

Town of Ransom Canyon  
City Council Meeting  
December 9, 2003  
Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council for the Town of Ransom Canyon convened at 7:00 P.M. December 9, 2003 at the Ransom Canyon Volunteer Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road, Ransom Canyon. Mayor Robert Englund called the meeting to order. Council members Leon Whetzel, David Peterson, Inez Speed, Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson were all present. Attorney John Sims was also present.

November 2003 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion from Leon Whetzel and second from Inez Speed.

The Financial Report was approved unanimously on a motion from Leon Whetzel and second from Glen Robertson.

The council discussed alternate investment instruments but no motion was made to change the current strategy at this time.

The 2002-2003 audit was approved by unanimous vote on a motion from Inez Speed and second from Leon Whetzel.

Glen Robertson moved to adopt the Operations and Policy Manuals with the addition of a brief paragraph written by legal that details steps to be taken to appeal a termination. Leon Whetzel seconded the motion, all approved.

The Building Control Committee has met twice and has requested an amendment to Ordinance # 133. They wish to be known as the Building Review Committee, and they wish to change the number of committee members to eight and the number of a quorum to be three. This amendment will be prepared for the January meeting.

Mayor Englund introduced guests Sanford and Diane Whitaker. He presented Sanford Whitaker with a certificate of appreciation and granted Emeritus status to him to recognize his long years of work both as an active committee member and in an advisory capacity on the Architect Control Committee. Sanford has lived in Ransom Canyon since 1967, and lives in the fifth home to be built here. He has had profound impact on the development of the neighborhood and Mayor Englund read the proclamation that expressed the city's appreciation for his service in this capacity. Whitaker recalled that the original developer, who was Houston Pearson, saw him in a grocery store in Lubbock and asked him, "You want to do a town?" Whit said, "I'd love to." And that was the beginning of Ransom Canyon. He has the original sketch of the community, and Mayor Englund asked him if he would work to put his memoirs into written form.

Miss Kim Copeland reported a great Christmas season for the library. The library Christmas card raised more money than ever, and the Christmas gathering reception was host to 75 people and 45 children. All is happy at the library.

Bernie Gradel reported for the engineering of the water tower and he had bad news. The hydraulic engineer that had been assigned to Ransom Canyon was called off to work on a project for Wolfforth, and it would be June before Hugo Reed would be able to look at the water tower project again. Leon Whetzel told him this was not satisfactory, and either Bernie made some changes to hire another hydraulic engineer, or refer us to another engineering firm who could do the work. Bernie said he would visit the water plant personally in short order to look first hand at some problems that Harold considers to be immediate.

The sewer plant is nearly ready to be operational. Due to the time of year, and potential for disruption during this holiday time, the plant probably will not be brought on line until after January 1. The council discussed sealing the plant, and painting the plant, and they wanted to see solid cost estimates prior to giving an okay to proceed with another contract change order.

They did approve the redesign of the ladder between the two plants. There will be one ladder, with an upper catwalk between the two. This will be safer and save time for the employees. There was some discussion to refresh memories about the meter that will be installed to read Buffalo's flow. It will be installed in the street, and it will be a mag-meter. The bid prices were located in the minutes, and that project will go forward after the new plant goes on line.

The council is still concerned about the cracks and spalling of the concrete on West Lake Shore Drive. Bernie will look at that project this week.

Bernie will help Harold find a contractor to do the repairs to the water tank. Harold will get the seal-coating project started in preparation for the spring/summer contracts. Kyle McCoy passed his class C water/sewer license. We now have 2 certified operators.

Leon Whetzel stated firmly to Bernie Gradel that the water pumping system cannot wait 6 months. He was concerned that Bernie did not know how severe the equation is. He commented that other engineers may cost more, but the situation needed to be resolved.

Wayne Rawls reported that the Christmas season has started quietly, with some problems with lights. He has requested a written opinion from TCEQ about the chapel pond. He said he had been passed to 4 attorneys and finally found one who has said he will look at the Certificate of Adjudication. If no opinion is received, the city will have to submit a formal request for an opinion. The chapel owns the property around and under the pond, but the city roadway borders the water on one side, and the city roadway is public. The TCEQ opinion is that this pond is public water fed by a spring. It is not a private stock pond. The width of the roadway may extend inside the cable across the bridge. Normally

streets are 50 feet wide. Leon Whetzel cautioned that this needed to be sorted out before the council considers passing an ordinance.

The council agreed to amend the present junk vehicle ordinance to read that they would adopt the state guidelines for declaring a vehicle abandoned and eligible to be towed away. This amendment will be prepared for examination at the January meeting. There is a ten day limit if on public property, 72 hours if on the street, 30 days on private property. The current city ordinance reads 90 days.

The police are making a change to their telephone system. They are going to forward their phones to Stenocall and have a separate answering service with a separate line that identifies the line as the police line and gives Stenocall the capability to immediately forward the caller to 911. There is enough money in the current budget to make this change.

The Fire Department has ordered new bunker gear and they are starting to receive it now. The Rescue truck is back from the paint and decal shop and will be ready to go into service soon. There was one medical call, a fall on South Lake Shore Drive.

There was no further business so the meeting adjourned on a motion from Dick Hulslander and second from David Peterson. All approved and the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett  
12/15/2003