

Minutes  
Ransom Canyon City Council  
Tuesday, October 10, 2006

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Robert Englund. The meeting was held Tuesday night, October 10, 2006 at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, # 1 Ridge Road, in Ransom Canyon.

Aldermen present were Ron Cox, Donna Clarke, Kevin Carlson, Jack Randorff and James Overby. After the Mayor called the meeting to order, he called for a moment of silent meditation.

MINUTES: Minutes of meetings on September 26 and September 19 were approved on a motion from Ron Cox, second from Jack Randorff. All voted aye.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND CLAIMS AND DEMANDS: Donna Clarke moved to approve these reports, and Ron Cox seconded the motion. All voted aye.

4. 11% INCREASE: The City of Lubbock is increasing their rate for water purchase by 11%. The new price for water will be \$1.53, which is a 16 cent increase. Jack Randorff moved to accept this increase from the City of Lubbock, and to pass this increase through to Ransom Canyon customers as a "pass-through," with no add-on to the new rates. James Overby seconded the motion, all approved and the motion passed.

5. Variance request for dryer vent. Erika Hoeve explained to the council that in her new house, the clothes dryer is installed against an interior wall, with plans to vent to the garage. Harold said the code read that clothes dryers must vent to an outside wall. Erika explained that because of the cement and rebar in the walls and ceilings, venting to an outside wall would not be possible.

Erika asked the council if she could install a "wet-vent", which discharges lint into a container that attaches to the back of the dryer. Billy Williams, Master Plumber and Electrician, was at this council meeting. Billy explained that these devices were being used extensively in the local area.

There was much discussion about the house plan, the request, the code, and the proposed solution. James Overby was concerned that there were two issues. 1., is this variance a one-time fix, and 2, does the council need to amend the code to say ok for a wet trap.

Harold said Lubbock amended their code to allow venting to the attic. Donna Clarke said to refer the matter to city attorney John Sims. John Sims said that the city could get a release from the Hoeves, but that release would not bind the next owner. There was discussion about taking the material data sheet back to the building committee, and then come back to the council next month, but no motion was made to require this from the Hoeves.

In the end, the council asked Erika to obtain data on the “wet vent” device, take it to Harold, who could allow it if he wanted to.

New Police Officer: Police Chief Wayne Rawls introduced new Police Officer Rick Vasquez. Rick lives five minutes away in Buffalo Lake. He has sixteen years as an officer. He is married with two children; one youngster is five years old.

6. TX Warn Mutual Aid Interlocal Agreement. Kevin Carlson made a motion to approve this mutual aid agreement. Ron Cox seconded the motion, all voted aye.

7. Training: National Incident Management System and Incident Command System (NIMS). This Training for City Officials is required by law in the event the city is involved in a National Emergency that requires aid from national agencies. Mayor Robert Englund and City Administrator Melissa Verett attended this all day training which was held at the Lubbock Salvation Army, and both Englund and Verett passed exams for courses IS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System; IS 200, Basic Incident Command System; and IS 700, National Incident Management System. Ransom Canyon is now in compliance with these NIMS Requirements. These Certificates were submitted to Chief Wayne Rawls to be included in the EOC Disaster Plan documents.

8. The Building Committee has not met to review any plans this month.

10. Department Reports.

Fire Chief Rand McPherson reported zero fire calls. Oktoberfest supper will be October 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Great Dinner is planned.

Rand also announced that Ransom Canyon will be hosting the basic EMT training here at our facilities. James Stone will be heading this effort, which will get our people certified in a 9-month/ 1 year training.

Rand also reported that he was in charge of the Titanic exhibit that is now being held at the Science Spectrum. All were invited to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity to see this exhibit.

There was no library report.

Harold reported no update on the aerial spraying for mosquitoes. Licensing is a long process for Greg the pilot. Greg did pass his test, and the Pest Control Board was reviewing his million dollar liability policy for compliance.

Buffalo is draining their lake in order to facilitate dock repairs. Harold took lake samples before the draining began, and will take samples again in January.

The council wanted Chief Rawls to contact Buffalo’s lake weir repairman to ask him to come do repairs on our weir. After some discussion, the council agreed to fund this repair with the \$50,000 Dam Repair Expense Budget Item (520-5005.)

Police Chief Wayne Rawls reported that the Texas Health Department had identified 6 cases of West Nile Virus and one death in East Lubbock. There is also an unexplained death of a deer and of a fox. The deer was on Sunset Lane. Foxes are subject to Parvo and

Rabies. A few years ago Parvo wiped out the fox and raccoon population. A Parvo test costs \$600. Cats are subject to feline distemper.

Chief Rawls reported that 3 of 4 junk vehicles have been removed from a local residence that was under order to clean up the property. Because progress has been shown, Chief Rawls has not proceeded with the hearing.

The POA had no report.

Under Old Business, Mayor Englund commented that Pilot Greg is waiting for his insurance, and there was no motion to proceed with the interlocal agreement. Robert reported that a South Plains Telephone representative had contacted him about the proposed WI-FI enterprise. South Plains is planning some wireless offerings in the near future and they would appreciate the opportunity to present their case to the city before the city went into competition with them. Robert commented that a main concern of his was security. James Overby commented that he was concerned about the technology and the business model. Kevin Carlson expressed concern about the expense. Ron Cox commented that the city's financial reserves might be needed for water and sewer line infrastructure repair that is not yet on the drawing board, but that we know will be necessary to be addressed in the near future. Dr Cox pointed out that the city's cash reserves should not be spent for this hi-tech item, because it was his belief that people want basic services, and reserves should be maintained for basic service emergencies.

Kevin Carlson commented that WI-FI is a common technology, and that it will take time to achieve a return on this investment.

James Overby said that there are a number of benefits, perhaps better if we could "piggy-back" on an existing system. He questioned Blue Moon's proposed business model.

Mayor Englund wrapped up the discussion by asking James Overby to speak to the representatives at South Plains Telephone.

City Council Training is planned for the morning of November 4. Ron Cox said he could not attend, and requested that he be sent the DVD training video instead. Robert Englund, Jack Randorff, Kevin Carlson and teacher Donna Clarke plan to attend. James Overby has attended the TML meeting on training for new councilmen.

Open Forum: Several items were discussed during this period, but no action was taken on any of them.

- Linda Williams is managing the Christmas Home Tour. December 14.
- Judge Gary Bellair commented that he would not write a city law, specifically, a law that involved the operation of golf carts. It would be inappropriate for him to write a city law because he might be called on to render judgment for a violation of that law. .
- Police Chief Wayne Rawls reported that non-licensed, underage drivers are operating a golf cart that is street-legal. He has not written a citation for this

because the law is unclear. The Chief would like to have a Ransom Canyon law that addresses this situation.

- There was a complaint about bicycles going down the front hill at a high rate of speed. .
- The Police Chief commented that he can't radar these bicycle operators, but that he had asked the organization to ask their members to slow down.
- Jack Randorff asked Harold to contact Bernie Gradel about the blowers at the sewer plant.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett