

RANSOM CANYON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2003
MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was called to order November 11, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road by Mayor Robert Englund,. All city council members were present: Dick Hulslander, David Peterson, Glen Robertson, Inez Speed, and Leon Whetzel. The Mayor called for a moment of silence and took a moment to remember families who have lost loved ones this month.

October minutes had two corrections. P 2, last paragraph, change "opaque" brick wall to "translucent." Also make the same correction to P. 3, line 2. With these corrections, Dick Hulslander moved to approve, Inez Speed seconded the motion, all approved.

The Financial Report and Claims and Demands were approved unanimously on a motion from Leon Whetzel, second from Dick Hulslander.

Foy Pricer, Group Benefits representative from Texas Municipal League, addressed the council with options concerning retirees and the health insurance issues for them that the city might want to consider. He explained that the city would need to define "retiree", as each city sets eligibility requirements, if the city does not consider age and years of service alone. Retirees are eligible for coverage through COBRA. The city could offer coverage to retirees age 65 and above. If they offer it to age 65 and under, then the claims experience counts against the city. If coverage is for 65 and above, then claims experience counts against another carrier.

The council should consider if they wish to pay the same cost or 160%. If 160%, then claims experience for retirees will not be subsidized by the city.

Mr. Pricer also discussed and answered questions about decisions that have been made by other cities. The Ordinance must be in place prior to retirement, and the employee must decide at the time of retirement so they can elect COBRA or the city's plan.

No decision was made and this issue was tabled.

The council discussed the purchase of the city's software. All council members approved the purchase, and agreed that it would be less expensive to pay the \$19,000 cash purchase price rather than pay 4.5% interest. This action was taken on a motion from Glen Robertson, second from Dick Hulslander.

The council adjourned to executive session to discuss legal matters. They reconvened into open meeting and took no action relative to the executive session.

The council discussed the Chapel Pond issue. The street that borders the pond at the chapel is a city street, and is public property. The chapel wishes to restrict fishing from the street. The TCEQ has told Chief Rawls that this water is public, even though it is bordered on three sides by private land. (The chapel also owns the land under the water.) Mayor Englund commented that it was unfortunate that some people choose to go where they are not wanted, and asked Wayne Rawls to follow up with the TCEQ to see if anything could be obtained in writing. The Mayor said he just wished the people wouldn't do what they are doing.

David Hettler delivered the audit. City assets are up \$400,000. The council did not take action to accept the audit because they received their copies just prior to council meeting and did not have time to study the report, but they thanked David for his report.

Action on the Policy Manual was delayed until the December meeting to allow for some wording about the procedure that a terminated employee could take if he/she wished to appeal.

The Building Committee reported some debate about translucent (cannot be seen through) bricks being used in the zero lot line walls of garden homes. Harold Needham, the building inspector, has the final say and he will decide if the bricks in question are meeting fire and safety codes.

Roger Gras from Hugo Reed reported that there are cracks in the new concrete on West Lake Shore Drive, and they will pursue repairing these cracks with the contractor, because the concrete is still covered under the one-year warranty.

Harold Needham reported that the drain valves are in the digester in the sewer plant. He also commented that he no longer wished to use prisoner "work-release" labor. He said they were too much trouble for what they accomplished. He had been asked to clean out the area behind the homes on Brookhollow and the council commented that the homeowners on Brookhollow are responsible for that clean up.

The water pump house had some expensive repairs this month. Mayor Englund commented that we must have a status report on this work from the city engineer at the December meeting.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls issued Citations of Commendation to officer James Hill and reserve officer Vance Schuette for their recent work in a crisis situation. He reported that it has been a rough month handling the investigation of and the aftermath of the murders on South lake Shore Drive and other tragic events that have happened this month to the Ransom Canyon family.

Fire Chief Rand McPherson reported no fire calls, one medical call, and one undischarged call. The Rescue truck is here and is being painted. It is almost ready for decals. The department met Saturday November 8 to be measured for fifteen new sets of Bunker Gear. They will be purchased from Ferrara and cost \$1015 per set. They are made of Kevlar rip-stop material and the set includes boots, pants, coats, suspenders, hoods and gloves. The helmets are white for the chief, blue for the medicals and red for the firemen. The suits are khaki tan with fluorescent green.

Librarian Kim announced that Operation Christmas Card was off to a great start and the deadline was November 20. There will be a Christmas Gathering next month on December 11 from 5 – 6:30, just before the next city council meeting.

The POA is grateful to Ron Bornick for work on the dock. Dues notices are being mailed at this time. A horseshoe pit is being planned in memory of Harry Calverly.

In open forum Mayor Englund thanked Glen Robertson for help in getting the new rescue one truck body repaired and painted top to bottom.

With no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion from David Peterson, second from Dick Hulslander. All approved.

Melissa Verett
City Administrator