

Ransom Canyon City Council Special Meeting
May 31, 2017
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Billy Williams, followed by a moment of silent meditation. Council members present Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew, Lyle Way, Brandt Underwood, Dr. Terry Waldren, and Michael Brooks.
2. The Mayor read over a document which stated the platform on which he ran for office and goals for his administration. As a part of his statements, he praised the current City Council members and staff for creating a Strategic Plan for the city.
3. Mr. Williams then opened the floor for questions and comments from the citizens. The following is a very general record of the comments that were voiced:
 - ❖ Roland Hasenoehrl: He has no problem with the City and feels that people are looking for problems where there are none. He did express frustration with the Lubbock Central Appraisal District property appraisals and would like the Mayor and Council to send a letter of protest to the Appraisal District. Various other audience members voiced discontent with the current rate of property appraisal and said they would like to have lower taxes. City Attorney, John Sims, commented that the property appraisal has nothing to do with the City tax rate and that the City tax rate has not increased.
 - ❖ Denton Collins: "What is the budget process?" City Administrator, Elena Quintanilla, briefly described the budget process, the budget calendar, and the tax calendar.
 - ❖ Bob Bellah: He feels the City should increase financial support for the Volunteer Fire Department, including purchasing a new fire truck. He pays for his own equipment and training. Mayor Williams promised the Council would do what they could to get the VFD what it needs.
 - ❖ Ronnie Hill: Mr. Hill presented the financial needs of the Property Owner's Association (POA) and said that the POA will have to dissolve unless new revenue streams can be found, including the possibility of raising property owner's yearly fees. Roland Hasenoehrl gave a passionate rebuttal to much of Mr. Hill's statement and said he opposes an increase in property owner fees.
 - ❖ Allison Collins: She thanked Billy Williams for giving her an opportunity to be involved in politics for the first time in her life. She also stated objections to the amount budgeted for the new City Hall and furniture. Angie Fikes spoke in response to Mrs. Collins, saying that the amounts budgeted reflect the maximum that could be spent in case of unforeseen problems. Elena Quintanilla gave a historical perspective of the process by which the new City Hall was eventually approved to be budgeted as it is. Mayor Williams called on Carter Trew to speak about furniture that could be purchased at his store.
 - ❖ Dick Hulslander: He feels that communication between the City and the citizens is a two-way street. State and Federal government require things of local

government that we cannot control. He feels that citizens should increase participation in order to understand how our city works.

- ❖ Ron Cox: He issued a charge to the City Council to look into annexing the area within our Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) in order to avoid undesirable development in that area. Elena Quintanilla explained that annexation is a three-year process and deferred additional comments to City Attorney, John Sims. Mr. Sims cautioned about the additional cost to the City to provide infrastructure to any annexed area.
 - ❖ Terry Dennis: She would like to see 24-hour police coverage in Ransom Canyon. She asked how many police officers we have, how many police cars, and what is City policy on City owned vehicles? Police Chief, James Hill, responded that we have four police cars, four officers and three reserve officers. He said that the reserve officers share a car between them. We do not have 24-hour coverage, but he is on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Mayor Williams brought up the matter of the Police Chief not wearing a uniform. Mrs. Quintanilla addressed the issue and several citizens spoke up in support of Chief Hill not wearing a uniform, stating that they don't care how he is dressed as long as he is there when they need him. Former City Council Alderman, Ron Cox, commented that the Council should empower the department heads to run their departments and give them room to get the job done without over-management from the Council. Mr. Williams called for a decision about the matter from the Council members. Mrs. Quintanilla intervened to state that no action could be taken because it was not an agenda item.
 - ❖ Police Chief James Hill spoke regarding a recent situation in which a dog attacked another dog, commenting that the attacking dog could not be declared a dangerous dog by Texas law because the law defines a dangerous dog as one who attacks a human. He also answered a question from Mayor Williams about a complaint regarding a front yard with "junk". Mr. Hill said that he would research the situation and the relevant ordinance.
4. Mayor Williams called for further comments or questions. Hearing none, he commented that he had been told that he could no longer perform his professional services for the City because it would look like he was lining his pockets at taxpayer expense. In the future, he will only act in an advisory capacity to the Operations Department.
 5. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Brown, Deputy City Secretary

APPROVED:



Billy Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary