

Notes from the Ransom City Council Meeting of May 16, 2017

*Council Members **present** were as follows: Mayor Robert Englund, Mayor Pro-Tem Jana Trew, Alderman John Schmersey, Alderman Brandt Underwood, Alderman Terry Waldren, and Alderman Lyle Way. The meeting held at the RC Volunteer Fire Department began as scheduled at 6:30 and ended at 7:35 PM.

*Resolution Number R17-0516, **Declaring the Duly Elected for the purposes of the May 6, 2017 Election** was approved:

Mayor: *Billy Williams-150
Robert Englund-114

Alderman: *Brandt Underwood-154
*Michael Brooks-116
Mike Greer-100
Steve Anderson-53
John Schmersey-52

*Judge Gary Bellair administered the **Statement of Office, Oath of Office, and the Certificate of Election**. The new **Aldermen Brandt Underwood and Michael Brooks** were sworn in followed by the new **Mayor Billy Williams**. A larger than typical audience enthusiastically applauded the newly elected mayor and aldermen. City Administrator Elena Quintanilla and Deputy City Secretary Mary Brown presented departing Mayor Robert Englund and Alderman John Schmersey with a gift and their thanks for their years of service to the community.

*The **Minutes** from the April 11th meeting were approved with one correction noted.

*The **Financial Reports, April 2017 Claims & Demands, and Financial Investment Report** were approved.

***Ordinance 17-0411 establishing fines for non-residents and residents who abuse the usage of solid waste citizen collection station** (first reading at April meeting) was approved.

*The **Building Review Committee** met and approved a new home to be built at 1 Coyote Circle.

***Department Reports:**

Administration: Elena Quintanilla explained the e-mail system set up for the council that includes the upcoming schedule of events and her calendar for the week to new members. An update on the new city hall building (on schedule and on budget per costs submitted for payment) was given. City Council correspondence and written documents were distributed to council members. The new budget and tax calendar was shared and the need to schedule an orientation for City Council members was discussed. An update on Senate Bill 2 and its current configuration was disclosed.

Court: Judge Gary Bellair reported that a number of pending cases including 2 from 2014 and 2 from 2015 will be resolved by reporting them to an omnibus system.

This service will cost a small fee that is added to the fine. One hearing is to be rescheduled. More recent citations include 1) reckless driving (prosecutor filed motion to dismiss); 2) failure to stop and no proof of insurance (failed to appear); 3) no proof of insurance (later produced proof of insurance enforce at the time of the stop so dismissed); 4) failure to stop (deferred adjudication for 90 days during which time must complete driver safety course).

Operations: Harold Needham stated that the department is busy with mowing and weeding as well as with general maintenance duties. They have sprayed for mosquitoes three times and are working closely with the Lubbock City Vector Control to contain the mosquito population. Lubbock City Vector Control maintains a trap on East Lakeshore Drive that is checked frequently.

Police: Rick Vasquez reported that the department issued 5 citations and 8 warnings over the past month. He also shared that weed notices have been mailed and the annual Veterinary Clinic to vaccinate pets in Ransom Canyon was held last Saturday. James Hill is attending an emergency management conference in San Antonio.

Fire: Rand McPherson shared that the fire truck to be auctioned by Lubbock is still not on the auction site. The Texas Forest Service Grant is still in place and the department is hopeful that they will receive funding when disbursements are made in August. There were 6 EMS calls (none serious) and one fire call for a one car rollover this month. The RCVFD hosted a pancake breakfast in April and another is in the works for October 7th. Mayor Williams added that a community member had called to brag on Chief McPherson and the RCVFD for their kind and quick response to a number of calls to help a family member with chronic and severe health needs.

Library: Angie Fikes reported that there were 25 teenagers in attendance at the last library event and that they have requested their own events and programming. Prizes and rewards for teens are more challenging to obtain and any help with securing items of interest for teens will be appreciated.

*** Property Owners Association (POA) Report, Chapel Report, and Citizen Comments:**

News from the **POA** was shared by Val Meixner: over 90 members attended the annual meeting on April 25th. The annual election for the POA Board was held. Those up for re-election were running unopposed and were re-elected by acclamation. Several of the candidates for the City Council May 6th election also spoke that night. Rates for the 2017 Summer Season Pool memberships have been reduced from last year and a "Special Early Bird Discount" has been made available through May 26th.

Linda Williams communicated news from the **Ransom Canyon Chapel**: Patio Decor has poured the first cast of the concrete pedestals that will hold the Miracles of Christ display in the garden area. Improvements in lighting for the Life of Christ Memorial area is also in progress.

During the open floor for **Citizen Comments** time Dr. Ron Cox congratulated the city on the record turn out of voters (30%) for the last election and voiced appreciation for the hard work and sacrifice of those that serve on the City Council. He encouraged them to listen carefully to others in order to work with differing opinions. Another citizen asked for an update on City Hall. Ms. Quintanilla stated that the building is scheduled to be

substantially completed by July 23rd. The safe room is nearing completion at this time. Plans include a conference room that will hold 40 to 60 persons and will have audio-visual equipment and a microphone. In response to a question on the budget she stated that the building is still under budget. Expenses may go over on the rental of the trailer, but overall expenses are not expected to be over budget. Another question involving the vacation watch program was addressed by Rick Vasquez. He reported that the Police Department is working on the vacation software and plan to have it online soon. Finally, there were comments on Senate Bill 2 and discussion on appraisal creep vs. tax rates. A question was raised on how the city budgets/determines the specific amount of funding necessary to address future emergencies and, if that funding is in place, will the city consider a reduction in the tax rate? Angie Fikes shared that Phyllis Lutrick has information on home sales in Ransom Canyon that may help if you protest your appraisal.

****These notes were submitted by Val Meixner for the Ransom Canyon POA. The official minutes of the Ransom Canyon City Council meeting will be available on the RC webpage following their approval at the June City Council Meeting.