

**CITY OF RANSOM CANYON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 12,2000  
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Ransom Canyon City Council was held December 12, 2000 at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, I Ridge Road. Mayor Leon Whetzel brought the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council members present were David Peterson, Sandra Jones, Inez Speed and Robert Englund. Earl Starks was absent.

Minutes of the November 12 and November 27 meetings were approved on a motion from David Peterson, second from Sandra Jones. Unanimous approval.

The Financial Report was approved on a motion from Robert Englund, second from Inez Speed. Mrs. Speed did question the Energas utility bill being so high for the fire department. Wayne Rawls stated that the rate is higher, plus two firehouses must be kept warm enough to keep the vehicles emergency ready. Mr. Englund noted that under Roads and Grounds, \$1750 should be moved to the proper category for the purchase of the box blade. The vote to approve the report with these changes was unanimous.

Harold Needham attended building codes school, and passed his state exam. He is now the building inspector for the city. To recognize this accomplishment, the City Council agreed to increase his salary by \$ 100 per month. This unanimous approval on a motion from Inez Speed and second from Robert Englund. Funds for this increase will come from the merit fund account.

The audit for the city fiscal year that ended last September was presented to the council. The audit firm of JW. Anderson issued a clean audit statement. At the end of the year, the city fund balance increased \$6,000. David Peterson asked if the auditor was finished with the May assignment to review and comment on the state of the City as a result of the personnel changes. Melissa answered that the auditor issued a clean statement, which meant that the books were in order. Part of this process was to pick up on any long-term problems that would show up months after a personnel change. No problems had been identified that did not have a resolution, so the auditor was satisfied that the city was clean at this time. The bill for the work they did from May - September has been paid. Inez Speed asked if the auditor would continue to increase their bill each year. Melissa commented that next year might be a good year to go out for bids again. Mrs. Speed moved to accept the audit, David Peterson seconded the motion, all approved.

Early this year the city started payroll deductions in order to pay employee-chosen premiums for insurance programs purchased from AFLAC. Ransom Canyon needs city council approval, and to this end, Resolution # 67 was passed. This resolution recognizes that it is a benefit for the employees to have payroll tax deferred insurance premiums, and to do this, a cafeteria plan through AFLAC is established. AFLAC will do the paper work to file for this plan with the IRS, so the Resolution passed on a motion from David Peterson and second from Robert Englund.

Leon Whetzel reported no new progress from Bernie Gradel and Southwest Securities regarding the major capital improvement program that is currently being discussed. Bernie had some preliminary cost/needs projections, but Mayor Whetzel commented that it would probably be better served to consider in a worksession.

The preliminary contract has been prepared by John Sims for Buffalo Lake and has been sent to them for their review.

The building committee approved two new homes. One will be on Sunrise Lane, and the other will be on Sioux Trail. The committee and the building inspector also struggled with an issue of proper soil compaction being done on a landscape permit. One builder complained about another builder, who returned the favor, the result being that the committee ordered a halt to all work pending receipt of signed, sealed, engineering soil compaction studies.

Harold Needham asked the council if they wanted to look at a used generator for the water house. Inez Speed asked if the old Cadillac engine would run. Harold Needham answered that Bennie and L.D. said no. Harold also asked the council for clear instructions about what they wanted in the way of landscaping. David Peterson will work personally with Harold on this project.

Wayne Rawls issued the fire and police reports. The fire department will select officers in January. Volunteers are ready for the Home tour. Frenship Explorer scouts will assist. The fire department is planning to totally sponsor the July 4th picnic. The fire building is going to undergo some remodeling. It has been five years since repairs. The junk vehicle has been hauled away. The departments are mostly involved in traffic control for the light displays.

Librarian Kim Copeland reported that operation Christmas Card raised \$1508. Building repairs and new books are on tap. South Plains Electric Co. Donated \$100, and wants to feature the library in August.

Mayor Whetzel reported that he is in contact with the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group, in their planning for alternative sources of water for the South Plains. All agreed this was a beneficial back up plan for Ransom Canyon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Melissa Verett  
City Administrator