

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2000  
MINUTES

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was held at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, October 10, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Leon Whetzel at 7:00 P.M. Council members present were Earl Starks, Sandra Jones, David Peterson, Robert Englund and Inez Speed.

Mayor Whetzel had made various corrections to wording in the minutes, and clarified on p 2 paragraph 7, that the outflow is 3 9/16 inches, rather than 3 5/8 inches. The minutes had been corrected prior to publication. Inez Speed moved to approve the minutes as printed, Robert Englund seconded the motion, all approved.

The year's final revenues and expenses were examined in the financial report. Expenses were higher, but so also were revenues. Sewer repairs were higher, but labor was less with personnel changes. Prior to the final audit adjustments, this year ended almost right on budget, and money is set aside in the reserve funds for future Capital projects. David Peterson moved to approve the report, Sandra Jones seconded the motion, all approved.

At this point the council adjourned to executive session to discuss cases in litigation with the city attorney. They reconvened at 8:00 into open session, and took the following action relative to this discussion.

Earl Starks moved to authorize the City Attorney to draft a settlement agreement with Paul Harph's attorney, such language to include the regulation installation of a stop sign on Johnston Road. David Peterson seconded the motion. Earl Starks, David Peterson, Sandra Jones and Inez Speed voted yea, Robert Englund voted nay. Motion passed.

Wayne Rawls briefed the council on a junk vehicle located at 53 Parklane. Ordinance 42 requires notices, and Chief Rawls advised the council that everything had been done. The property owner will request at the November meeting that this vehicle be declared a nuisance. Wayne said the old vehicle would be sold for junk. No action was required by the council at this time.

Mayor Whetzel asked the council to approve his nominations for the Priorities Committee. He had chosen individuals who represented different areas of the city, different age groups and differing interests. The individuals who have agreed to serve are: Mary McConnell, David Guetersloh, Cindy Chitwood, Tonya Lange, Ron Howard and Kelly Litsch. Inez Speed moved to approve this committee, Sandra Jones seconded the motion, and all approved.

Mayor Whetzel charged the committee to conduct a study, beginning with a survey, to ascertain citizen priorities and goals for city development. This survey is subsequent to, and developmental of, the original survey report from the Long-Range Planning Committee in 1995. The Mayor requested the new committee to publish the survey, analyze the results, and provide a copy to the POA. The council wants to know what projects are important to the city residents, and what the citizens are willing to spend their tax dollars on.

Mayor Whetzel stated that many people have expressed concerns for quality-of-life improvements and willingness to spend more money for either taxes or fees in order to achieve these goals. Choosing the projects is the key. David Peterson asked if the committee would list or suggest items? Will the public be given an opportunity to make suggestions? Mayor Whetzel explained the committee would need ideas in order to find out what the people want. The first committee meeting is scheduled for October 17.

Mayor Whetzel delivered a water line status report. Bid notices will go to the Slatonite October 17, and the project will be awarded at the November council meeting. Construction will begin immediately per the contractor.

The lake is going down slower than expected. Harold Needham explained via memo to the council that they reached a point in turning the valve where it stuck. They did not force the valve further, fearing that

the mechanism would shear off in the "open" position. The November lowest level target may not be met, especially if it rains.

The building committee approved a deck on Surrey Circle, a landscape project on Arapaho and a house on Arapaho.

Harold Needham was absent due to a night school. Harold had earlier explained to the Mayor that his department was stressed for manpower, with many projects and emergency repairs. The council discussed the caliche road that leads from Parklane to the RV parking area. This is a dusty road, but it is not on city land. LRC Inc owns this land, so the city really cannot spend money on it. The fence at the sewer plant was nearly finished.

The biggest news is that L.D. Price attended water sewer school and passed his examination to get his Class D license. Pat Cooke at TNRCC administered the exam. After all these years, finally L.D. has his license. TNRCC requires that Ransom Canyon have two licensed operators. L.D. is now our second licensed operator. Congratulations and thanks to L.D.!

The Fire Department had no calls in spite of extreme heat and dryness. 2 medical calls. On Sept 16 our department participated in the honor guard funeral service for the Idalou Asst. Fire Chief. Rand reported that this service was very impressive. November 11 is the next pancake breakfast. Rand displayed their newest piece of equipment, a hose washer. Their new water wall device has been tested and works. Bunker gear will now be kept on the trucks.

The police department has been busy. Both officers traveled to New Mexico to pick up a runaway teenager. Mayor Whetzel and the city council received a letter of thanks from the Ransom Canyon parents, and he passed the commendation for service along to both police officers. Good police work.

Both vehicles are marked and are now highly visible.

Ransom Canyon is the recipient of a State of Texas Grant for DUL We will receive a video camera and a breathalyzer for one car. Our requirement is to use the equipment four times a year.

The library Christmas Card program is going well. October 21 is the Canyon wide POA garage sale.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion from Inez Speed and second from Earl Starks.

Melissa Verett  
City Administrator