

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2003
Minutes

The City Council of the Town of Ransom Canyon met in open session at 6:00 P.M. August 12, 2003. Mayor Englund called the meeting to order. Inez Speed, Glen Robertson, Leon Whetzel and David Peterson were present. Attorney Richard Hubbert was also present. The council withdrew to a closed work session on compensation and benefits. When they reconvened into open session, they took no action relevant to the closed meeting. This meeting was adjourned.

At 7:00 P.M., the council met in the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Mayor Englund and council members Speed, Robertson, Whetzel, Peterson and Dick Hulslander were present. Attorney Richard Hubbert was also present.

Minutes of the July 8, 2003 meeting were approved on a motion from Dick Hulslander, second from Inez Speed. All voted to approve. The July 22, 2003 minutes were approved on a motion from Glen Robertson, second from Dick Hulslander. Leon Whetzel abstained from this vote. Robertson, Hulslander, Speed and Peterson voted aye. Minutes of the July 29th work session were approved on a motion from Inez Speed, second from Dick Hulslander. Speed, Hulslander and Peterson voted to approve the minutes. Robertson and Whetzel abstained.

The financial was approved by all on a motion from Inez Speed and second from David Peterson.

Lubbock Central Appraisal District certified the 2003 tax value at \$78,500,055, with \$1,037,839 new property. Melissa Verett certified Ransom Canyon collection rate at 100%. Melissa Verett certified the effective tax rate to be \$.60665. The rollback rate is \$.64334. The Notice and Hearing limit is \$.62484. Dick Hulslander moved to accept these calculations, Glen Robertson seconded, all approved.

The council chose David Hettler to do the 2002-2003 audit for his proposed fee of \$4800 - \$5,000. One other proposal was received from Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss for \$7500. Inez Speed made the motion to accept, Leon Whetzel seconded the motion, all approved.

There were no questions about the Budget for 2002-2003. All city council members supported a 62 cent tax rate. This rate does not exceed the Notice and Hearing limit, so no meeting is required to discuss the tax rate.

The Building Control Committee approved one set of house plans for a Garden Home to be located at 9 Arapaho. They discussed another set of plans for a home on South Lake Shore Drive that involved some cut and fill and retaining wall plans, but this set of plans was withdrawn pending further study, and detail.

The council discussed the need to withhold a certificate of occupancy until landscaping and retaining walls are complete. Harold does a final inspection, but has no form to do a CO. Melissa will research the existing ordinances and discuss with Attorney Hubbert for next month's agenda what action is needed to enact a Certificate of Occupancy requirement.

Glen Robertson asked the Mayor if progress had been made by the building Committee to research the 50 year roof issue. Mayor Englund reported that he issued the committee their charge and will be moving on this work in the coming months.

Bernie Gradel gave an engineering update. The program is back from the software company. Pumps are needed; the elevated storage is not enough. Plans for the tower will be finished this week, and Hugo Reed will move on the pumps at that time. There are new blowers at the treatment plant, and they are noisy. This model does have a silencer and an intake muffler, but the intake is not strong enough to dampen the noise. So, they recommend putting 18" silencers on the intake. These will cost \$1,000 each for two, total of \$2,000.

There was some discussion about the design and the manufacturer responsibility. Dick Hulslander asked if the air flow will be restricted. And there was discussion about both blowers running at maximum capacity, or 96%. Bernie commented that these blowers will alternate when the plant is fully finished and well again. Mrs. Speed was concerned about electricity expense.

Chief McPherson reported that we have our First Responder number 152013 back again, and the system is in place for SO dispatch.

Mayor Robert Englund announced that Ransom Canyon had received a substantial grant from South Plains Electric Cooperative Operation Roundup in the form of a service truck that can be used by the Fire Department as a new First Responder vehicle. This truck is a ½ ton Chevrolet flat bed, four wheel drive, V8. It has a new transmission and new rear axle. The paint and interior on the cab is in good condition. The bed and the storage compartments could use paint. All were delighted with the new vehicle. The Fire Department will take it and customize it to meet their needs as a vehicle that will respond first to every call, fire or EMS.

Operation Round-Up gave this truck with only one request, and that request is to tell the public about it in the hopes that more homeowners will understand that Operation Round-up participates in giving back to the community in several ways.

In Ransom Canyon, out of 455 homes, only 161 property owners participate in the program. Operation Round-Up contributes annually to the library, and local students have been recipients of college scholarships. The council approved of sending a letter to tell people about this program, and to ask everyone to sign up and participate. This action was approved on a motion by Inez Speed, second from Leon Whetzel. All approved.

Harold Needham reported that the sewer plant is better. They never did figure out what killed the bugs, but the combination of the new blowers and the addition of some new sludge from City of Lubbock's sewer plant helped our plant recover from the shock. Several lab samples were taken, and the lab expense will be higher than normal due to the incident.

An individual made an offer to purchase the old generator at the plant for \$250. Harold commented that this was a good price, and that the individual will haul the generator off. The council approved of the transaction.

Harold added up the numbers for water pumped from Lubbock and water sold to Ransom Canyon customers, and of 14 million pumped, only 11 million was sold, which is a 15% loss. Harold recommended that the city participate in the Invensys program, which will replace all the meters in the city and replace them with remote read meters. This is a 3 or 4 year program, and Harold commented that the city could recoup the expense. The council commented that this system was neat, but was very expensive at \$300,000.

The Fire Department had no fire calls, one medical call. Officer James Hill did a fine job with an extremely difficult medical call, and is to be commended. Mark Cooper has finished his dive classes and is starting his advanced work. He will need equipment, and the fire department is looking at affordable outfitting. The next pancake breakfast is September 13.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls introduced a Resolution that was requested by Nick Olenick, who is the Deputy Emergency Management Director for Lubbock County. This resolution states the city's participation in the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Dick Hulslander moved to approve the resolution, Glen Robertson seconded, all approved.

Wayne Rawls reported that he attended a three day school to model the operation of an incident command center. Ransom Canyon is now prepared in the event the FBI needs to work any kind of incident in Ransom Canyon.

Kim Copeland left two big boards with photos of the highly successful summer reading club. Library hours will go back to winter schedule starting August 18, when school starts.

The POA thanked the city for helping them mow the meadow at a reasonable rate. The sewer pump system at the party house is out and will cost \$3,000 to replace. Otherwise the summer pool activity increased this year, and everyone appreciates the improvements and facilities.

Wayne Rawls commented that the playa lakes in Lubbock are at max capacity, and if it rains, the water will come to us, now, because the first stage of Lubbock's new drainage system is finished. He has people on the lake set to tell him about water rising events.

With no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion from Inez Speed and second from David Peterson. All approved.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator