

## MINUTES

7/22/05

**CALLED MEETING AND BUDGET WORK SESSION**

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council met for a called meeting and a budget work session at 7:15 PM on Friday night, July 22, 2005. This meeting was held at the Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive, Ransom Canyon.

Present: David Peterson, Mayor Robert Englund, Donna Clarke, Ron Cox and Dick Hulslander. Earl Starks was absent.

Mayor Englund announced that the mosquito situation had worsened. The scheduled aerial spraying application had been delayed for ten days due to an engine malfunction, and during this time the mosquitoes just became worse and worse. On Tuesday, July 19, David and Harold stayed until nearly midnight spraying the Canyon and experimenting with equipment that the city was considering. The airplane did spray at 8:00 AM Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>. At the time of the meeting, the mosquitoes were better. But Mayor Englund explained that the city had received numerous complaints. The mosquito situation seemed to be a point of genuine concern for the public, as evidenced by many phone calls to city hall, and also by the personal experience of the city council members. David had researched the expense for buying fogging equipment, and he gave an in depth report on the products and equipment to be purchased.

David recommended that the city purchase a Cougar Sprayer (fogger) for \$8495., and a Backpack sprayer (granule and liquid capabilities) for \$695. He also recommended that the city purchase three chemicals for the remainder of 2005. Anvil, 3 applications = \$882. Vectobac 60 acres = \$1290, and Agnique (oil film) = \$234, for an initial chemical investment of \$2406, and a total projected cost for 2006 of \$7218.

David considered two types of foggers. The Cougar Sprayer has a 7.5 Briggs & Stratton motor. It has 2 computerized control panels. It records how many gallons are put out, the speed of the vehicle. It has a radar gun on the machine, and this automatically calculates the output of the chemical. The backpack is good for the meadow area where the truck may not be able to drive.

Anvil is an adulticide with a 4 day residual.

Agnique and Vectobac are both larvacides. Agnique has no residual. It is specific to mosquitoes. It is safe for dogs and cats and birds. It is not a petroleum distillate. David explained that Bt's (bacillus thuringiensis) will kill no beneficial insects.

David explained that the fogger will be used at night, when the other beneficials will not be out. Ron Cox was concerned with limiting inorganic treatments. David agreed that the best treatment was to use BT's on the larvae. The spray will be used when the mosquitoes have grown to adults, and there is a need to spray. David commented that there are 75

species of mosquitoes. Standing water does not have to be present, some species of mosquitoes live in tree bark.

Harold is licensed to apply this chemical and operate the equipment. There will be no poison in people's yards. The larvicide's will be placed in water in the park, the flats, Brookhollow and the meadow.

This program is meant to supplement the aerial spraying. It might reduce the number of times the airplane is called on. It definitely will improve the quality of life in Ransom Canyon due to pesky mosquitoes. The pass through expense to the customer is \$2.25 per month. Mosquito control is important in the prevention of many diseases including West Nile Virus and heart worms in dogs.

Dick Hulslander moved to follow David recommendation to purchase the equipment and the chemicals. Ron Cox seconded the motion, and all approved. Dick Hulslander moved to pass this expense through to the customer through the water bill at \$2.25 per month for one year. Ron Cox seconded, all approved and the motion carried.

The council moved on to the budget meeting. They discussed the proposed increase in the water bill. Dick Hulslander moved to do three things.

1. Make the increase to the water bill \$1.00, instead of \$1.50 more. (\$2.29/3.29 per thousand instead of \$2.29/3.75 per thousand gallons) at the 15,000 gallon usage point.
2. Increase the tax rate 2 cents, making the rate \$.64.
3. Lower the contribution to the CIP savings to \$80K instead of \$100 K.

Everyone agreed with this plan.

Mayor Englund discussed some history of the city ordinances as they mirror or complement the Deed Restrictions. He explained the history of the Property Owners Association, their Deed Restriction that established the architect control committee, and the efforts that have been made through the years to live with these guidelines. The city does not enforce the Deed Restriction. Neither does the city grant permits that violate the Deed Restriction.

There was some discussion about fences in the canyon. The council noted that there were several fences that were over six feet high. Mayor Englund commented that efforts had been made by residents over the years to get along with neighbors. The city has not recently pressed an 8 foot fence issue, other than to require that the fence meet the building code, which requires structural stability, and is inspected by the building inspector.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett  
City Administrator

