

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – September 17, 2012  
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Donna Clarke, John Schmersey, Jack Randorff, and Billy Williams. Jana Trew was out of town. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Budget Work Session #2, August 14, 2012; the Special Meeting, Tax Hearing, August 28, 2012; and the Special Meeting, Tax and Budget Hearing, September 10, 2012 were approved on a motion made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

3. The Financials

The financial reports and the August 2012 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Donna Clarke, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

4. Ordinance No. 12-00200, Adopting the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget

The 2012-2013 fiscal year budget, Ordinance No. 12-00200, was approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

5. Ordinance No. 12-00210, Fixing the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2012

Ordinance No. 12-00210, fixing the tax rate/levy for tax year 2012 at \$.65929 per \$100 of taxable value, \$.56661 for Maintenance and Operations and \$.09268 for Debt, was approved on a motion made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously. The motion was stated as follows:

“I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.65929, which is effectively a 1.87 percent increase in the tax rate.”

6. Independent Contractor Agreement for Library Services

A motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Independent Contractor Agreement for Library Services for fiscal year 2012-2013 was made by Donna Clarke, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

7. Official Ballot for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool, Board of Trustees

For Place 11: a motion to vote for Greg Ingham was made by Donna Clarke, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

For Place 12: a motion to vote for Larry Gilley was made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

For Place 13: a motion to vote for Byron Black was made by Jack Randorff, seconded by John Schmersey; motion carried unanimously.

For Place 14: a motion to vote for Pat Norriss was made by John Schmersey, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

8. Variance Request for Fence height of 7 feet

The variance request for a 7 foot fence at Block 20, Lots 82 & 83, was approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Billy Williams; motion carried unanimously.

9. Variance Request for Front Set-back

A variance request for up to six feet from the front set-back requirement of 35 feet was approved on a motion made by Jack Randorff, seconded by Billy Williams; motion carried unanimously. The variance was approved subject to final review by the city Operations Department that this will not interfere with any utility easements.

10. Setting a Speed Limit for the newly acquired portion of Ransom Road

Much discussion took place over what the speed limit should be for the newly acquired portion of Ransom Road. Chief Wayne Rawls' recommendation for the speed limit is 55 mph.

Billy Williams made a motion to set the limit at 55 mph, the motion was seconded by Donna Clarke; Billy Williams and Donna Clarke voted for the motion while John Schmersey and Jack Randorff voted against the motion. The Mayor broke the tie by voting again the motion; the motion failed.

Jack Randorff made a motion to set the limit at 50 mph, the motion was seconded by John Schmersey; Jack Randorff and John Schmersey voted for the motion while Billy Williams and Donna Clarke voted against the motion. The Mayor broke the tie by voting for the motion; motion carries.

An ordinance setting the speed limit at 50 mph will be place on the next city council agenda for consideration.

11. Resolution No. R12-001001, Designating an Official Newspaper

Resolution No. R12-001001, designating an official newspaper, the *Slatonite*, for the 2012-2013 fiscal year was approved on a motion made by Donna Clarke, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

12. Building Review Committee

The BRC met on August 27 to consider plans for new construction at Block 20, Lots 82 & 83; those plans were approved contingent on a six foot setback variance request from the City Council. That variance request was granted at this meeting.

### 13. Department Reports

**Administration:** Murvat reported the following:

- ❖ Murvat is busy finishing up the budget and tax process and closing out the fiscal year end.

**Court Report:** Gary Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ Court has two scheduled jury trials, both set for October 24, 2012.

**Operations:** Harold was not at the meeting but Murvat reported the following:

- ❖ The John Deere tractor is being repaired, the estimated cost is \$6,000.
- ❖ Staff sprayed for mosquitos with the ground unit on September 11, and our flying service will spray on or about September 20, weather permitting. Also, larvicide was used on September 13.
- ❖ We have lowered the floats on the West Lake Shore lift station, which seems to have helped. We have not experienced a stop up in 18 days.
- ❖ Cory Needham passed his Water A license. Cory now has an A license in both Water and Waste Water. There are less than 350 persons in the state of Texas with this combination of licenses. The entire staff cannot express how much the council's continuing support of education is very much appreciated.

**Police:** Wayne Rawls reported the following:

- ❖ One citation for public intoxication was issued.
- ❖ Two warnings were issued, one for failure to stop at a stop sign and the other for peddling without a permit.
- ❖ The city needs to review and update the peddlers permitting process. There have been recent changes in this area and our ordinance is dated and needs revising.
- ❖ Wayne will be in a police chief's school all next week.
- ❖ Recently there have been several thefts from storage sheds around town. The persons involved have been identified and an investigation is in process.

**Fire:** Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ There were four medical calls in August.
- ❖ The VFD responded to one fire call, as assist in Buffalo.
- ❖ We have received \$10,000 from the Texas Forest Service in an emergency grant for repair of the fire truck that cost the city over \$25,000.
- ❖ The VFD has applied for a grant for bunker gear, they are asking for 12 sets.
- ❖ The VFD has also applied for a grant to receive a thermal imaging camera.
- ❖ The Texas EMS conference will be held in November in Austin. Several of the volunteers have expressed an interest in attending.

**Library:** Kim Copeland reported the following:

- ❖ Kim is working hard to spend the last bit of money left from the CH Foundation Grant. Part of that entailed purchasing a touch screen computer and four Kindles.
- ❖ Kim will look into an alarm system for the Library to ensure all the newly purchased, expense equipment is safe.

14. POA Report and Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Jackie Lindsey announced that Pat Sykora and Helen Musiak will not be running for board position when their terms expire next year. Pat is the current board president and Helen is the current secretary.

15. Adjourn

- ❖ A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. was made by Billy Williams, seconded by Jack Randorff; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012

APPROVED:

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Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Murvat Musa, City Secretary