

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 14,2000 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the City Council for the Town of Ransom Canyon was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Leon Whetzel. Council members present were David Peterson, Sandy Jones, Steve Oldham and Robert Englund. Inez Speed joined the meeting in progress as she was election judge and the polls did not close until 7:00 P.M. The meeting began after a brief moment of silence.

The Mayor reviewed additional information for the councils reading pleasure including the Energas price increase filing with the railroad commission, Estacado water study report, and a filing class opportunity for Linda and Darla to attend.

The minutes of the February meetings (February 8 and February 14) were approved, after a typo was noted by Mayor Whetzel, on a motion from Robert Englund, and second from David Peterson. All approved, motion passed.

The financial report was examined. Mayor Whetzel explained that the revenue from South Plains Electric Coop has not been received, and should be approximately \$4,000. Darla Sommeneyer will invoice them for SPEC'S share of the road resurfacing. The Mayor noted to the council that the tax collection was at 97%, which was extremely good. Robert Englund had a question concerning the low interest received from Smith Barney in the month. Mayor Whetzel and Darla will examine the interest rate and report back to the council concerning the lower amount. The council did approve the financial report on a motion from David Peterson and second from Robert Englund.

Item #4- Interlocal agreement with the TML-The city received a request from the TML, concerning the TML-GBRP trust which was for 20 years and had expired, to transfer the current assets from the TML-GBRP to the new trust of the TML-IEBP, TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool. The city was assured by the TML that the only changes were the name and logo, all other items (board of Directors, mission statement, and assets) would remain the same. They also iterated that this was a necessary formality for Ransom Canyon to continue in the TML risk pool. This is a standard event, and Robert Englund moved to approve, David Peterson seconded the motion, all approved.

Item #5- Ordinance 166, Ransom Road Speed Limit. The Council next considered the issue of placing a speed limit on the front road at 45 m.p.h. The current speed limit is 70, the maximum the state allows for an unmarked road. The Mayor noted for Inez Speed that she was opposed. Wayne spoke concerning the safety factors and the state law. There were three or four accidents on the road in the last 3 years. Additionally the speed limit past the stop sign is 35 MPH and the state does not like for the speed to change ~ in increments more than 15 mph. Sandra Jones ask why is it a concern now and Mayor Whetzel responded with we just received deed to the road and it becomes a liability factor for the city, as to what is a safe speed. Sandra pointed out that she had not seen excessive speed on the road and wondered what was the average speed of traffic and were we imposing a speed limit to be enforced or to make residents aware of what a safe speed on the road was. David Peterson stated he had talked to several residents and they were opposed to posting a 45-MPH speed limit. Robert Englund suggested we do a month long study of the average speed, the Mayor advised Wayne Rawls to do a study over the next month and report at the next council meeting.

Mayor Whetzel briefed the council concerning the easement agreement between Jack Chapman and Lynn Burton. Mr. Chapman elaborated on the need for the agreement and some of its point. The agreement states Mr. Chapman can build his driveway on Mr. Burton's property and have first purchase rights, if Mr. Burton decides to sell the property. Lawyer John Sims stated this was a matter between property owners and did not impact the city. Mayor Whetzel stated it was a no action item, and since the building committee had approved Mr. Chapman's plans, all was in order for the building permit to be issued.

Item #7-Ordinance 167 - Ban on wood roofs-Amendment to Ordinance 113. Mayor Whetzel presented the need for the ban on wood roofs, citing the article he had written for the Echo, and his discussion with insurance agent and claim agents as to the amount of devastation a wood shingle roof can cause to the community. Additionally, he stated that the fire department had requested the ban, to lower the city's ISO rating. The three major problems when we received the city ISO rating were 1. No fire truck on the south side of the canyon. 2. Small water lines, and 3. An ordinance allowing wood roofs. He also stated that many cities in Texas have instituted a ban on wood roofs, and that Wayne Gentry had observed that in the nine years that the city has allowed composite roofs, no wood roofs had been built. Wayne Rawls spoke on behalf of the fire department stating that the ISO had a few other conditions, one being the appointment of a fire marshal and another the increase in hose and nozzle size to handle more water volume. He pointed out these issues have been corrected. Additionally at the time of inspection the percentage of wood roofs was 6.1% and if the city passed the ordinance the fire department would request another inspection to hopefully reduce the insurance rates. David Peterson asked if we passed the ban on wood roofing material, would it guarantee a lower insurance rate. The answer was there is no guarantee. Earl Starks of the community stated that he did not see a reason to take away the option of the owners, since no one had used wood shingles since composition had been allowed and that wood was much more expensive, thus further discouraging people from installing wood roofs. Donna Ricks of the POA stated she had seen whole communities in California burn because of a fire spreading by jumping from wood roof to wood roof. She was in favor of the ordinance for the protection of the citizens of Ransom Canyon. Robert Englund made a motion to accept the ordinance for the good of the community. Sandy Jones and Steve Oldham seconded the motion. David Peterson reiterated that our priority is the safety of the community with the hope of an insurance reduction. Ordinance # 167 passed.

The Building Control Committee approved four sets of plans. The first on February 14 for Maritza Milan, an add-on at 8 Comanche Lane, and the second for Ricky Brazell a spec house at 5 Coyote Circle. On February 28 the plans were approved for Jack Chapman's house on 11 East Canyon View. Additionally on March 6, a house for J.E. Seay was approved for 8 West Canyon View.

Department Reports: Mayor Whetzel gave the water and wastewater report. Stating it was a quiet month with an exception of a leak in the main line, however there was enough water in the storage tank to prevent the residents from having a lack of water. Also, they had a water valve not functioning properly over last weekend, which caused some residents low water pressure, this has been repaired. The city council expressed concerns over the excessive trash in the dumpsters and people piling the trash around the dumpsters when they are full. The council had numerous suggestions and the Mayor was going to speak with Wayne Gentry concerning a possible solution.

Wayne Rawls reported on behalf of the fire department. They had one medical call in the month of February, a traffic accident and no fires. He also stated they had held a storm spotter school for local storm spotters, which was a success. An additional note, this is the first time since weather has been tracked in this area which we have had three hail events in February.

Police Chief Wayne Rawls reported a quiet February with one traffic accident on the back hill which sent five people to the hospital, however they were treated and released. The police also aided in the fatal traffic accident on Hwy 3523. He mentioned numerous false alarm calls due to the high wind.

The Mayor read the library information provided by Kim Copeland concerning the Easter egg hunt on April 20th. Also, the summer reading club is scheduled for June 10th, 17th, and 24th. She also wanted to remind parents the library has many books for the accelerated reader program.

Donna Ricks reported for the POA. The pool will open Memorial Day weekend. They will start closing on Mondays and have increased fees. They are looking for an adult manager for the pool. She reminded everyone the annual meeting of the POA would be on April 3, 2000 at 7:30 P.M. at the Roosevelt High School mini auditorium. This year board members Durham, Ashley, and Conejo have expired terms. Stating that Conejo is not going to run again, and if you nominate someone please ask him or her first. They want to add to their bylaws an attendance requirement for board members. On the agenda for next year is a walking bridge, and a new party house.

Under Open Forum, Mayor Whetzel announced that the City of Lubbock was petitioning to increase the sludge dumping on their farmland from the Loop 289 to Ransom Canyon. We have protested and there is a hearing on March 24, 2000 at 10:30 at the Lubbock City Council Chambers. The Mayor and John Sims will attend the hearing. The Mayor encouraged other members of the council and community to attend if possible. Additionally he discussed the possibility of sending a letter to residents to inform them of the proceedings. Oldham stated that if the sewage treatment plant had a problem after this was approved, there is a possibility of raw sewage being dumped in our back yard, so to speak.

Mayor Whetzel informed the council the old building and the cement slab had been removed. Inez Speed thought the slab was going to be left to park and wash vehicles on, the decision was changed due to the water flow.

Steve Oldham expressed a concern the street sweeper was not doing a good job around the comers and there was still gravel in the intersections. The City Council was reminded a month of street sweeping needed to be dropped in order to be in budget on the line item. March was suggested as a month to drop due to high winds and dust. Oldham also wanted to know if the City could do anything about the rocks and debris from the Mark Lawson lot at Foothill and Johnson road. The Mayor will discuss this with Wayne Gentry.

Pam and Rick Bagwell expressed concern over having to pay the cost of moving their fence in order for the city to install the new water line, and wanted to see a copy of the easement agreement. They are going to come by the city hall and look at the easement.

The council retired into executive session to discuss matters in litigation with the city attorney.

The council reconvened into open session and took no action relative to the closed meeting. David Peterson moved to adjourn, Robert Englund seconded the motion and all agreed. The meeting adjourned.

Darla Sommermeyer  
City Secretary