

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2003

MINUTES

The City Council of the Town of Ransom Canyon met in open session at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 13, 2003. Mayor Robert Englund, Council members David Peterson, Leon Whetzel, Kyle Ashley, Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson were present. City Attorney John Sims also attended.

Mayor Englund announced that former Mayor Lee Kitchens died Monday, May 12, after a sudden illness. Funeral services are scheduled at the Heritage Baptist Church Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. He then called for a moment of silence.

2. Minutes of the April meeting were approved on a motion from Dick Hulslander and second from Glen Robertson.
3. Mayor Pro-Tem administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Robert Englund.
4. Mayor Englund administered the Oath of Office to David Peterson.
5. The Mayor thanked Kyle Ashley for his service during his term of office and presented him with a lovely plaque of the State of Texas with a star locating Ransom Canyon.
6. Leon Whetzel nominated Inez Speed to fill the Alderman seat vacated by Kyle Ashley. David Peterson seconded the nomination. Dick Hulslander moved to table the action until a later meeting so the council could discuss this nomination and other potential candidates. Glen Robertson seconded this motion.

The council voted on the motion to table action. Hulslander and Robertson voted yea, to table the action. Whetzel and Peterson voted nay. Mayor Englund voted to break the tie and he voted "no" to the motion to table action.

There were no more nominations. David Peterson moved to elect Inez Speed by acclamation, and Leon Whetzel seconded the motion. Peterson, Whetzel and Robertson voted aye, Hulslander voted nay. The measure passed. Inez Speed was administered the Oath of Office by Mayor Robert Englund and she took her place at the council table.

7. Financial Report and Claims and Demands. Inez Speed had a question about a dual payment to Nationwide Retirement. Melissa answered the question. David Peterson moved to approve the report, Inez Speed seconded the motion, all approved.
8. Glen Robertson reported that City Bank and Citizens Bank of Slaton had expressed interest in being the city depository for the coming year. Bids were close with an interest floor of 2.5 %. The council voted to keep funds at Slaton on a motion from Leon Whetzel, second from Dick Hulslander. All members voted aye, except for Robertson who abstained.
9. Chapel request for link to city web site. After lengthy discussion, this request was approved with the proviso to limit links to non-profit organizations. The vote to

approve was four ayes. Inez Speed abstained. Glen Robertson suggested that the link be separated even more by a hyperlink.

10. Engineer Bernie Gradel reported first on the news that the water meter from the City of Lubbock was measuring significantly more water used than would be expected in relation to the water sold. This relationship is normally a 48% ratio, but had slipped to a 60 % ratio. Bernie suggested that water might be recirculating through an open valve on the 6" line. This valve was closed. Meters were installed at the sewer plant and on the sprinkler system -on the front road, but he did not think that this was the reason for the discrepancy. No leak was suspected. Bernie suggested that Ransom needed to install a \$2500 propeller type meter to double check the readings on the Lubbock meter. It could be that the Lubbock meter was not accurate. If this solution did not reveal the problem, then we should look at the readings of the home meters. Glen Robertson moved to authorize this installation as soon as possible. Leon Whetzel seconded the motion, all approved.

Bernie explained a requested design change to the sewer plant where the hoses that are used to clean the plant are connected to water at the top of the plant, among other things. This change will cost \$6800. Also a safety device washroom for the chlorinator room should be installed. This approval authorized on a motion from Dick Hulslander, second from David Peterson, all approved.

The council did not approve the construction of a separate grit chamber bed, cost \$9500, but chose to go to a modification of the existing bed for a cost of \$4700. This action taken on a motion from Leon Whetzel, second from David Peterson, all approved.

Mayor Englund asked about the status of the water tower. Bernie explained that the computer model kept giving unexpected readings, so they had shipped the program to a software supplier in order to find any possible glitch.

West Lake Shore Drive is finished, and they are waiting on core samples to approve the concrete. There had been cracks, and normally cracks will happen, but it's nicer when they are controlled cracks in saw cut locations, filled with material that will allow for expansion and contraction.

11. Building Control Committee: Approved remodels for two homes on South Lake Shore Drive. The council discussed replacement of Lee Kitchens on this committee, and Glen Robertson expressed his wish to put individuals on this committee who were not necessarily architects or engineers. He commented that there is a perception in the community that this committee has been too rigid in the past. Several people were mentioned to serve, and the Mayor will come back next council meeting with recommendations for new committee members, several in number.
12. The Mayor requested budgets from the department heads by May 30. At the Mayor's personal request, the council agreed to meet June 3, 2003, on a motion from Dick Hulslander and second from Glen Robertson.

13. Department reports: Operations. Harold requested a design change to chlorinate the sewer plant with treated city water instead of recycled effluent. The mayor will tell him to do this. New employee Kyle McCoy has been on board since May 5. He has his waste water "C" license. He let his "C" water license expire, and he needs to retest for that. He also attended both a weed and pest school and a customer service inspection school and he needs to test for both of these.
Welcome to Kyle.

Department report: Chief Rand McPherson reported 3 medical calls and 1 minor fire call. No word yet on the grant for equipment from FEMA. Another fireman is close to finishing his EMT schooling by passing his state test. The fire department is planning for their 25th year anniversary celebration this July 4th . The summer fish fry will be July 3, and the parade will be July 4th . They are considering a minted coin for the 25th anniversary.

Department report: Chief Wayne Rawls asked for a new liaison and Mayor Englund appointed Glen Robertson. The Chief asked the council if he could hire a third officer under the cops-fast grant program. After some discussion, the council made no motion to authorize any action to this end, and Glen Robertson suggested that two budgets should be submitted, one to include additional expense for a new officer. Although repair to the weir was on the agenda, Chief Rawls did not recommend doing repairs at this time. Repair was not authorized.

Kim Copeland reported on the Library Easter Egg Hunt. Over 1,200 eggs were hidden and gathered, 72 children and their parents had a wonderful time. An arcade game has been purchased for the library, and the library is looking great. The summer reading club is starting in June and the library is just wonderful.

14. The Property Owner Association Triathlon is Sunday, May 25, 8:00 -6:00 PM.
15. Congratulations to Roosevelt Eagles Baseball team.
16. Adjourn on a motion from Dick Hulslander, second from Leon Whetzel, all approved.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator