

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 8, 2003

Minutes

The City Council of the Town of Ransom Canyon met in open session at 7:00 P.M., July 8, 2003. Mayor Englund was present and opened the meeting with a moment of silence. David Peterson, Dick Hulslander, Glen Robertson and Inez Speed were present. Leon Whetzel was absent due to personal business. Attorney John Sims was present.

The minutes of the regular June meeting and the June work sessions were unanimously approved on a motion from David Peterson, second from Glen Robertson.

The Financial Report was approved on a motion from Inez Speed and second from Dick Hulslander. All approved.

The reconstruction of West Lake Shore Drive, the concrete replacement was accepted as complete. The council read a letter from engineer Roger Gras stating that the concrete had been inspected, core samples had met requirements, that cracks were to be expected, and this project met all requirements as set forth. The council voted to pay Allen Butler \$63,237.15 for this work. This action was taken on a motion from Dick Hulslander, second from David Peterson. All approved.

The council discussed a request from Everitt Flying Service for a \$342 increase in price. The council discussed many things about this issue. David Peterson impressed that Ransom Canyon should not ever spray anything outside the city limits. Other possible flying services were discussed. Service from Lubbock County was discussed. Service issues from the two sprays were discussed. In the end the council agreed to the price increase from Everitt Flying Service. This is a 60-cent pass through to each household, per spray. This action was approved by all on a motion from Glen Robertson, second from Inez Speed.

The city engineer prepared a report that stated a concrete pour for the sewer plant was expected the week of July 15.

Glen Robertson reported for the Building Control Committee that one garden home set of plans was approved, two landscape permits were approved with additional information required, and a set of plans was not approved pending platting of the lot. This was a short-hand version of the discussions that took place in this five-hour meeting.

Harold Needham requested an additional \$2500 for construction of two overhead doors for the sewer plant. These would be needed for maintenance of the pumps, and also for air flow in this part of the plant. This change was approved on a motion from David Peterson, second from Glen Robertson. These funds will be taken from the remaining \$7,000 in the bond contingency funds.

The preliminary budget was presented to a sparse audience. Mayor Englund commented that there were still some variables to be considered such as final tax values, final insurance values, the whole employee benefit package including retirement, and approval of the Cops Fast Grant. The next work session was set for July 22. The August Budget Hearing is set for August 12.

The council voted to go out for bids on the city audit. This action was taken on a motion from David Peterson with a second from Glen Robertson. All approved and bids will be considered at the August meeting.

The council denied a request to pump from the lake to an ornamental waterfall that would return water back to the lake. The city attorney and the city police stated that the city's Certificate of Adjudication clearly stated that only two pumps were allowed in the lake, and these were in place on the island and at Brookhollow ponds. The city attorney said the city is the owner and the city is the only one who can say. There was no motion from the council to approve the request, but Dick Hulslander commented that the individual deserved an answer from the council that the answer was no, based on the law.

Attorney Sims commented that aerator pumps does help and it cleans the water. Chief Rawls stated that so far, Ransom Canyon had avoided the golden algae bloom. This plant has a three year life cycle and it blooms at 68-70 degree water temperature. The water in Ransom Canyon Lake was high enough to stave off the bloom.

Harold Needham reported that the gate for Ralph Carlisle had been installed, but that the sewer plant had problems. Something major had killed many bugs, and he was hoping that they were not all dead, and that the plant would recover. This is what has caused the plant to smell in recent days. When the plant is healthy, it does not smell. Harold had investigated the possibility that something foreign had come from Buffalo Lake during the July 4th holiday, through one of their 40 RV dump sites. The officials at Buffalo Lake are watching closely for any problem in this area, but knew of nothing suspicious. Harold commented that this effect can occur if a swimming pool containing high amounts of chlorine is drained.

David Peterson asked if our creek discharge is safe, and Harold answered that our discharge reports are normal, there is no fish kill in the creek and it appears that our TCEQ permit limits are being met.

Fire Chief Rand McPherson reported a busy July 4th with many people enjoying the fish fry and the brisket BBQ lunch. The shade was good. The LaFrance fire engine is having starting problems and some maintenance is being done there. We have not heard from FEMA about the grant application. The outlook is hopeful for the donation of a used first responder truck from South Plains Electric.

Chief Wayne Rawls reported a quiet month with some family disturbance calls. Word on the Cops Fast Grant is expected in August. The July 4th crowd was orderly and most of

the people outside the city limits picked up their trash as they were requested to do. This is good news for the neighboring farmers who must deal with this trash in their fields.

Librarian Miss Kim had photos of the summer reading club to share with the city council. Forty-five children are enrolled, thirty-five to 40 children have attended each Saturday, along with some parents and library board members, and the little library that could is just about overgrown. There were photos of all the pets from the Science Spectrum, a prairie dog (that got loose in the library, to the children's delight), a snake, and a turtle. The children loved the fingerprint exhibition put on by the Ransom Canyon police department. Wayne and James took their personal time and treated these children to a morning of police work "detective stuff." They prepared thirty-five fingerprint cards, and it was a big hit. Kudos to this department. Fifteen –twenty children were on the July 4th float. The new Harry Potter book is in, and the treasure hunt is scheduled for July 12.

The POA is good. The Chapel is good.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator