Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting – August 11, 2015

Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Jana Trew, Donna Clarke, Lyle Way, Billy Williams, and John Schmersey. A moment of silent meditation followed.

1. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 14, 2015 was approved on a motion made by Billy Williams, seconded by Donna Clark; motion carried unanimously.

1. The Financials

The financial reports and the July 2015 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by John Schmersey, seconded by Donna Clarke; motion carried unanimously.

1. Internet Service to South Lake Shore Drive

Brett Butler made a presentation to the City Council as an information item to provide some options for an internet wireless that will accommodate the canyon. Mr. Butler is an employee for south Plains Rural Health Services and handles their Information Technology for Levelland, Lamesa, and Big Spring. Mr. Butler can provide 1.4 Gigabytes of internet from the Canyon to 200 Broadway and would like to set up a test environment to see how well this internet will work for the Canyon. The costs for this internet service will cost a household $99 - $249 per month.

1. Tax Assessor/Collector’s Report – Consider a Proposed Tax Rate

A proposed tax rate of $.65929 per $100 valuation was made by John Schmersey, seconded by Billy Williams; motion carried unanimously. This proposed rate does exceed the 2015 effective rate; therefore two public hearings on the tax rate will be scheduled. The tax assessors report is as follows:

* 2015 Certified Net Taxable Value: $115,375,017 (2014 $111,431,271)
* Certification of Collection Rate: 100%
* 2015 Effective Tax Rate: .64992
* 2015 Rollback Tax Rate: .68810
* 2014 Tax Rate: .65929

1. Building Review Committee

Harold Needham reported for the Building Review Committee and stated that the building Committee approved the storage building at 7 West Lake Shore Drive.

1. Department Reports

**Administration:** Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

* The first week on the job was very exciting! The staff is incredible!
* There was a water main break that occurred west of the front hill by the pressure reducing vault; watering the lawns can resume as normal
* Took care of the boat ramp
* Set up the civil trials for the Sharkey Case which are scheduled for October 7 and October 14, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

**Operations:** Harold Needham reported the following:

* The department was busy working on a water main break
* Operations has also been spraying for mosquitos during the summer
* The seal coat project will being on Friday August 14, 2015 and the streets to be seal coated are Cherokee, Sunset Drive and the 3 right of way drives, North Rim Road, and West Lakeshore from Ransom Road to where the Concrete street begins.
* The new signs are enforced and we are now in compliance with the law regarding the requirements for signs

**Police:** James Hill reported the following:

* Chief School has been completed which is required for peace officers every two years through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
* The department has been actively patrolling the lake to ensure boats are properly licensed and permitted. This has resulted in a larger than normal amount of boat permits being issued.
* The Police Department was essential in removing fish from the spillway. Rick and his son were extremely helpful in removing the fish from the area, leaving approximately 50. There were approximately 1000 fish in the spillway
* The Boat Ramp is currently being repaired with a new galvanized metal that will be much stronger than the metal that was in existence for the past two years. This change should alleviate any additional boats from falling in the water since 3 vehicles have fallen in over the past month.
* Wayne Rawls has retired his status as a reserve peace officer

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

* There were five medical calls and two fire calls this month; Roosevelt had a large brush and grass fire and East of the Jensens’ was a grass fire
* July 3-4, 2015, the volunteer fire department held their brisket, and hamburger and hot dog fundraiser
* The Volunteer Fire Department plans for a pancake breakfast on October 10 or 17, 2015
* Excel Energy will host a class for emergency responders on how to handle Hazardous materials. The event will be held at the AT&T Jones Stadium.

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

* The reading program came to a close with the awards party in which 104 people were in attendance. The children received awards, prizes, and 120 hot dogs were served at the event. The theme of the event was “Every Hero Has a Story.”

1. Property Owner’s Association Report and Citizen Comments:

* Jackie Lindsey reported on behalf of the Property Owner’s Association. There were a large number of pool parties this month. The Visions of art will take place on October 4, 2015. The metal house will be open on that day.
* Billy Williams reminded everyone that the Chapel is hosting Critter Camp at the Chapel tomorrow, August 12, 2015. An expert on dragonflies will be making a presentation. The event will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
* Heidi Wilson, a resident of the canyon encouraged the City Council to make an exception to the “no swimming in the lake” ordinance to allow triathletes from their community and The Flat Out Triathlon Club to have open water swim practice on the lake. The nonprofit organization has liability insurance to cover any accidents while they compete or train as a team. John Sims suggested that a waiver be signed by all members who will participate in the open water swim practice on Lake Ransom.

1. Break

The Council took at 15 minute break.

1. Budget Work Session #2

Councilman Billy Williams left prior to the beginning of the Budget Work Session.

The Council discussed in detail the budget. Highlights include:

* Options for proposing a new city hall as long as the costs are reasonable and can accommodate what was budgeted in last year’s budget. There was a discussion of building a city hall as a residential building versus a commercial building. The costs should be significantly lower to build a city hall. City Hall staff will conduct some research on this item.
* There was some discussion on replacing a fire pumper truck. Rand will conduct some research to find a fire truck that comes from another fire department that is in good condition and is not older than 5 years old. City Council was of the opinion that they would consider the possibility of looking at repairing the current vehicle or attempting to locate a used vehicle for the time being, then purchasing a new truck that would be budgeted in the following fiscal year.
* The Budget line item for fire vehicle repairs was increased from $10,000 to $20,000
* There was a small discussion on equity pay for one policy officer and whether it was built into the budget. This was completed prior to Murvat’s departure.

1. Adjourn

* A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26p.m. was made by Donna Clarke, seconded by Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 15th day of September 2015

APPROVED:

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Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary