

# RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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May City Council Meeting

- Oath of Office for Englund, Peterson and New City Councilman Inez Speed
- Thank-you to Kyle Ashley
- Slaton Citizens Bank continues as city depository
- Chapel link to web site ok
- Investigation underway into high water usage from City of Lubbock
- Sewer Plant design streamlined
- Building Control Committee looks for leadership
- New City Employee Kyle McCoy

## LEADERS CHOSEN AS COUNCIL PREPARES TO DIG IN TO BUDGET

Robert Englund prevailed as the incumbent Mayor with a vote of 194 to challenger Mike Greer's 43 votes. David Peterson ran unopposed.

A vacancy was created when Kyle Ashley did not up for re-election.

The council chose to appoint Inez Speed to serve in this position for the full two years of this term.

Mayor Englund used his vote to break a tie over tabling this appointment. Councilmen Dick Hulslander and Glen Robertson wanted to take some time to examine other candidates. Leon Whetzel and David Peterson nominated Inez Speed.

Mayor Englund voted not to table the issue. The actual vote to appoint Speed to the council was split, with only Hulslander casting the dissenting vote.

Budget season begins in early June, when the mayor will present his budget to the council at the June 3 meeting. Work sessions average three meetings per month throughout the summer until the council hammers out a budget in September.

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partments have been asked to have their requests ready by the end of May.

Police Chief Rawls asked the council for approval to hire a third officer, and liaison Glen Robertson will oversee the preparation of two sets of figures for the police department. Fire Department liaison Hulslander is working closely with this department and the major Capital Purchases for

partment this year.

In other council business, Dick Hulslander has revamped the old city policy manual, proposing two separate policies, one for benefits and personnel issues, and another for procedures policies.

## SERVICES HELD FOR LONG-TIME MAYOR LEE KITCHENS

Services were held Saturday for Lee Kitchens, who died May 12 of a sudden illness.

Lee was Mayor of Ransom Canyon from 1987-1997. He continued to serve as head of the building control committee and remained active in library, fire and police activities. Among his

many accomplishments, recently, Lee headed a move to organize the ham radio operators for the Lubbock County Emergency Communications. He located and furnished a Disaster Response site in and for Lubbock County. Lee's appointed location in event of

emergency was in Ransom Canyon.

Lee will be missed as a man of vision, a motivator of people and a teacher of eager minds.

# WATER EXPENSES EXAMINED

New meters were installed and the city engineer was called in to examine and re-search why the gallons that were being purchased from the City of Lubbock seemed to be creeping up more than the gallons that are being sold to local residents.

The relationship of water purchased to water sold is normally 48%, but the last several months this ratio has increased to 60%.

New meters were installed at the sewer plant and also on the sprinkler system on the front hill. These are the only two places where the city could identify un-metered water use.

Ransom Canyon reads the Lubbock meter daily, and the two readings conform.

Ransom Canyon Engineer Bernie Gradel commented that the culprit might have been an open valve on the old 6" line, and that valve has now been closed.

In an effort to double check Lubbock's meter, however, Ransom Canyon is installing a large propeller-type meter on the Ransom Canyon side of the pump installation system.

In quick response to Ransom's question about the readings, Robert Robinson from the City of Lubbock sent a team from his department

to inspect the meter and reset the reading sensitivity.

The results of this adjustment will not be seen for another thirty days.

The new Ransom Canyon meter will be installed this week, and results should be immediately apparent.

In the meantime, early meter readings of water sales to homes in Ransom Canyon are double April readings. Caution should be taken by all homeowners to water conservatively and watch runoff in the city streets.

*"The Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, May 25th"*

# SUMMERTIME FUN IN THE SUN

The Ransom Canyon Annual Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, May 25th.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls cautions drivers and boaters to look out for increased traffic.

Swimming is not normally allowed in the lake except in connection with skiing and boating, with the exception of the triathlon athletes, on this

one day of the year.

Remember to get boat permits from the Ransom Canyon Police. Call 829-2600.

Make Plans for the Fire Department "More than a Fish Fry" which is scheduled for the night before July 4th. Fish and Chicken will be cooked and served by the Ransom Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

on July 3rd. The regular July 4th events will include the parade and the brisket lunch on the island.

Buffalo Lake is scheduling a concert for July 4th, and fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 5th.

# NEWS 'N NOTES

Ransom Canyon supports continued learning for staff members and the certificates and licenses held by the employees require many hours of continued each year.

Harold Needham spent a week in Arlington getting the latest on building inspection. Melissa Verett wrapped up a two month seminar that is part of an eight track Certified Public Manager Program that is offered through Texas Tech's Center for Public

Service. In conjunction, the Texas City Managers Association will host the annual convention in June in Lubbock.

Municipal Judge Candace Fletcher is due to attend judge's school in Austin this summer and Kyle McCoy will

be attending school prior to renewing his water license.



Texas Tech University

The City Council is looking for three or four people to serve on the building control committee. All professions are welcome. Contact City Hall for info.

# BUSY SUMMER FOR LIBRARY

The Ransom Canyon Library located at 26 Lee Kitchens Drive has a full schedule of activities for children of all ages.

Parents and Grandparents are encouraged to bring their young readers to enjoy the programs, rent a book or a movie, meet other readers and get to know our wonderful librarian, Miss Kim Copeland.

The Science Spectrum is coming to Ransom Canyon June 21 with a surprise program, "Creature Feature."

June 28 will showcase the RCPD as Chief Rawls and Officer Hill will be fingerprinting and discussing safety.

July 12 is a Treasure Hunt and Arcade Games. July 19 reading logs are due.

The library always has a great float for the July 4 Parade and there will be an end of summer swim party.

The library is supported by a grant from Lubbock County. This \$4100 grant goes a long way toward the annually library budget of \$9,000. The city supports the balance of the library operating costs, but donations help the library make needed remodeling and landscaping possible.

The library has a new fence, new grass, fresh paint and a new tree. Last year donations

paid for new carpet, and interior remodeling. The new roof is a welcome addition, as is siding and new wood stain on the porch. (applied personally by Miss Kim)

Library Summer Hours  
Tuesday 2:30–6:30  
Thursday 10:00–2:00  
Saturday 10:00–1:00

## BUDGET PREVIEW

Ransom Canyon budget sessions begin in June. The council looks at revenue and expense trends, and the annual audit reports on the progress of the water/sewer enterprise, according to GASB 34 guidelines.

Ransom Canyon expects to exceed the budgeted revenue of 1.1 million this year. Operating expenses are projected to

fall well under the budget of \$728 thousand, the bond payment of \$112 thousand will be met, \$87.5 thousand will go into reserve savings, \$25 thousand will be allocated for street seal-coating next summer, and the total Capital Improvement Projects paid for with cash this fiscal year will be \$114.3 thousand

dollars. \$750 thousand dollars is scheduled for sewer plant construction.

The CIP program began in 1996. This program has planned for and paid cash for major city improvements such as the 10" water line, new lift stations, needed sewer lines, etc.

*The city expects to exceed the budgeted \$1.1 million in revenue this year.*

## WEST LAKE SHORE STREET REPAIR

A significant section of West Lake Shore Drive has been replaced with a new layer of concrete. The road has always been difficult because of the close proximity to the water table at this location.

Several residents were dislocated during construction. Many thanks to them for their patience.

The city engineer reported to the city council that there were several cracks in the concrete.

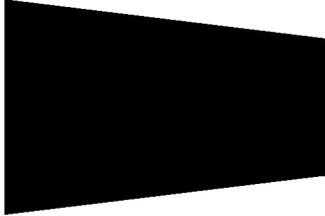
It is expected that concrete will crack, so the process allows for saw cutting and filling in the cracks. In the best of circumstances cracks can be controlled in expansion joints. Core samples are being taken of the concrete to assure that the concrete is up to contract specifications. This is a normal procedure for a project of this sort.



## City of Ransom Canyon

24 Lee Kitchens Drive  
Ransom Canyon, Texas 79366  
ransomcanyon@sptc.net

Phone: 806-829-2470  
Fax: 806-829-2680



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Ransom Canyon City  
Council  
Mayor  
Robert Englund

Aldermen  
Richard Hulslander  
David Peterson  
Glen Robertson  
Inez Speed  
Leon Whetzel

*The Mission of the Town of Ransom Canyon, Texas is to provide basic city services, to make the community safe, to manage and preserve its natural beauty for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Mission of the employees of the Town of Ransom Canyon is to support the excellent quality of life that has been established in Ransom Canyon, Texas. The staff of Ransom Canyon is dedicated to providing essential city services necessary to support this unique community.*

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## NO QUORUM IN THE HOUSE— HUNDREDS OF BILLS DIE

When the 51 lawmakers (now known as “Killer Ds”) left the state in order to freeze action in the House, hundreds of House bills died. This is because the deadline for the House to pass a House bill on second reading was midnight, May 15. Among the bills that died are the following city related bills:

- H.B. 568 (Mowery)** limiting, (perhaps eliminating) annexation authority of cities
- H.B. 662 (Armbrister)** authorizing persons subject to annexation to vote in city elections
- H.B. 939 (Isett)**, reducing the property tax rollback rate from eight percent to four percent
- H.B. 2049 (W. Smith)** relating to rezonings
- H.B. 2178 (Mowery)**, relating to mandatory changes in zoning
- H.B. 2686 (Baxter)**, reducing a city’s authority in its ETJ.

All these bills are opposed by Texas Municipal League. Conversely, some good bills will also die. Among them are H.B. 2088 (Goodman) relating to accurate counts of telecommunications access lines; H.B. 925 (Eiland) relating to the property tax rollback rate for small taxing units; H.B. 1460 (Eiland), relating to the income methods of appraisal; and others.

While bills will die, the contents of those bills may live on in the form of amendments to other bills. For example, it is almost a certainty that the author of H.B. 939 (Isett) will look for a Senate bill that can be amended with the contents of H.B. 939. This stage of any legislative session is an “amendment free-for-all” that requires the TML staff and city lobbyists to scrutinize every bill that is still alive in an effort to prevent the resurrection of bad ideas thought to be dead.

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