

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting – September 18, 2018
Ransom Canyon City Hall, 24 Lee Kitchens Drive

1. Call to Order/Pledges/Prayer

The special meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew, Dr. Terry Waldren, Mike Greer, Brandt Underwood, and Ingram Rich. The pledges to the United States and the State of Texas were recited, followed by a prayer by Councilman Brandt Underwood.

2. Recognition of Benito Garcia for 50 Years of Service to the Town of Ransom Canyon

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting on August 14, 2018 and special property tax hearing on September 11, 2018 were approved on a motion by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financials

The financial reports and the August 2018 claims and demands were approved on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren; motion carried unanimously.

5. Designation of Official Newspaper

The City Council approved Resolution No. R18-000918, designating *The Slatonite* as the official newspaper for the Town of Ransom Canyon for fiscal year 2018-2019 on a motion made by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Hearing on Proposed 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget

The Mayor Pro Tem opened up the public hearing at 6:52 p.m. to receive any comments regarding the new proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. Elena provided an overview of the budget, which included the addition of one staff person in the Operations Department and an upgrade of one part-time employee to full-time status in the Police Department in order to have additional coverage for the City. Additionally, employees were granted a three percent increase. Employees personally took a hit in their healthcare insurance in order to maintain TML insurance coverage this year, so employees will have more out-of-pocket expenses this year related to copay and their deductibles. There was a question by a resident regarding the number of employees

that are currently employed in the Operations and Police Departments. Currently, the Operations Department employees 4 full-time employees and 2 seasonal employees during the summer. The new budget calls for 5 full-time employees and 1 seasonal employee. As for the Police Department, they currently have 3 full-time police officers and a reserve officer is filling in part-time. The Police Department will have 4 full-time police officers in fiscal year 2018-2019. There was a question regarding reserves and whether those reserves are sufficient to support the budget. The amount in the Reserve Account is approximately \$1.5 million. The City Council also made their final changes to the budget which included removing the seal coat capital project for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$83,000 and adding the west water storage tank to be repaired in the amount of \$262,466. Additional funding was added to cover the costs from LP&L for water, and Waste Connections for garbage collection. The public hearing closed at 6:58 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed at that time.

7. Ordinance No. 18-00200 – 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget

Ordinance No. 18-00200 adopting the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget was approved on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Ingram Rich; motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution No. R18-091818 to ratify the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget

A resolution to ratify the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget that will raise more property tax revenue than was generated in the previous year was approved on a motion by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously. The following record vote was taken to ratify the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget:

Ingram Rich – Aye

Jana Trew – Aye

Mike Greer – Aye

Brandt Underwood - Aye

Dr. Terry Waldren – Aye; motion carried unanimously

9. Ordinance No. 18-00210 – Property Tax Rate

Ordinance No. 18-00210, fixing the tax rate/levy for the Tax Year 2018-2019 at \$.612933 per \$100.00 of taxable value

a. \$.538812 per \$100.00 of taxable value for Maintenance and Operations

b. \$.074121 per \$100.00 of taxable value for Debt

was approved on a motion by Brandt Underwood stating:

"I MOVE THAT THE PROPERTY TAX RATE BE INCREASED BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF .612933, WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A 1.63%, BY WHICH THE PROPOSED TAX RATE EXCEEDS THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE PERCENT INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE, seconded by Dr. Terry Waldren. The record vote took place as follows:

Ingram Rich – Aye

Jana Trew – Aye

Mike Greer – Aye

Brandt Underwood - Aye

Dr. Terry Waldren – Aye; motion carried unanimously

10. COBRA Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement

The COBRA Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with the Texas Municipal League Multi-State Intergovernmental Employee Benefit Pool (IEBP) was approved on a motion by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

11. Section 125 Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA)

The Section 125 Flexible Spending Arrangement Account with TML Multi-State Intergovernmental Employee Benefit Pool (IEBP) was approved with a maximum level of \$2600.00 in expenses for employees on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Ingram Rich; motion carried unanimously.

12. Independent Contractor Agreement for Librarian Services

The City Council authorized the Mayor Pro Tem to execute the contract for librarian services for fiscal year 2018-2019 on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren; motion carried unanimously.

13. Appointment of Member to Library Board

The City Council appointed Emma Cluff to the Library Board as a second youth member to the Board on a motion by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Dr. Terry Waldren; motion carried unanimously.

14. Aerial Mosquito Spraying Contract

The Interlocal Agreement with the City of Plainview for aerial mosquito spraying was approved on a motion by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren; motion carried unanimously.

15. Vote to Appoint Members to the TML Risk Pool

The City Council voted to appoint the following individuals to the Texas Municipal Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees: Randy Criswell to Place 11, Jana Traxler to Place 12, Mike Jones to Place 13, and David J. Harris to Place 14 on a motion by

Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Dr. Terry Waldren. The record vote took place as follows:

Ingram Rich – Aye
Jana Trew – Nay
Mike Greer – Aye
Brand Underwood – Aye
Dr. Terry Waldren – Aye.

16. Designation of Signatories to Bank Account

The City Council approved signatories for the Centennial Bank accounts on a motion by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

17. Job Descriptions for Personnel

The job descriptions for the Town of Ransom Canyon were postponed for a future meeting until all corrections are made. This motion was made by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

18. Resolution to Approve Rates from Atmos

A resolution to approve a negotiated settlement with Atmos regarding their company's 2018 rate review mechanism filing was approved on a motion made by Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

19. Building Review Committee

The Building Review Committee did not meet in August.

A. Department Reports

Administration: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

- ❖ She discussed her schedule of events for the week.
- ❖ She updated the City Council regarding the activities completed under the current strategic plan.
- ❖ The TML Conference for the elected officials will take place on October 9-12, 2018.
- ❖ There was an update regarding aerial mosquito spraying.
- ❖ The Rene Bates Auction was a success and the city made a little over \$15,000 in revenue in the auction.
- ❖ There is a Texas Municipal League (TML) Quarterly meeting on September 6, 2018 in Lubbock, Texas.
- ❖ The City Council meeting for October has changed to Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Court Report: Judge Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ The Judge has completed two prejudgments.

- ❖ Several individuals requested deferred adjudication and they are working on completing their obligations.

Operations: Harold Needham reported the following:

- ❖ Lubbock sprayed for mosquitos two weeks ago. The Town of Ransom Canyon sprayed a week ago.
- ❖ The Operations Department completed the lead and copper sampling and letters were sent out.
- ❖ The backflow testing process is progressing slowly.
- ❖ The City had to conduct some sewer repairs.

Police: James Hill reported the following:

- ❖ Police issued six warnings and zero citations.
- ❖ The Police Chief reminded residents to lock their vehicles in order to prevent future burglaries.

Fire: Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ There were two EMS calls and no fire calls this month.
- ❖ The Fire Department is having difficulty setting a date for the Pancake Breakfast.

Library: Angie Fikes reported the following:

- ❖ The Library has reorganized some of the books into a new storage facility that was recently purchased.
- ❖ The youth have been working on creating a "fairy world" at the Library.
- ❖ The Library will schedule an activity or event for Halloween.

Property Owner's Association Report and Citizen Comments

Rand McPherson reported that the Property Owner's Association is hosting their Third Annual Taste of the Canyon from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on September 22, 2018. There will be 20-25 vendors at the event with their food and beverages.

Dr. Ron Cox thanked Councilman Dr. Terry Waldren for hosting an event to recognize the Nowlin's for their work at the pool, which has been a great commodity for the Ransom Canyon families. He also thanked the City Council for designating *The Slatonite* as the official paper of the community. In addition, he also commented that maintaining the current property tax rate is good for the City because it takes a lot of finances to run a city.

12. Adjournment

The City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Ingram Rich; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 16th day of October, 2018.

APPROVED:

Jana Trew

Jana Trew, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Elena Quintanilla

Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary