

**Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting, August 13, 2024
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive**

1. Call to Order

The budget work session was called to order at 4:56 p.m. by Mayor Val Meixner. The City Council met in person at City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive, Ransom Canyon, Texas 79366. The following City Council members physically attended the meeting: Mayor Val Meixner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Corey Evans, Councilmembers Ronnie Hill, Ron McWilliams (arrived at 5:00 p.m.), Jim Rose and Vicky Keller. Staff members attending the City Council meeting included City Administrator, Elena Quintanilla; Chief of Police, James Hill; Public Works Director, Cory Needham; Fire Chief, Rand McPherson; Assistant Fire Chief, Angela Hill; Librarian, Angie Fikes; and Dr. Denton Collins attended as a guest. The following major points were discussed at the work session:

- Adding Vector Control to the Operating Budget
- Ad Valorem revenue will change as a new tax rate is adopted by the City Council
- Audit line item will be called "Audit and Financial Services"
- Projected Year End numbers for 2023-2024 need to reflect current amounts
- Add Engine 2 to title of line item 507-7065
- Reduce contract for the Librarian to current amount
- Research costs for adding speed bumps for the community
- Increase Emergency Operation Center Department expense to \$20,000 for a generator
- Garbage cost per resident was increased to \$15 per household to absorb additional cost increase from solid waste provider

2. Adjournment

The City Council adjourned the budget work session at 6:18 p.m. on a motion by Vicky Keller; Corey Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Call to Order

The regular city council meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Val Meixner. The City Council met in person at City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive, Ransom Canyon, Texas 79366. The following City Council members physically attended the meeting: Mayor Val Meixner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Corey Evans, Councilmembers Ronnie Hill, Ron McWilliams, Jim Rose and Vicky Keller. Staff members attending the City Council meeting included City Administrator, Elena Quintanilla; Chief of Police, James Hill; Public Works Director, Cory Needham; Angela Hill; Librarian, Angie Fikes; and General Counsel, Garrett Ferguson. The prayer was said by Councilmember Ronnie Hill, followed by pledges of allegiance. Guests attending in person included Kim Brown, Dr. Denton Collins, LaRue Hand, and Linda Williams.

4. Citizen Comments

Linda Williams commented that their five-day event with the teens at the chapel went well. Dr. Denton Collins commented that the financial status of the City reflect that the "City is not broken" and that the City received an "A" rating for the bond which demonstrates that the city's financials are in good shape.

5. Minutes

The minutes for the regular meeting on July 9, 2024, special meeting on July 23, 2024, and special meeting on August 6, 2024 were approved with amendments noted by Ronnie Hill on a motion made by Councilmember Ron McWilliams; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Corey Evans; the motion carried unanimously.

6. Financials

The financial reports and the May, June, and July 2024 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Corey Evans, seconded by Councilmember Jim Rose; the motion carried four to one with Councilmember Vicky Keller voting nay.

7. Fire Suppression Grant

The City Council approved an agreement for an interlocal agreement between Lubbock County and the Town of Ransom Canyon for fire suppression and rescue services on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Corey Evans; seconded by Councilmember Vicky Keller; the motion carried unanimously, with Ron McWilliams abstaining from the vote.

8. Risk Pool Insurance

The City Council approved Resolution R24-0813-1 authorizing the Town of Ransom Canyon to participate in the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) Joint Liability and Data Breach Response Self Insurance Fund through an interlocal agreement on a motion made by Councilmember Ron McWilliams, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Corey Evans; the motion carried unanimously.

9. Atmos Resolution

The City Council approved a negotiated settlement between the Executive Committee of Cities services by Atmos West Texas and Atmos Energy Corporation, West Texas Division Regarding the Company's 2024 Rate Review Mechanism Filing on a motion made by Councilmember Ron McWilliams, seconded by Councilmember Jim Rose; the motion carried unanimously.

10. Proposed Property Tax Rate

The City Council approved the No New Revenue Rate of .588759 for fiscal year 2024-2025, which is a decrease from the 2023-2024 tax rate of .610091 which

saves taxpayers .021332 per \$100 valuation on property taxes on a motion made by Councilmember Vicky Keller, seconded by Councilmember Ronnie Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

A. Building Review Committee

The Building Review Committee did not meet in the month of July.

B. Department Reports


- Administration: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:
 - She discussed her schedule for the next few weeks.
 - Don Jennings from the Texas Municipal League Finance Boot Camp will be at the office to assist staff with the bank reconciliation for the operating and enterprise accounts and thanks to Corey Evans for her assistance in reviewing the trial balance.
 - The website is progressing and the .gov is in final stages of approval.
 - Thank you to the City Council for attending the new member orientation provided by Bojorquez Law Firm.
 - The park construction is scheduled to begin on Monday.
 - The Joint City Council and Property Owner's Association was the beginning of a dialogue to work together and will occur on a quarterly basis.
- The Municipal Court: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:
 - Court is rescheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024
- Operations: Cory Needham reported the following:
 - The drying beds are complete at the wastewater treatment plant.
 - Tree trimming will be completed by the Operations Department instead of contracting out this service this year.
 - The Operations Department will continue spraying to control the weeds in the Canyon. They are trying a new chemical.
 - The Operations Department should be getting their tractor which has been under repair within the next couple of weeks. Special thanks to Allen Butler who has been assisting the city with mowing the meadows.
- Police: Chief James Hill reported the following:
 - There were eleven (11) written warnings, nine (9) citations, and no arrests in the Canyon this month.
 - List four of weed notices will go out next week.
 - The Police Chief will be attending a Debris Management Training sponsored by South Plains Association of Governments to assist with the Continuity of Operations Plan.
 - Approximately 100 people attended the Buffman and Squeaky Triathlon.
- Fire: Angela Hill reported the following:
 - The Volunteer Fire Department responded to two (2) fire calls and four (4) EMS calls.

- The Fourth of July Parade took place on July 4. The fishing tournament took place on Saturday, July 6, 2024, and sixty-five (65) kids participated this year. The Fire Department served hamburgers and hot dogs to those in attendance.
- Library: Angie Fikes reported the following:
 - The Children's Library hosted a Reading Party and it went very well.
 - She reminded the City Council that the students need to return their books to the Children's Library.

Adjournment

The City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. on a motion made by Councilmember Ron McWilliams, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Corey Evans; the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:



Val Meixner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary