

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – June 14, 2016
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Jana Trew, John Schmersey, Lyle Way and Billy Williams. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Appointment of New Councilmember

Jana Trew made a motion to appoint Brandt Underwood to fill an unexpired term of Alderwoman Donna Clarke, who resigned from her position on March 9, 2016. Billy Williams seconded the motion. Brandt Underwood executed the Statement of Appointed Officer, and Judge Gary Bellair administered the Oath of Office to Brandt Underwood. A Certificate of Election was provided to Alderman Brandt Underwood.

3. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 16, 2016, were approved on a motion made by Jana Trew; seconded by Lyle Way; motion carried unanimously.

4. The Financials

The financial reports, including a financial investment report, and the May 2016 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

5. Fence Variance Request

A written request for a variance to rebuild a fence located on the east side of 53 East Canyonview Drive was approved on a motion made by Jana Trew, seconded by Brandt Underwood. Motion carried unanimously. The variance was granted to the homeowner due to some issues with a neighboring residence at 55 East Canyonview that sits vacant and is recovered by a bank. This property is dilapidated and recently had problems with overflow of its sewage. The homeowners next to the property and across the street were contacted for any comments regarding the variance. None of the homeowners opposed the variance.

6. Ordinance for Metal Buildings

The City Council discussed an ordinance for metal shops, metal storage, and metal buildings proposed by the Building Review Committee. Several Council members questioned why the square footage for permitting storage buildings changed from 200 square feet to 150 square feet in the proposed ordinance. Mary Brown mentioned that the committee was concerned about the size of storage buildings where residents park a vehicle. She also clarified that the Building Review Committee wanted an ordinance to

protect the aesthetics of the Canyon. Brandt Underwood asked how residents with carports would be held to a similar standard since they are becoming more prevalent in the Canyon. There was a significant amount of dialogue that took place among city council members regarding the topic. After much discussion, the topic was postponed indefinitely. Therefore, no action was taken.

7. Allowance for Residents to Openly Swim in the Lake

The City Council discussed allowing residents to openly swim in the Lake. In their discussions, Mayor Robert Englund reminded the City Council that there are all kinds of critters in the lake such as water moccasins that can pose a danger to residents if they are exposed. Lyle Way stated that people pay dues to the Property Owner's Association to utilize the swimming pool and these residents may not be willing to support the swimming pool if the City Council allows residents to swim in the Lake. Additionally, he addressed concerns of the additional traffic of trespassers coming out on weekends to the Lake. Elena Quintanilla told the City Council that she contacted Texas Municipal League Risk Pool regarding additional costs to our insurance and the liability. Although the current policy covers "drowning" at the swimming pool, its coverage extends to the Lake. The TML Risk Pool representative recommended that an area in the Lake be designated as a "swimming area" so that residents are not hit by a boat or jet ski. Billy Williams made a motion not to allow swimming in the Lake, and Lyle Way seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote. Jana Trew voted against the motion.

8. Request to Approve the Executive Assistant Position to a Full-Time Position

Elena Quintanilla asked the City Council to consider opening the position currently held by Kim Copeland as a full-time position upon her vacating the position. Quintanilla stated that prior to hiring Kim Copeland, the position was a full-time position; however, the City Council made an exception to reduce the hours of the position in order to hire Copeland. At this time, Quintanilla recommends to reinstate the position back to its original full-time status. John Schmersey made a motion to approve the Executive Assistant Position as a full-time position; Billy Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote. Jana Trew and Brandt Underwood voted against the motion.

9. Approval of an Addendum to the Contract with Venture Communications

Quintanilla mentioned that an addendum to the contract with Venture was drafted to request that Venture Communications renegotiate their franchise fee with the Town every two years. The addendum also allows room for competitors to provide services to residents by adding communication frequencies which were taken by Venture. Jana Trew made a motion to approve the addendum; Brandt Underwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

(At this point, Mayor Englund left the meeting, and Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew took over for the Mayor).

Administration: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

- ❖ She recently attended the Texas City Manager's Conference and Texas Municipal Clerks Meetings which were very informative.

- ❖ Elena asked the City Council if they would be interested in developing a Strategic Plan for upcoming years. The purpose of the plan is to lay out a strategy for planning capital projects in the future. Jim Bertram would conduct the strategic planning at a cost of \$1800.00 for the City Council.
- ❖ Elena would like to host an orientation session for City Council members. Brandt Underwood is new to the City Council, and this is an opportunity to educate him about the City services along with other members of the city council who have that interest. A date for the orientation will be established in the near future.
- ❖ A Texas Municipal League Quarterly meeting will take place on June 23, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Building in Lubbock. The City of Floydada is the host city, and Jana needs the support of the City Council since she serves as an Officer.
- ❖ City Council members were reminded to attend the first budget session on June 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ All City Council members were handed a TML Handbook which provides an overview of city council roles .

Court Report: Gary Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ One new parking citation issued.
- ❖ Two citations for violating a city ordinance have been dismissed and there is a current pending citation where the violator has not come to the court to discuss the citation. A reminder notice was issued to this individual on two occasions.

Operations: Harold Needham reported the following:

- ❖ Operations staff sprayed three times for mosquitos and will continue to spray if necessary.
- ❖ Harold attended a Building Inspection School in Arlington for a week.
- ❖ A letter will go out to the residents who are not in compliance with backflow prevention.

Police: James Hill reported the following:

- ❖ The Police Department will join efforts with the Property Owner's Association to host a family-friendly "Movies on the Island" on July 22, 2016. An alternate date for this event is July 24, 2016. This is an opportunity for the police department to demonstrate a sense of community with the residents.
- ❖ James will be attending the Alliance for Community Solutions (ACS) Leadership Summit to discuss strategies for emergency management with other professionals.
- ❖ The Town of Ransom Canyon now has a license to access I-Information which was provided by South Plains Association of Governments at no cost to the Town. This license will provide a tool to the Town that links to a notification system that could replace our current email system. This system will notify individuals on their cell phone via text regarding emergencies in the Canyon.
- ❖ James and Elena will meet with Dream Taxi, a website designer, regarding their services. The website services provided by Ron Gaddis will terminate in August

and James has visited with 3 providers regarding their services. The best option is Dream Taxi located out of Lubbock, Texas. They are the current internet provider for the City of Idalou and their costs are approximately \$3000 – \$5000 for website development with a \$25-\$35 monthly service fee.

Fire: Elena Quintanilla reported the following for Rand McPherson:

- ❖ There were no fire calls to report.
- ❖ There was only one medical call.

Library: Kim Copeland reported the following:

- ❖ The Summer Reading Program will have the Science Spectrum serve as guests. The benefits of the program are to motivate children to read.

10. Property Owner's Association (POA) Report and Citizen Comments:

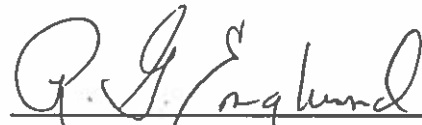
There was not report on behalf of the POA. James thanked the POA for allowing the police department to host the movie night on the island and for supporting them. Linda Williams reported that the Chapel has a new Life of Christ Memorial which includes a 7-foot Jesus that is holding a child. There were additional citizen comments from Eric Cisneros, a resident of the Canyon who was disgruntled by action taken by Chief of Police, James Hill, to inform his guests that they should leave the premises of the Lake since Mr. Cisneros was not at the site with his approximately 20 guests.

11. Adjournment


A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. was made by Billy Williams, seconded by Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 12th day of July, 2016

APPROVED:


Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:


Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary