and they were passing these cuts down to the grantees. There will be a meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> of the SWAC where Ransom can defend their grant, or accept a 10% across the board cut. The chipper has been purchased, and a 10% cut will mean \$2360 reduction in funding.

David moved to approve the financial, Leon Whetzel seconded and the council voted aye.

A lengthy discussion followed about the proper response to the Llano Estacado Water Use Study. Leon Whetzel believed some explanation for high per capita water use should be submitted, and that this narrative should explain that Ransom Canyon average home value of 167,500 eclipsed all other municipalities average home values, and that high water usage naturally accompanied high home value due to the equivalent landscaping. Glen Robertson believed that if these figures were to be used to justify an imposed limit in a conservation program, that landscaping would be the first place limits would be placed. The City Engineer was of the opinion that the proper answer to the Llano Estacado district should be that their numbers were inadequate, that Ransom Canyon would grow larger than their estimates, and that more water would be used. In the end, the council agreed to let the engineer reply with the comment that in 2003 Ransom Canyon had already reached the 2010 estimates.

Harold Needham delivered the engineering report. The lift station is finished and the sewer plant is on target. There is no news on the water tower.

Harold reported that there is a small crack on the latch on the new sewer lift station. Where we put the lock. Harold said this is a minor deal, and liquid steel might help it. This crack was created when the property owner landscaper drove a truck over the lift station. This property owner, Floyd Sloan, had submitted a bill of \$1000 for landscaping, tree removal and sod. Harold repeated that the changes in the Sloan's yard were in the city's easement, and Attorney John Sims commented that it has been city policy that the city has the right to work in their easement, without replacing the landowners plantings.

Harold said that in this case, the trees were in the city's easement. Harold will recheck this to be certain of the surveyed boundaries.

Dick Hulslander asked about the status of the water tower and the slow progress of Hugo Reed, and the possibility of bidding the project out to another engineering firm. This issue was discussed, but no action was taken to this end.

Harold asked the council about repairing or replacing the sign on the front road. The cost to replace would be \$1000, plus bulbs. The cost to change the bulbs would be \$212. The sign does not belong to the city, it is on county land and probably belongs to Lake Ransom Canyon, Inc. and SPEC. The council agreed to replace the bulbs.

The council discussed installing a new fire hydrant at the sewer plant, but decided to delay this expense until next budget year. This action will not affect the ISO rating.

Dick Hulslander moved to adopt Ordinance 189 which requires dual mode smoke detectors. Leon Whetzel seconded the motion. All approved.

Harold Needham attended school at A&M during the first week of March. He received an "Outstanding Unit Award" to the West Texas Region from the Texas Water Utilities Association. Congratulations to Harold.

The council discussed the flood elevation level for the park area. Engineer Bernie Gradel determined that the outflow water level for this area is 3115.3, and recommended that the building control committee set the minimum building elevation for one foot above this outflow, or 3116.3. Leon Whetzel commented that he would require more information than this from the engineer, and requested a letter stating the case.

The fire department had one EMS call, no fire calls.

The annual Library Easter Egg Hunt will be April 17 at the park. Between 100-150 children visited the library in February.

Wayne Rawls reported that the disaster plan is coming along. The TEEX assessment paperwork is done. The police policy manual is being reviewed by Kyle Ashley. Boat stickers are in. The police car had 35,000 mile work done on the front end.

The racial profiling report this year was that of 18 citations, 2 were to Hispanics and 16 were to Caucasians. There were 2 searches, one with consent, one without. There were no arrests. No all stops are arrestable offenses.

Police Chief Rawls recommended that kennel operations stop because he said our kennel does not meet state requirements. The city council approved a change in procedure, per the Chief's recommendation. Upgrades would include a solid flooring that could be sanitized, shelter impervious to the elements, heating when the weather dropped below 50

degrees, shade and ventilation. The police will now take stray dogs straight to the animal pound in Slaton or Lubbock. 30% of all police calls are animal calls.

Carol Hulslander reported that the annual POA meeting will be April 7. Candace Fletcher, Andy Wilson and Mary Ellen Zwank terms are ending.

Under open forum the council commented on the large rock that fell from the back hill onto the road. Leon Whetzel recollected that there was nothing the city could do. David Peterson commented that our 911 status is not good at this time for EMS calls. Chief Rawls is trying to get the fire department's TDHH # reinstated. Until this number is assigned, 911 must call Slaton, not Ransom Canyon. This creates a delay.

The city council adjourned into executive session to discuss personnel hiring. They reconvened into open session and took no action.

The meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett  
City Administrator