

## Minutes 8-16-05

This meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council came to order at 7:00 PM, August 16, 2005, at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road, Ransom Canyon, Texas. Mayor Englund called the meeting to order. Council members present: Earl Starks, David Peterson, Dick Hulslander and Donna Clarke. The Mayor called for a moment of silent meditation.

1. GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE: The council discussed the health insurance proposals. Donna Clarke suggested that the city reimburse the employees for the additional \$500 if the city chose a \$1,000 deductible plan.

There was a good deal of discussion about participation in Health Savings Accounts, (HSA's). Dick Hulslander commented that as an administrator he had bad experience with the management connected with PacifiCare.

The council asked the employees, who were all present, what their preferences were. Wayne Rawls commented that he liked First Care. First Care's proposal exceeds the budget. Melissa said that with \$1000 deduct, Flex care would help recover tax with pre-tax savings. There was discussion about the extra administration that would be needed to oversee HSA activities.

Mary Brown boiled down many proposals from many companies into a spreadsheet that presented the best of the affordable plans. TML was represented on this sheet with three different deductible plans. TML providers are UMC and Covenant, no North Star or Heart Hospital. TML plans do not include were listed, but all three plans did not include Office Visits Co-pays.

Other companies on the spreadsheet were Unicare 500 Choice, United Health Care 500 , Aetna 500 , First Care 500, Unicare 1000, PacifiCare 1000 and United Health Care 1000. Each had high premiums for families. There was a mix of providers. Aetna had only UMC and the Heart Hospital. First Care had Covenant and UMC. Unicare had Covenant and UMC. (note: later we clarified that Unicare did not have UMC) Unicare 500 and United Health Care declared one premium for employee and family, when family coverage was indicated in the Health Questionnaires that everyone filled out (more than once) in this process.

The council gathered that the following things were important to the employees. Providers needed to include both Covenant and UMC. Office visit co-pays were needed. \$500 deductibles and lower Out of Pocket maximums. (OOP). Affordable family premiums. Predictable claims coverage. Two of eight employees were interested in Health Savings Accounts and possible associated income tax benefits.

After considerable discussion, Earl Starks made this motion. Award the bid to Unicare 500, and cap the employee payroll deduction at \$500 for family coverage. The city will pay the balance of the premium for family coverage. The city will pay the difference,

whatever it is. The family employee cost will be capped at \$500. This motion was made with the provision that Unicare 500 included providers at UMC. Dick Hulslander seconded the motion. All voted aye.

2. KIM COPELAND asked to be on the agenda to discuss her raise. She said that a 3% raise to her was only \$48 pr month. She said she was spending more time, and asked that the council consider a raise based on that. The city does pay Kim's FICA, but she does not have TMRS or health insurance benefits. The library is open 12 hours per week, but Kim estimates that she works 25 hours per week, which is an increase from 20 hours per week that was the basis of her pay. Kim commented that the cost of gasoline to Lubbock is a concern now. She said if the council did not want to increase her pay, she would understand, but she also could not afford to continue to create new programs that would continue to make the library grow. She had been considering a "Mommy and me" type of "Read to Me" program for the pre-K crowd. She made the case that her time through the seasons varies, but overall, the library was taking more time to operate.

The council thanked Kim for her service, but stated that it was late in the budget season, and that the budget had been set for this year. Kim said she would be back next year.

#### 4. NUISANCE ORDINANCE:

The council discussed Nuisance Ordinances. They considered the current ordinance that is in place, and the enforcement procedures that are used at this time.

Donna Clarke brought a copy of the Lubbock County nuisance ordinance, which she will adapt to Ransom Canyon and will distribute for consideration at another meeting. Police Chief Rawls explained to the council that while he is the Health Officer, he cannot go onto private property without a warrant. The Ransom Canyon Ordinance seems to imply that the City Secretary is the enforcement officer for nuisance abatement.

#### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

##### FAA LIGHTING AND TANK LETTERING

Jimmy McDaniel from Hugo Reed sent a list of questions from Caldwell tank. Two questions remained to be answered. The council voted to install the FAA approved lighting. This motion was made by David Peterson, second from Donna Clarke. In the vote, three voted aye. (Peterson, Clarke and Hulslander.) Earl Starks voted nay. Motion passed.

The second question concerned the lettering. The current price includes lettering on one side, facing the South West. Caldwell tanks wanted to know if the city wanted lettering on two sides. Earl Starks made a motion to delete all lettering, if the city could appreciate a savings of \$3,000. David Peterson seconded the motion. All council members voted aye, to leave the letters completely off, if a cost savings could be appreciated.

In OPEN FORUM, a message from Fred Jones was discussed. Mr. Jones requested that the council rescind the ordinance that prohibits water wells on private property. David Peterson asked if any council member would be willing to sponsor this item for the

regular monthly agenda. Earl Starks said he would sponsor the item and requested that it be put on the September agenda.

Chief Wayne Rawls reported to the council that his department is dealing with registration of golf carts as street –legal motorized vehicles, and operators that might not have driving licenses.

Harold Needham is fogging for mosquitoes, but they are still bad, so David Peterson said to call the airplane again.

Earl Starks moved to adjourn, Dick Hulslander seconded the motion, all agreed and the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett  
City Administrator