

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2007**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING****BUDGET HEARING, CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES TAX RATE.**

If proposed rate generates more revenue than last year, Take record vote on tax rate and schedule public hearing.

This Regular Monthly City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Robert Englund. The meeting was held at the Ransom Canyon Fire Station, 1 Ridge Road, in Ransom Canyon. Council Members present: Jack Randorff, Donna Clarke and Jim Overby. Kevin Carlson was absent. Ron Cox was absent. Attorney Don Kidd was present, representing the city, because Attorney John Sims had a conflict and could not attend.

2. MINUTES of July 10 and July 17. For the July 17 Minutes, Jack Randorff requested that the last paragraph on page 7 be deleted, because the discussion about the fire trucks occurred at a time and place other than the called meeting held on July 17. His request was to delete the entire paragraph. With this change, Jack Randorff moved to approve the minutes. Jim Overby seconded the motion and these two councilmen voted aye. Donna Clarke abstained because she was absent from that meeting. (Kevin Carlson was present at the July 17 meeting, but was absent from this meeting, so could not vote.)

3. FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financials were in order. Motion to approve from James Overby, second from Donna Clarke. All voted aye.

5. A.,C. TAX VALUES AND RATES: Mayor Englund reported that the taxable value this year is \$96,860,994, the calculated effective tax rate is \$.62491, and the roll back rate is \$.65503.

5.B 100% COLLECTION RATE. Mayor Englund reported that the collection rate is 100%.

6. 2007 BUDGET HEARING: The printed budget was available for the audience. Robert Englund discussed the CIP, and commented that hopefully the Dam repair and water tank repair could be done this fiscal year, and not be carried over to the next, but these two engineering projects were expensive swings in the budget planning. The blowers are now running quietly, and Jack will document the sound level. If this is satisfactory, then new equipment for the blower mufflers will not be needed.

These CIP items were still in the budget, in the event that this issue was not resolved. Two fire engines that Rand McPherson found through Ferrara were in the budget. This item was \$120,000. The expense was emergency in nature because the two old engines both have problems.

A new siren is in the budget, to be located on the fire station. There was mention about the 5 year budget with planning for improvements to the city infrastructure.

There was no more discussion about the budget.

6.B: PROPOSED TAX RATE.

Given this budget as printed, Jack Randorff proposed a \$.63 tax rate. James Overby seconded, and all voted aye.

RECORD VOTE:

The Council members who voted aye were Jack Randorff, Donna Clarke, and James Overby. Kevin Carlson and Ron Cox were absent. Motion for \$.63 passed.

6.C: HEARING DATES: Because the proposed rate exceeded the notice and hearing limit, and would raise more taxes than last year, hearing dates were set. These dates are: Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 7:00 PM at the Fire Station, and Friday, September 7, 2007, 7:00 PM at the Fire Station.

The Planning Calendar was reviewed, and a budget work session was set for Monday, August 20th. (Jack Randorff said he had a conflict with the Tuesday, August 21.) Donna Clarke commented that the budget was too big and needed to be trimmed. She believed that 2 fire trucks were not needed, and that we have done well to avoid a bond election. She believed we needed the money in reserves and she asked to revisit and trim the budget.

7. TOWN HALL MEETING: Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Cox believed that and Town Hall Meeting format would be productive. Jack Randorff said he could do a power point presentation, and the meeting could be changed to the Ranch House. All generally agreed to hold this meeting in late August or early September, prior to the final adoption of the budget.

8. TML Health Insurance Re-Rate. TML rates for the employee insurance benefits increased very slightly, and would be within budget. The rates for the optional accident and life coverages went down. . The rates for Long and Short Term disability did not increase at all.

James Overby made a motion to accept the re-rate proposal for TML. Jack Randorff seconded, and all approved.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no Executive Session.

11. BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE:

July 24 meeting. The committee looked at plans for a home on West Brookhollow for George Rasura. The plans were well done, but erosion control issues would be challenging for this lot.

August 13 meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

OPERATIONS REPORT: Ransom Canyon received a prestigious award from TCEQ. The Total Coliform Rule Program Award for 2006 states that the city is recognized for effort, dedication and contribution made to the state and citizens of Texas in protecting public health. Congratulations and thanks go to Harold Needham and the Operations staff.

Harold Needham reported on several items. Work is being done on the back hill to try to prevent the erosion that is happening. House foundations are being exposed, and Harold will consult with civil engineering to get some more ideas to present to the council. The blowers at the sewer plant work well. They alternate per design.

Robert Englund commented that there is concern about water loss from unknown sources. He mentioned the companies that will come in and replace the old meters with new, with a guarantee that the cost will be recovered through more accurate measurement of water use. One million gallons per month is unaccounted for. Lubbock bills us \$1.53 per thousand gallons, so we are potentially losing \$1530 per month.

JUDGE GARY BELLAIR reported that the police had written one citation for dogs running at large, the owner had plead Nolo Contendere and is now paying the fine. A ticket was issued for erosion, and this citizen had paid the fine. Regarding the tickets for the ham antenna violations, court will begin on 6:30 Monday October 3. The Judge said that the court will try as many violations as the prosecutors want to try. Most of the time will be for jury selection, because the prosecutor had requested a jury trial. A sound system will not be necessary.

POLICE: Chief Rawls reported that the part-time officer is in training, and will be on his own beginning September 1. The new officer is Brian Gray. He has family in Ransom Canyon and he knows the city because he has served as a reserve officer for several years.

The Chief is looking for light suppliers for lights and for security cameras. He needs a wireless link for video DVR's. The cameras will go at the front and back entrances, and there will be new lights for these intersections.

International Diving Technologies sent their report and photos of the repair to the weir.

It is time for the 2010 census and we will be hearing much more about this issue for the next three years.

FIRE CHIEF RAND MCPHERSON reported 0 fire calls and 5 medical calls. Our newest EMT students are taking their national tests. All rotations and ER rotations are done. Some of the students want to go on to paramedic school.

Rand went to McAllen and found that the fire engine in question was unsuitable for our needs. He continued his search for engines and found 2 "sister" engines being sold by the Ferrara Company. Purchase of these two trucks would achieve several goals. The present engines are not totally functional. The old GMC has an unreliable electric system, and has been this way since it burned up in 1986. The LaFrance has a steel tank with a hole,

and this has caused it to rust. Both engines will pump from the fire hydrants, but we depend on two other trucks to carry water. Our ISO rating depends on total functionality of the two engines as both pumpers and water haulers. So if we could replace both trucks this would assure that our ISO rating will not suffer because of this.

Rand found 2 engines to replace the Chevy and the LaFrance. One is a 198y Used Pierce Arrow with 73062 miles, \$35,000 delivered. A new poly tank would be installed for an extra \$8,000. The second is a 1989 Beck Pumper with a 750 gallon poly tank, \$67,000 delivered.

These two engines are fully equipped. They have the same transmission and the same engines. The Beck truck will fit in the bay at the fire station. We can take everything off of the two trucks that will be traded in, including the water cannon.

Our current trucks would not certify, and this makes this purchase an emergency. That makes it possible to purchase without going out for bids. The council approved the deposit of 10% down right now, \$10,200, and they approved the letter of intent to purchase the equipment after the fiscal year begins. The budget that was approved at the August 14 work session approved \$120,000 for 2 fire engines. (See CIP budget that was published with the August 14 council package.)

This action was taken on a motion from Jack Randorff and second from James Overby. The vote was split. Randorff and Overby voted aye. Donna Clarke voted no. The action passed on this split vote.

POA. No report

OPEN FORUM: James Overby asked that the operations manual be revised to include guidelines about personal use of the FEMA trailer. The Mayor agreed to put this item on next month's agenda.

Mayor Englund reported that the Building Committee had requested a change to the Ordinance that requires builders to contact their neighbors prior to construction. The committee believed this contact should be done by the city.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Randorff, seconded by James Overby and all voted aye.

Melissa Verett