

**TOWN OF RANSOM CANYON
JANUARY 9,1996
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The regular city council meeting for the Town of Ransom Canyon was brought to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Lee Kitchens. Council members Charles Burford, Inez Speed and Ken Williams were present to establish a quorum. Councilman Bill Green arrived later in the meeting, Councilman Erika Hoeve was absent.

MINUTES: Minutes of the December, 1995 meeting were approved upon the motion from Charles Burford and second from Ken Williams.

FINANCIAL: This report and the Claims and Demands were accepted and approved upon the motion from Charles Burford seconded by Inez Speed.

Note Burning Ceremony: The final payment on the 1983 series Bonds was made January 1. This is the first of the series of bonds that will be retired this year, and salutes go to responsible fiscal management by our elected council. In recognition of this five star year, the Mayor ceremoniously burned a copy of the retired note. The original amount of the note was \$175,000 principal. Through the years, we have paid \$126,415 in interest payments in addition to the principal, making an annual commitment of \$25,000 for this note alone. This is the start of a year of momentous decisions to be made by our community, and it is really very exciting to see the future of Ransom Canyon. (M. Verett's note)

1994-95 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT: Reid Warner of Mason Warner Co., P.C. presented the audit for last year. He presented both the regular audit, plus supplemental reports of graphs and comparison charts. A "clean opinion" letter was issued. Reid stated that the water revenues were up, but the water usage was up accordingly. There was a bobble for the adjustment for Buffalo Lake resulting from the accruals and final resolution of that lawsuit. Reid stated that the expenses and revenues are all within standards for a city our size. Our major expenses are for utilities, bond payments and payrolls, and our major revenues are for water and taxes. The Cops Grant added this year offset the additional expense incurred for the second policeman. The delinquent taxes are only \$2,170 total, for thirty years of collecting taxes. This is incredible.

Reid stated we are handicapped from an internal control standpoint because our staff is small. The key is our active city council. Reid stated "all is cool." Next year's audit will look very different because we will have paid off our long term debt. The audit is available at city hall for public examination. Charles Burford moved to accept the audit, Inez Speed seconded, all approved.

ORDINANCE # 135: NO PASSING ON THE FRONT HILL. Chief Short explained that common sense would prevail in his enforcement of this ordinance. Charles Burford

had received comments from the public with concerns about traffic congestion from sightseers, and Ken Williams stated that Bill Green had also received public comments expressing concern about the application to pedestrian traffic. John Sims stated that he had not seen the ordinance. The front hill is not striped. Charles Burford moved to pass the ordinance, Ken Williams seconded the motion, all approved.

ORDINANCE # 136: RAIN GUTTERS REQUIRED FOR ZERO LOT LINE

GARDEN HOMES: Gutters will be required to the roof on the zero lot line of the Garden Homes, and down spouts are required to insure that storm water runoff did not run onto neighboring property. So moved by Charles Burford, second by Inez Speed, all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY SUPERVISOR: Wayne Gentry brought a new issue before the council concerning the maintenance of the main water reservoir for the city. He had been approached by a company that will send divers into the tanks to clean and inspect for corrosion or other damage, and could make repairs for items on the spot. Wayne explained that our water tanks had not been examined since 1983, and that they were due for major work to paint, examine for damage, etc., sometime in the next year or two. He presented a film that showed the method used by the diving company, and requested \$2950 to have the work done. The council asked if this were emergency repairs, and Wayne explained that it was not emergency at this time, but that the price would probably go up if we don't take advantage of the Billings, Montana crew that was traveling in the area. Also, Wayne felt that this work now would make repair or inspection work later not necessary. The council declined to allocate non budgeted funds, but advised Wayne to build it into his 1996-97 budget.

ACC: Ken Williams asked if Kim Bradford and Irene Ropas knew they had been appointed to the Architecture Control Board. Lee said he would arrange a meeting with the members.

TAX COLLECTOR: December 31 deposits were \$151,548 which is a 52% collection rate, as compared to a 68% (\$198,427) rate at the same time last year. By January 9, 1996, \$85,604 had been received, leaving \$64,178 still outstanding. Reminder letters have been mailed. The low collection rate illustrates the ripple effect of the late bill printing and delivering from the Appraisal District. Two weeks has made a crucial difference. Collections are not as high as last year, neither is earned interest

POLICE: Ray delivered his police report. No questions.

COURT CLERK: Melissa reported three new cases this month. Appeals bonds were provided and the cases, all one individual, are all being appealed to county court. There are five active cases. One is taking defensive driving, three are serving deferred adjudication, and one is making time payments.

FIRE DEPT: Wayne Rawls reported no fire or medical calls. They have elected new officers which were accepted on Inez Speed's motion and Charles Burford's second.

LIBRARY: Kim Copeland reported 134 patrons, 84 children and 50 adults. 40 books are in circulation and 10 movies. The children sold many note cards, and Kim expressed her thanks to everyone who purchased cards. Don Durland is the artist who first made the sketches of the Ransom Canyon landmarks. Kim expressed thanks to the Charles Burfords who had donated the books that were the latest Bluebonnet award winners.

Lee Kitchens announced that Commissioner James Kitten had located an old mailbox that can be used as a library book drop box. He is making repairs to the old mailbox, but we will eventually have a nice drive up book depository.

POA: Donna Ricks announced the light contest winners. # 1 - Bradford's, # 2 Pritchett's, # 3 Wilton and Maisie McDonald, and Honorable Mention to the Golledges.

Wes Long has resigned as a POA board member, so current board members are now Chip Polk, Karen Bornick, Donna Ricks, Allen Butler, Bruce Bradford and Martin Harms.

OPEN FORUM: Nothing

ADJOURN: Approved on Charles Burford's motion and Inez Speed's second.

Melissa Verett