

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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City Council Business
February 11th

- Lower interest rates may indicate need for spring budget amendment.
- Sewer Plant construction hits water table.
- Mayor seeks water contract amendment with the City of Lubbock.
- Building Code Amendment to require Dual Mode Smoke Detectors.
- Peterson to write new communications policy for web site.
- Search continues for new water/wastewater operator.
- Council approves "No swimming" waiver for POA triathlon.

WATER LINE BREAK LEADS TO BRIEF OUTAGE IN CITY

Residents were met with a surprise water outage during the evening hours of January 27th, when a routine water repair turned into a major water system repair and search for plumbing schematics.

City Councilmen were grabbing their coats and scratching their heads as water crews worked late into the night to repair a bak in the old 6" water line from Lubbock. The leak was located on Buffalo Lake property, where High Meadow meets Mesa Road.

When the new 10" line was installed two years ago, the 6" line was not removed, but was left in the loop in the system. Cut-off valves were supposed to be installed.

The City of Lubbock also was supposed to have cut-off valves.

No one could find the valves in this fairly remote location, in the night, in the dark.

City crews finally had to turn the water off to the entire city in the search.

The line was repaired, and



City employee Cory Needham works into the night to repair a water line. City file photo.

the contractor and the engineers have since located three valves on the 6" line and 2 valves on the 10" line.

New cut-off valves were installed on the 6" line, as a fail-safe measure.

This is the first time that the system has been tested since

installation.

Water service was restored after a series of trials around 10:30 P.M.

MAY 3 GENERAL ELECTION

The Mayor's job and two Aldermen positions are up for election May 3. Terms are up for Mayor Robert Englund, Alderman David Peterson and Alderman Kyle Ashley.

Candidates can file for a place on the ballot until March 19.

Ransom Canyon is a general law city with a five member council and mayor. City councilmen are elected for two year terms. There are no term limits. Mayor Englund has served two years as Mayor, plus four years as Alderman. Peterson has served 7 years as

Alderman, and Ashley has served as Alderman for two years.

CITY SEEKS WATER CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Ransom Canyon anticipates continued growth and development and is seeking to amend the contract with Lubbock to meet these future needs. The current contract calls for a daily maximum of 820,000 gallons per day, a yearly maximum of 299.3 million gallons, and a guaranteed pressure of 35 psi.

Ransom Canyon met the daily maximum two summers ago, although this record was not met last summer. Lubbock routinely keeps 50-60 pounds

of pressure on the Lubbock line.

Former Mayor Leon Whetzel explained that in the future, Ransom Canyon could double in size. 150 lots are already platted, waiting for houses. Another 250 possible lots on the South Rim could be platted.

The pressing near-term issue is fire fighting capacity.

In July 2000 Lubbock responded to a Ransom Canyon fire event by opening the valves and increasing the

pressure, and over 600,000 gallons of water, not including tanker water, were used to fight the fire on East Lake Shore Drive.

The water tower plans depend on delivery capacity, and the city needs to go forward.

Mayor Englund is actively pursuing a solid contract amendment with Lubbock's City Council.

“The pressing near-term issue is fire fighting capacity.”

CREDIT CARD CONTRACT NOT GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE

The City Council examined the possible credit card contracts available to Ransom Canyon and concluded that the plans would not serve the citizens well, and would be an unwelcome additional maintenance expense to Ransom Canyon.

Official Payments.com, the service used by LCAD, will not extend a contract to Ransom

Canyon due to low volume. Other service contractors will charge 3.85% minimum, which will negate any frequent flyer benefit that might be gained. A merchant account at Citizens Bank will cost Ransom Canyon \$300-\$500 just for maintenance fees. Ransom Canyon has 100% tax and utility collections, so the increased collection benefit usually to be found through

credit card payments is not a contributing factor.

The city council looked at the issue strictly as a customer service tool, but they concluded that the benefit to be gained was not good business for either the taxpayer or for the city.

TEXAS HOMELAND SECURITY

Ransom Canyon is under a state and federal mandate to establish an Office of Emergency Management, to appoint an individual to serve as the coordinator, and to submit a plan of action to outline city procedures that will be followed in the event of an emergency. Police Chief Wayne Rawls is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Ransom Canyon.

He will be the point man in an emergency event.

Ransom Canyon is subject to any emergency that could strike any metropolis. Crisis

does not respect population.

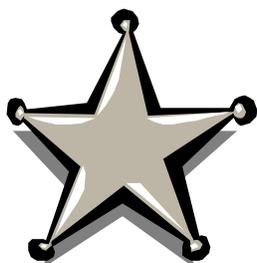
This may require coordination with Lubbock County. In addition to fire, flood, ice and snow and hazardous material spills, Ransom Canyon also has experienced dangerous mountain side retrieval of accident victims, and the EMS responder still trains for these events.

Chief Rawls attended a 3-day seminar February 11-13 to assist him in writing a Disaster Plan that will meet state requirements, and will make Ransom Canyon compliant and eligible for FEMA assistance

and also for grant funds.

The document is hundreds of pages long, and while it is based on a state model, it is tailored to fit Ransom Canyon.

Chief Rawls is doing a lot of writing to describe procedures, both for immediate response, and for contact personnel after the emergency event.



A PAGE FROM HISTORY

In 1984 Ransom Canyon experienced a flood that covered the dam and stranded motorists on South Lake Shore Drive.

One resident misjudged the fast-moving water, and when her car died on the causeway, L.D. Price was dispatched with the backhoe to pick her up.

These waters were swift moving and dangerous. The water always deserves cautious respect.

The city installed a flood gauge, and Chief Rawls has the authority to close the dam if the water reaches a certain point. The Chief keeps a close eye on rain and floodwaters.

In the photograph Wayne Gentry can be seen with an unidentified police officer and the city's police vehicle as they watch the rescue and probably imagine the city-wide clean up



Wayne Gentry shoves his hands in his pockets, and watches as L.D. Price rescues a stranded motorist from the dam.

that followed.

“ All homes need clear, well lighted, well identified addresses and approaches for EMS personnel.”

TIME TO CHECK SECURITY LIGHTS



Even the smallest crisis at home is eased when the Emergency personnel arrive.

Security lights and addresses on the curb are invaluable to help EMS and police locate your house. Ransom Canyon is peaceful with no street lights, but homes can be hard to locate without proper lighting.

Mayor Robert Englund reminds everyone to check their yard lights. Also, be certain that your house number can be clearly seen. Help the police and EMS and take a moment to call a plumber or an electrician. Replace yard lights that have rusted, repaint the curb, install a motion detector light.

Mayor Englund said he wishes good health and fortune to all, but the fact is, many people do need 911 services.

Seconds can be saved with fast identification of property.

Check homes and curbs for

clear, well lighted, well identified addresses and approaches.

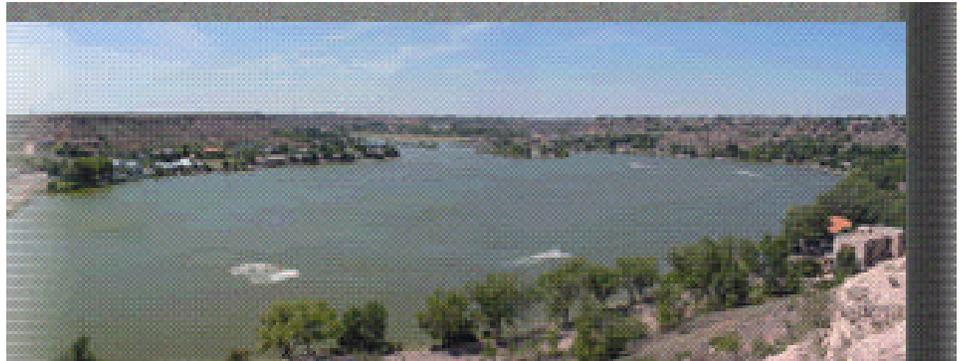
City Hall
24 Lee Kitchens Drive
Ransom Canyon, TX 79366
806-829-2470

We're on the Web!
www.ci.ransom-canyon.tx.us

Web Development

More changes have been added to the Web site, including more links, city news letter, and more information added to the FAQ page. The updated History is on the site now! Ransom Canyon has a search retrieval software program that makes using the Web site fast and efficient.

Log on today!



COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

BY WAYNE RAWLS

May 11, 1970, a category 5 tornado strikes downtown Lubbock. Population approximately 150,000.

September 11, 2001, terrorists hijack commercial jetliners and fly them into American landmarks. New York City is the largest city in the Country.

February 1, 2003, NASA Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates upon reentry. Debris begins to fall to earth near the small Texas town of Hemphill. Population 1000.

A natural disaster, a terrorist attack, and a terrible accident. How do the affected communities respond?

Local, State and National agencies regardless of their size, must work together and follow a standardized plan to treat the injured, protect the living and recover from the incident.

State law requires local juris-

dictions to have an in-depth plan for their community based on their needs and response capabilities.

The plan is based on the state template that includes responses to most possible situations.

An approved disaster plan is required to receive recovery assistance from FEMA, and to be eligible for grants for first responder equipment.

The basic disaster plan should be ready for submission to the State of Texas well ahead of the December 2003 deadline.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service, (TEEX), assessment also is a part of this plan. Grant funding will be awarded based on this needs assessment.

These funds will be awarded through SPAG. Ransom Canyon is participating aggressively in the prerequisites of the grant process.

Note: Chief Rawls can be found most days writing away at the Emergency Operations Center, also known as the Fire Station, on Ridge Road. The police department can be reached at 829-2600.