

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 3, 2003

Minutes

The City Council of the Town of Ransom Canyon met in open session at 7:00 P.M., June 3, 2003. The Council had previously agreed to change the regular June meeting date to the third. Mayor Englund was present and opened the meeting with a moment of silence. David Peterson, Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson were present. Inez Speed arrived after the election polls closed, per previous notice. Leon Whetzel was absent. Attorney John Sims was present.

Minutes of the May meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from David Peterson, second from Dick Hulslander.

Financials were unanimously approved on a motion from David Peterson, second from Dick Hulslander.

Engineer Report: The 10" water line meter will be here by UPS Wednesday and will be installed by the end of this week. The City of Lubbock water department has indicated that they are willing to work with Ransom Canyon about the billing issue. Tests are being done to verify that the concrete work on West Lake Shore Drive meets the required strength.

Building Control Committee: Mayor Englund announced that new members have agreed to serve. Robert Morris and Sanford Whitaker will continue to serve. The new members are: Berwyn Tisdell, Chris Sims, Jim Bertram, Jack Randorff, Billy Williams and Ron Childress. These members were appointed on a motion by Dick Hulslander, second from David Peterson. Mayor Englund commented that he was going to ask this new committee to review some policies in addition to routine house plan permitting. Some of the items that he is going to ask them to review will be the need for zoning ordinances in Ransom Canyon, changes to Ordinance 56 to eliminate archaic requirements, review the 50 year roofing requirement, and define small projects that can be approved at City Hall without committee review.

Glen Robertson commented that the general public should be allowed appeal directly to the city council in the event they were denied a permit by this committee for any reason. Attorney Sims commented that procedures for this appeal are in place. Glen commented that disapproval of building plans should be based on valid reasons. The council voted on the motion on the floor to appoint the new committee members, and the vote was unanimous to appoint.

The Mayor delivered his preliminary budget worksheet. The estimated tax value increase for Ransom Canyon is from 75 million to 81 million, and the budget is based on only 77 million, with a tax rate that is lower than the current rate. The water revenue is expected to meet budget this year, but the water expense is projected to be higher, so the enterprise fund relationship has changed and the council is looking closely at the new meter that is being installed on the 10" water line.

The Mayor explained several increase requests from different departments, including requests for computer equipment, additional staffing, and special equipment and vehicle purchases. The Mayor asked the council to consider participation in the Texas Municipal Retirement System. The fire and police departments submitted requests for various items that were needed to equip the Emergency Operations Center. The fire department would like to replace a vehicle and build a structure to house it. The council discussed providing a vehicle for the police department. New fire hydrants are needed in various places in town. There is money in reserve in both the reserve fund and in the Capital Improvement Fund, so some items can be funded from savings. The council has a work session on this budget June 17.

Dick Hulslander asked if we can get an increase over the one million dollar lifetime maximum policy coverage for the employee health insurance benefit. Melissa will call TML.

After some discussion, the council instructed Harold to direct the installation of a T and a valve at the sewer plant, in preparation for the installation of a fire hydrant at this location. The contractor had indicated that this was the time for considerable installation savings.

The street repair at Mescalero Road is on this year's budget, but has not been done because the engineers do not know exactly the reason for the curb and gutter and street being lower at this point. Not knowing the reason, which could be a seasonal spring, or a shifting sand pocket, the engineers were hesitant to suggest a plan for repair.

Fire Department: Chief McPherson reported 2 fire calls and 2 medical calls. The first responder certification paperwork is in. A combination pulse/O2 meter has been ordered. This year's 25 year anniversary for the fire department will be commemorated with a very pretty coin. (\$20 ea) Steve Oldham reported that the Operation Round-Up committee declined to donate the ¾ ton used truck to the fire department. This was a vehicle that had been promised to Ransom Canyon, but at the last minute, the Round Up committee decided that they could not do for Ransom Canyon something that they could not do for the rest of the cities in their area. The council authorized Mayor Englund to call Monte Wolgamott and negotiate \$ to obtain this vehicle. It is a ¾ ton short bed 4x4 with a utility bed.

The TEEX assessment through SPAG awarded \$22,278 in first round equipment to the fire department for first responder equipment for disaster recovery and anti-terrorism equipment. This equipment will be purchased from the list and will consist of equipment such as defibrillators, communications equipment, SAT phones, HAZMAT certified equipment, decontamination equipment, some microphone equipped respirators. No cash will exchange hands with the SPAG and the city on this grant.

Police Chief Rawls reported a quiet month, but a busy month with registering boats and patrolling the lake, watching the water level with the rain, and finishing up grant application paperwork. Many boats are registered. If water conservation measures must be activated due to too many boats registered, the police have considered using the sticker numbers for even-odd day use. Some pre-triathlon athletes wanted to practice swimming the lake, which is not allowed and caused the police some challenge.

Dick Hulslander commented that the triathlon went very well, with 83 athletes participating, and he did not know what the fund raising dollars would be after bills were paid. Many thanks to the Alliance Credit Union for their support. It was a good party, good community relations and lots of fun.

Librarian Kim Copeland gave a brief rundown on the countdown to the summer reading club. Many parents have commented that they are looking forward particularly to the program where the police will be demonstrating fingerprinting.

An extra agenda item had been added for the city council to take action to authorize Chief Wayne Rawls to make application for a Cops-Fast Grant. This grant will pay a maximum of \$75,000 over a three year period toward the hiring of a new police officer. The council discussed this item at length. Police liaison Glen Robertson explained that this was an emergency item because the deadline for application for the 2003 year was June 7, 2003. He was inclined to make the motion, but he wanted the council to discuss it and express their preliminary opinion for their support of this action before the council asked Wayne to spend the many hours that would be involved in writing and submitting the grant application. Also, Glen was concerned about the potential negative impact this might make with the Cops Fast Organization, if Ransom Canyon asked for funding, and then did not hire an officer. The council discussed the issue, and the council generally indicated their support for this projected change in staffing. Glen moved to authorize Wayne to make application for the grant, David Peterson seconded the motion, all approved.

Mayor Englund called for nominations for Mayor Pro-tem. Dick Hulslander nominated Glen Robertson, Inez Speed seconded the nomination. All voted aye.

David Peterson had several questions for Wayne Rawls concerning the Emergency Operations Center. Budget funding had been requested specifically for items in this category, and David was concerned that this department had never officially been recognized by the city. Wayne explained some background about requirements that have always existed from FEMA that have to do with the disaster plans, the ISO requirements and the basic requirements that must be in place prior to emergency funds from FEMA can be allocated. After 9/11, President Bush created the department of Homeland Security, which has a whole new

set of security threat assessment requirements, and Wayne commented that in Ransom Canyon alone, there were over 30 potential targets, including the water and sewer supplies, a church, a city hall, 2 telephone substations, two fire stations, and others.

David had more questions, and asked if the fire and police would do a presentation to the council explaining just what the EOC consisted of, so the Mayor set an emergency meeting for the following Thursday at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Under open forum, Melissa Verett reported that a company called Government Acquisitions had approved our request to apply for funding for corporate sponsorship for police and emergency vehicles. The program provides corporate sponsors who provide the cars, put their company logos on them, and the city pays Government Acquisitions \$1.00 for the use of the vehicle for three years. Ransom Canyon has a copy of the contract that will be reviewed by the city attorney, presented to the council for approval and to the police for their approval of the program, and then the official application can be made for this grant-type program. More next week.

With no further business, Glen Robertson moved to adjourn, Dick Hulslander seconded the motion, all approved and the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator
6/9/2003 11:49 AM