

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
JULY 21, 2005
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Paul Tallent, Joe Derouen, Jerry Williams, Scott Owens, Richard Parrish, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro-tem Walter Derrick, Jimmy Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Melba Haralson, Jimmy Davis, Wayne Smith

GUESTS PRESENT: Debi Stuckey, David Stuckey, Ben Stuckey, Beverly Tallent, Brenda Brown, Allen Fowler, Tonya Fowler, Gregg Goggans, Rodney Tate, Brett McKinney, Gary Chalk, Brenda Keithley

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tallent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Parrish gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eagle Scout Ben Stuckey.

II. PRESENTATION TO EAGLE SCOUT BEN STUCKEY

Mayor Tallent presented Ben with a Certificate of Achievement and a City of Gladewater medallion.

III. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – June 27, 2005
- b) Investment Report – June 30, 2005
- c) Resolution regarding TxDOT grant funds for Gladewater Municipal Airport
- d) Interlocal Agreement with Upshur County
- e) Memorandum of Understanding for Texas Interoperability Channel Plan
- f) Guidelines and Criteria for Tax Abatement

Councilmember Derouen moved to table Item e and approve the remaining items. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 5-0.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING regarding an application from Oneok Texas Energy, L.P. for a permit to drill a "sweet" gas well on the S.P. Victory Gas Unit Lease, located 1,545' FSL and 3,468' FWL of the Thompson Allen Survey A-666, Upshur County, Texas

Gregg Goggans, 2190 N. Main, stated that his back bedroom window is approximately 100 yards away. He expressed concerns about noise, contamination, dust, lights and traffic. His main concern is the devaluation of his property, which is for sale at this time. He stated that he sees no other access to the drill site other than across his property.

Rodney Tate, District Engineer and Brett McKinney for Oneok stated that once the rig moves in there will be lights 24/7 with noise and people on location for about 21 days. After that time the equipment will move off and then only one pickup truck will be in and out on a daily basis. There will be white rock from the drill site to Hwy 271 and significant efforts are made to minimize dust with water trucks. Settlement damages have been made with property owners. Oil and gas lease regulations require that the drill site be at least 200' from a home. They will flare gas for 2-5 days. Oneok is still looking at the location of the pipeline.

Wayne Smith, 2186 N. Main, stated that his wife goes to bed at 8:30 at night and he has concerns with the lighting and noise.

Councilmember Owens inquired as to the feasibility of the site preparation before the permit was approved. Mr. Tate responded that they had followed the City codes and have equipment scheduled for the site immediately after approval.

The public hearing was closed at 6:20 p.m.

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- V. CONSIDERATION of an application from Oneok Texas Energy, L.P. for a permit to drill a "sweet" gas well on the S.P. Victory Gas Unit Lease, located 1,545' FSL and 3,468' FWL of the Thompson Allen Survey A-666, Upshur County, Texas

Councilmember Derouen moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 5-0.

- VI. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR DEMOLITION ORDER for structure located at Gladeview Addition S177 (A8), Block 6, Lots 3-4, more commonly known as 1301 Olive Street

Councilmember Jerry Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 5-0.

- VII. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND §150.39 (C) of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances regarding Notice of Intent to Demolish

City Secretary Haralson explained that the current code requires that we send certified letters to property owners within 200 feet of a structure to be demolished. This is an unnecessary expense to the taxpayers. Our recommendation is to amend the code to eliminate that requirement. However, we will continue to put legal notice in the newspaper for each demolition request.

Councilmember Parrish moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 5-0.

- VIII. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 51 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances regarding additional charges and service fees

City Secretary Haralson stated that the existing fee schedule has been in effect since 1987. The current water deposit of \$60 is often inadequate to cover a final bill. This burdens the staff with collection efforts and has a negative impact on our water revenues. We recommend increasing the water deposit to \$100 for both residential and commercial accounts. For the other service fees, we surveyed 12 other cities of similar size in northeast Texas and have recommended fees that are in line with theirs.

Councilmember Owens moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 5-0.

- IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION authorizing the review into the reasonableness and prudence of the proposed rates of Centerpoint Energy's Beaumont/East Texas Division

Gary Chalk of CenterPoint Energy gave handouts to the Council and explained that their rates have not increased since 1984. Mr. Chalk then explained that CenterPoint wants to make the rates uniform across the district answered several questions from the Council regarding the rate case and coalition of cities. Mr. Chalk assured the Council that if one city fights and is fortunate enough to win, then everybody's rates will change. He added that the Railroad Commission has already approved these rates for rural areas and they went into effect in April. He said that Gladewater's rates will increase about 7% or \$3.50 for the average customer and that they have not had a rate increase in 21 years.

Councilmember Owens asked if the hearing will be within the 90 day period for those cities that are protesting. Mr. Chalk explained that consultants are being hired to examine the numbers and will bring back recommendations to the cities. If that changes, then CenterPoint will appeal to the Railroad Commission.

Mayor Tallent suggested that we suspend for 90 days by resolution. Councilmember Derouen so moved, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 5-0.

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X. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tallent reported the following;

1. Sales tax increased 8.4% last month.
2. The fence around the water filtration plan is almost done.
3. The railroad crossing at Red Rock is finally being fixed by Union Pacific and should be completed next week.
4. Work is progressing well for the water and sewer lines at the Gardens of Gladewater, although they are a little behind schedule.
5. The letter sent to the Council from the Gladewater Former Students Association regarding the Gladewater Veterans Memorial was discussed at length. Mr. Tallent provided copies of all documents, including the proposal (which incorrectly was made out to the City of Gladewater), an affidavit from Kenneth Garrett of Gladewater Memorials explaining the mistake and subsequent correction, and copies of three agreements with proof of payment from the GFSA.

XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY