

MINUTES - CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 16,2001

The regular City Council meeting was held July 16, 2001, the third Monday of the month at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, I Ridge Road. Mayor Robert Englund, and Aldermen Earl Starks. David Peterson and Inez Speed were present. Aldermen Kyle Ashley and Leon Whetzel were absent.

Mayor Englund called for a moment of silent meditation, then called for ratification of the June Minutes. Inez Speed moved to approve. David Peterson seconded the motion. all approved. Under Claims and Demands, Robert Englund asked about the high cost of building repairs for the year. Harold explained that the latest bill was to repair the air conditioning, prior to that monies were spent to repair damage done by a skunk. Inez Speed questioned an expense of \$50 to Natalie Price. Robert Englund explained that a donation had been received with specific request that the money go directly to Natalie for her scholarship fund. The check was cut directly to Natalie as the donor requested.

David Peterson requested a pause for a moment to confer with Wayne Rawls. After the pause, during which time no city business was conducted, David explained that Wayne Rawls had recently built a storage building on his property. Wayne Gentry inspected the building and did not approve the way the stairs were constructed. Wayne Rawls rebuilt the stairs. Harold Needham researched the UBC book and was of the opinion that the stair construction was okay to begin with. David made a motion to reimburse Wayne Rawls the \$560 it cost to rebuild the stairs. Inez Speed seconded the motion.

During discussion David commented that the city should be responsible for misinformation from the city's representatives. Inez Speed made a second motion to reimburse Wayne Rawls, David Peterson seconded the motion.

Earl Starks commented that \$560 is pricey, and asked how Wayne arrived at that figure for a storage building stairwell. Wayne Rawls explained that he modified the wall and electrical wiring, all had to be rerouted. This was not a flimsy staircase, and it took two days.

David Peterson asked if this action should be referred to John Sims. Inez Speed asked why should it, and David asked if it would set a precedent, or if it were a moot point. Gentry said it was wrong. Harold said it was okay.. So David said he wished to amend his motion to pay Wayne Rawls, provided John Sims approved.

Inez Speed approved David's amendment. Robert called for a vote on the modified motion, all approved.

There were no other comments on the financial report, and the report and Claims and Demands were approved on a motion from Inez Speed and a second from Earl Starks. All approved.

There was much discussion over the water line easement on the Comanche Lane property, as to where the property owners could/should construct fences or other structures. The final word is that the City retains all rights to access the utility easements. Robert will send letters to any complaining citizens.

Earl Starks made a motion to pay engineering expense to Bernie Gradel at Hugo Reed for West Lake Shore Drive street repair, and seal coat. David Peterson seconded the motion and all approved. There is a hold on the Mescalero Road/Sioux Trail street repair while Harold visits with Bernie Gradel about this. Harold is to ask Allen Butler if he thinks we need an engineer at this time. Work has been placed on hold. The dam repair is to start the next fiscal year. According to the TNRCC letter concerning repair and maintenance to the dam, any major reconstruction must be engineered. Repair work does not need engineering.

According to the Preliminary 2001/2002 Proposed Budget, the tax rate will increase to .62 cents, up .05 cents, the water rates will increase \$2.05, with a \$7.65 base increase, the sewer rates will increase \$10.10 to a flat rate of \$20.10 per month, and garbage rates will increase \$3.00 to a flat rate of \$15.00 per month.

Harold requested to be a part of the interviewing/hiring committee for the new Water/Wastewater employee. The council agreed to this, and stated that the Hiring Policy that has already been adopted needed to be reviewed.

Wayne Rawls reported for the Police Department. The investigation of the July 7, 2001 fire at the Kenneth Duke residence has shown arson to be the cause of the fire. Samples have been sent to the lab to determine the chemical base used to start the fire. The Ransom Canyon Police Department will lead in the investigation of the arson. Wayne wanted to put the council on notice that there would be some added expense incurred by the police department because of this investigation. Wayne cannot give further information because of the ongoing investigation. Because of safety concerns, the council decided unanimously to have John Sims write a letter to the Dukes about demolishing the remaining structure on their Property. David Peterson voiced his concern that we need to have one media spokesperson for Ransom Canyon. Earl Starks volunteered to be the spokesperson. Mayor Robert Englund commended James Hill for the fine way he handled the news media with the fire issue.

Harold stated that everything was in his written report except for the tree watering. It takes one employee almost two days to water the trees. The air vents that were installed in the pump house helped to cool it.

Mayor Robert Englund commended the Fire Department for an excellent job in controlling the July 7, 2001 fire. Rand McPherson gave the Fire Department report. He expressed his thanks to the Roosevelt and Buffalo Fire Departments for their quick response and help in fighting the fire. He also reported other monthly activity and advised the council that the Fire Department had extra expenses for pager batteries, a forced entry tool, replacement helmet for Steve Oldham, and 12 tanks that needed to be serviced at \$ 65.00 per tank due to the fire. A pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, July 21st.

David Peterson made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Inez Speed. Meeting adjourned.

Linda Williams