

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2007  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Paul Tallent, Mayor Pro-tem Walter Derrick, Joe Derouen, Jerry Williams, Richard Parrish

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmy Williams, Scott Owens

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Wayne Smith, Clay Robertson, Jarod Sears, Rex Haynes, Fred Ellis, Penny Ramsey, Sean Brown

GUESTS PRESENT: Jimmy Davis, Leonard Richter, Thomas Ingram, Stephen Mouton, Charlie Mouton, Brenda Brown, Keren Alexander, Becca Sears, Deborah Pike, Marilyn Kelley, Elijah Anderson, B.K. Johnson, Beverly Tallent, James M. Ford, Pat Derouen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tallent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Parrish gave the invocation and Councilmember Derouen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITION of City of Gladewater's "Police Officer of the Year"

Assistant Police Chief Clay Robertson presented awards to Gary Robinson for Officer of the Year and Penny Ramsey for Civilian of the Year.

III. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – December 21, 2006
- b) Blanket Permit to hold a Commemorative March on February 24, 2007 in honor of Black History Month
- c) Resolution authorizing application to the Texas Recreation and Parks Account Small Community Grants Program
- d) Resolution authorizing participation in a coalition of cities known as the Cities Advocating Reasonable Deregulation (CARD) regarding legislative efforts involving the delay of electric deregulation in the Northeast Texas region

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 5-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of acquisition of real property for new park; authorizing Mayor John Paul Tallent to execute all documents related to said property acquisition

City Manager Stokes stated that the Staerker family has agreed to sell the property to the City for \$8,000 for the park. They will retain the mineral rights and all the paperwork is at the City's expense.

Councilmember Derouen moved to purchase the property for \$8,000, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 5-0.

V. UPDATE on status of new Southside park

Mark Priestner of Planning Concepts presented a site plan and budget for the project, now named Weldon Bumblebee Park. We are applying for a \$100,000 grant, with a 50/50 match. He selected five elements for Phase I that will score the most points; playground, pavilion, washer court, picnic station, and multi-use trail. The grant application must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup> and we will find out by July or August if we are funded.

VI. DISCUSSION regarding possible ordinance related to towing of vehicles for failure to maintain insurance

City Manager Stokes and Asst. Chief Clay Robertson explained that other cities (Tyler being one) have passed an ordinance authorizing an officer to have a vehicle towed if they are stopped and have no proof of insurance on the vehicle. City Manager Stokes

said this will be controversial, so this item is for discussion only to see if the staff should pursue it.

There was lengthy discussion and questions regarding insured vehicles not having proof with them, wrecker service rotation and storage fees, and officer's having discretion on whether or not to tow. Asst. Chief Robertson said the whole idea is to protect the citizens of Gladewater from uninsured motorists and this should be geared more toward repeat offenders.

Councilmember Jerry Williams and Councilmember Derouen asked City Manager Stokes to get more information from surrounding cities and a copy of the ordinance. Mayor Pro-tem Derrick said he thinks a ticket seems more appropriate for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, then tow on 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. Mayor Tallent said he is not against ticketing, but he is against towing.

Mayor Tallent then asked for comments from citizens in attendance. B.K. Johnson, Deborah Pike and Brenda Brown all spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Parrish said it's also illegal not to have a valid driver's license and we issue citation for that. He doesn't see why having no valid insurance should be handled any differently than having no valid driver's license.

City Manager Stokes will get more information and this item will placed on the next agenda.

VII. CONSIDERATION of revision of water tap fees for subdivisions

City Manager Stokes explained that the City is charging for tap fees, when the developer is actually putting in the tap. The City should only be charging a fee to set the meter. Mayor Tallent said he brought this issue up to the previous City Manager twice and she would not bring it before the Council. He said the contractor has to pay for the streets, curbing and infrastructure, and they (contractors) are being double charged for tap fees. He said that in Briarcove subdivision alone, to date he has paid for 27 taps at \$350 each, which totals \$9,450. He believes the City should only charge a \$25 fee to set the meter, when the tap has already been made. Mayor Tallent said he is not asking for money back, but requested that it be applied to construction costs of the new Weldon Bumblebee Park. (Assuming a meter set fee of \$25, the amount of overpayment would be \$8,775).

Councilmember Jerry Williams asked for confirmation that Mayor Tallent is not asking for this change to be retro-active, but for a change in future charges. Councilmember Jerry Williams added that it is a very reasonable request.

Mayor Tallent clarified that action can be taken on the revision of the water tap fees, but it is only discussion as to whether or not to apply the previously paid tap fees to the park project.

Councilmember Derouen moved to charge a meter set fee of \$25 if the hook-ups are already in place, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 4-0-1, with Mayor Tallent abstaining.

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Update on Ferry St. railroad crossing closing
- b) Update on Moore lift station project
- c) Update on grant proposals

City Manager Stokes gave the following report;

- a) We have signed the 3-Way Agreement and sent it to TxDOT. They have signed and it has been forwarded to Union Pacific Rail Road in Omaha, NE. It may take 90 days or more for UPRR to sign off. We cannot start the brick streets or get reimbursed for any other work until the contract is signed.
- b) This project is all but completed; we are only waiting on the pumps to come in.
- c) As discussed earlier, the park grant application will soon be submitted. We don't know yet if we received the planning grant. Although we know we scored well on the Capital Fund grant, we have not received any official word on funding.

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IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

X. MAYOR'S REPORT

- a) We will be going to Austin March 27-29<sup>th</sup> to represent the City for Gregg County Days.
- b) The Main Street project is going great.
- c) Thanks to representatives of the CCC (Concerned Citizens Committee) for their participation in planning the Weldon Bumblebee Park.
- d) The next City Council meeting will be February 15, 2007.

XI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Adjourned by consensus.

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JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY