

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2007
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Paul Tallent, Mayor Pro-tem Walter Derrick, Jimmy Williams, Joe Derouen, Jerry Williams, Scott Owens, Richard Parrish, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Wayne Smith, Lon Welton

GUESTS PRESENT: Jimmy Davis, Mary Jane Williams, Rene Owen, Gari Cline, Patricia Mays, Chris Borge, Nancy Nelson, Alfred Lacy, Vi Melton, Dee Dee Williams, Ed Parton, Beverly Tallent, George Glenn, Richard James, Brenda Brown, Jimmy Washington, B.K. Johnson, John Choice, Chris Meeks, Jo Ann Biglow, Hercules Wells, Charles Miller, Kay Alexander, Jarrod Alexander

SPECIAL GUESTS: FROM SISTER CITY OF KIROVSKE, UKRAINE:
Kirovske Mayor Viktor Mandrus, Superintendent of Schools Iryna Arzamasteva, Kirovske Entrepreneur Ivan Gulakov, Attorney Olga Frolova, Interpreter Pavlo Nasada, and Vice-President of External Relations for U.S. Ukraine Foundation Vera Andrushkiw

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS from Kirovske, Donetsk region, Ukraine

Lon Welton, GEDCO Director, introduced each special guest from our Sister City in Kirovske, Ukraine; Kirovske Mayor Viktor Mandrus, Superintendent of Schools Iryna Arzamasteva, Kirovske Entrepreneur Ivan Gulakov, Attorney Olga Frolova, Interpreter Pavlo Nasada, and Vice-President of External Relations for U.S. Ukraine Foundation Vera Andrushkiw. Mr. Welton also introduced Brad Bunt from Kilgore College Small Business Development Center, who has made 22 trips to the Ukraine and was instrumental in forming this Sister City relationship.

With the assistance of Pavlo Nasada, interpreter, Mayor Viktor Mandrus expressed heart-felt appreciation for our warm hospitality and friendship. He said the two cities signed a joint agreement and proclamation last year (April 28, 2006) when representatives from Gladewater and East Texas went to Kirovske, Ukraine. (*A copy is attached and made a permanent part of these minutes.*) He said they were hopeful that the City of Kirovske and the City of Gladewater would not only create lasting friendly relations, but also open up possibilities of future economic growth that will be mutually beneficial. Mayor Mandrus invited officials from Gladewater to come to the Ukraine next year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the City of Kirovske. He then presented Mayor Tallent, City Council, City Manager and City Secretary with gifts from Kirovske.

Mayor Tallent thanked him for the kind words and presented each representative of Kirovske a golden key to the City of Gladewater. Mayor Tallent also thanked Lon Welton and Brad Bunt for their hard work to bring the two cities together. Mr. Welton added that this trip was completely funded by six anonymous donors, including one small business.

III. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – March 15, 2007
- b) Resolution in support of the Texas State Railroad Authority
- c) Airport Board appointment - Garnet McClure to replace Mary Todd
- d) Ordinance related to towing of vehicles for failure to maintain financial responsibility

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- e) Resolution to accept bids for struck off property located at Tract 6 & 7 of the James M. Tallent Survey, as requested by the Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector
- f) Investment Report for quarter ending March 31, 2007
- g) Resolution authorizing a limited joint election with Gregg County
- h) Ordinance to amend §50.15 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances for Allied Waste annual rate increase based on CPI, per contract
- i) Proclamation for Fair Housing Month

Regarding Item c) Councilmember Owens said he has no problem with Garnet McClure, but asked if any citizens from Gladewater had applied to be on the board, as he would like to see our citizens given heavy consideration over those outside the City. Alfred Lacy, Chairman of the Airport Board replied that there was not. City Manager Stokes clarified that one had applied but he did not receive any votes of support from the Board.

Councilmember Derouen moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of a request for sprinkler system variance for industrial property located at 900 E. Commerce per request of Mr. Mitch Henderson

GEDCO Director Lon Welton said this is a F-1 type building, which is 3,000 square feet over and requires a sprinkler system by code. Captain Rick Appl of the Gladewater Fire Department inspected the building and said they would have no problem if the Council wanted to grant a variance for this building. Mr. Welton also said that this new business will have a \$32 return for every \$1 spent on incentives.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of water bill adjustment per request of Ms. Nancy Nelson

Ms. Nelson said she is concerned over the quality of our water and the amount of usage she is being billed for. According to her calculations she is being billed for 1,000 gallons of water per day. She said she lives alone and does not have a swimming pool or any type of leak or dripping faucets. At her request the meter was replaced and her usage dropped dramatically. The meter tested out as accurate. She asked the Council to do whatever it takes to correct the problem of our water even if it takes a bond issue. She also asked them to consider adjusting her usage, to investigate the matter, and to tell staff to offer the meter change-out option to residents.

City Manager Stokes said all we can do is have the meter tested and if it tests ok then the bill cannot be adjusted. Mayor Tallent said we need to watch the account and bring it back for review in another three months. Councilmember Owens asked if we can isolate the meter so it can be retested. Chris Meeks, Project Manager for Veolia Water said the meters are tagged and finally sold for scrap, so they will not be used again.

VI. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to abandon alley located in Block 9 of the Mallock Addition, per request of Bruce Godlock

Councilmember Owens moved to abandon, seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

VII. DISCUSSION regarding location of new Weldon Bumblebee Park per request of Ms. Pat Mays

Patricia Mays, 601 S. Main, said her property joins the proposed site of Weldon-Bumblebee Park. She voiced her opposition to the park location because she believed it would increase crime, noise and traffic around her home based on information she obtained from the Tyler Police Department regarding their parks.

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She said the CCC did not ask the people who live closest to the proposed park for their opinion and some of them knew nothing about it until last month, then she presented a petition, claiming signatures of almost 200 property owners.

Mayor Tallent said the Council has been considering this issue for several months and has worked closely with the Concerned Citizens Committee (CCC). There have been several meetings, public hearings and notices in the newspaper. The City has already purchased the property and applied for a grant. He asked why they didn't speak up before now. Ms. Mays said that many of them were not notified and knew nothing about it, they don't all take the newspaper and they weren't contacted by the CCC.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams asked Ms. Mays if she was suggesting we don't have a park at all. Ms. Mays replied that she was just opposed to the location.

B.K. Johnson, spokesman for the CCC stated that the park committee examined and investigated any complaints or problems. He said he also personally wrote and delivered a letter to every church in the city. He said the CCC has not had any problems or suggestions brought to them. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that we already have a problem with crime in the streets. He said the Weldon area is loved and although they sympathize with Ms. Mays, the majority is in favor by far and that Pat Mays did sign a petition for the CCC.

Jo Ann Biglow said she has lived at 509 S. Main since 1967 and she wasn't notified about the park. She said she doesn't object to the park, but does object to the location. She asked the Council if they would want a park right out their front door. Many Councilmembers replied that they would and Councilmember Owens said that he has several vacant lots across from his house that kids use for a baseball field.

Jimmy Washington of Kilgore, said the church across the street didn't get notification of any kind and expressed concern that the noise may disturb their church services. He also cited problems with parking. Councilmember Derouen said that there are two large churches in Kilgore that he knows of that have parks across from them.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick asked Patricia Mays what we are going to do to prepare a place for children, for their future. Ms. Mays responded that we can't neglect the elderly.

Mayor Tallent thanked them for their comments but reiterated the fact that this park has been under consideration for several months and they should not have waited so long to come forward. Ms. Mays concluded by saying it was not their fault that they didn't know about it.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of request to allow for vacation rental property on Lake Gladewater, located at 2304 W. Lake Drive, per request of Rick & Lori James

Rick James, 2304 W. Lake, said he is pleased with the progress of the City and explained that he has two homes on Lake Gladewater and he would like to use one for a vacation rental property.

Councilmember Derouen commented that there is already a similar place to rent on the Lake. Councilmember Jerry Williams said that it is not prohibited in the lease and moved to grant the request. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of plans for 2006 TCDP water line work in south Gladewater as prepared by KSA Engineers

Mike Burns, KSA Engineers, gave an update on TCDP grant #726229 and asked for approval to advertise for bids. This project is to replace deteriorated water lines along Main Street to McNeece and Eleanor with 8" PVC and to repave McNeece

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and Eleanor. The City was awarded a \$250,000 grant. At the time of application the estimated budget was \$273,000, however the current estimate is \$416,153. Mr. Burns said we still have to get approval from TxDOT and TCEQ, so we may be ready to go out for bids by the summer. He also said we will need to obtain three easements for the project from Kyle Reeves, Charles Evilsizer and Presley Oil Company.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to proceed with advertisement for bids and requested that we save the old valves if possible. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 7-0.

- X. CONSIDERATION of recommendation from Airport Board to accept bid from Mr. Rick Merritt for construction of new hangar doors on City owned hangars

Airport Board President Alfred Lacy, 200 Oak, explained that this bid is to replace six bay hangar doors that are 37 years old and initially installed by volunteer labor. He said they have become a safety issue and the Airport Board feels like this is a good bid. Councilmember Owens asked who prepared the specs are for the doors and if we tried to get other bids. Mr. Lacy replied that Mr. Merritt told us what we need and we tried to get other bids, but Mr. Merritt was the only one interested. Mayor Tallent had personal knowledge of Mr. Merritt's work and said he does a good job. City Manager Stokes added that he recently learned that we can apply for a RAMP grant, which will pay 50%.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to accept the bid of \$16,600 from Rick Merritt, seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 6-1 with Councilmember Owens opposed.

- XI. CONSIDERATION of awarding bid for improvements at Gladewater Municipal Airport

City Manager Stokes stated that this is the project we have been working on for a couple years for the terminal apron and pavement rehabilitation. Bids were received from Reynolds & Kay and Longview Bridge & Road. The lowest bid was from Longview Bridge & Road, with a base bid of \$966,777.50, Alt. No. 1 for \$553,024.66 and Alt. No. 2 for \$244,367.37 and Alt. No. 3 for \$56,521.75, for a total of \$1,820,691.28. Mr. Stokes said we will complete the Base and Alternates 1 & 3, then go as far as we can on Alt.No. 2.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

- XII. CONSIDERATION of items to be purchased related to most recent water plant inspection by TCEQ

Chris Meeks, Veolia Water Project Manager, said that a recent TCEQ inspection found 11 violations and 2 issues that need to be resolved by the next inspection or we could be fined up to \$110,000 per day. The estimated cost to make corrections is \$38,071.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to approve expenditures of \$38,071 to make the necessary corrections required by TCEQ. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 7-0.

- XIII. CONSIDERATION of 2006 Racial Profiling Report

Police Chief Kerry Blakemore explained that during the reporting period we changed from one reporting system to another, so the numbers vary between systems, however there is no indication of racial profiling problems in Gladewater.

Councilmember Owens moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

XIV. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Lake Gladewater dam improvements
- b) Ferry Street railroad crossing
- c) Sanders Street drainage
- d) Policy of use of baseball/softball fields
- e) Update on grant proposals

City Manager Stokes gave the following report;

- a) It is hard to find anyone interested in bidding on this project.
- b) The brick streets are coming along very nicely. John Choice (of Veolia Water) will be doing the concrete work and will allow for drainage. The final chip and seal will be done later in the summer.
- c) Veolia Water is to be complimented on the fantastic job they did of fixing the drainage problem on Sanders Street.
- d) George Glenn, President of Gladewater Youth Baseball Association, has been having a problem for about a year with select teams using our fields. Unless directed otherwise, we deal with these teams on a case by case basis and only allow them use of our fields in the off season if there is a child from Gladewater on the select team.
- e) Texas Parks & Wildlife will be coming next week for a site inspection. We hope to know in May on the Texas Capital Fund grant.

XV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

XVI. MAYOR'S REPORT

- a) As reported by the City Manager, the brick streets are coming along great. So far, bricks have been leveled on Pacific Street, east of Main Street curving along onto Broadway Ave.
- b) Our spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 14th was a success due to many young people, adults and Veolia. Thanks to Councilmen Richard Parrish, Scott Owens and Walter Derrick. The children were well supervised, which helped them get a lot done. They were so well mannered and polite and 130 \$2 bills were given out. Thanks to the Chamber for furnishing a hot dog luncheon for the workers.
- c) Gail Levy donated \$200 to the Gladewater Animal Control because she was so pleased with the patience of Tiffany Martin in helping retrieve her donkey. She just wanted to show her appreciation.
- d) There will be a special City Council meeting on Monday, April 30th at 6:00 p.m. We will go directly into executive session to discuss personnel evaluations.
- e) The next regular City Council meeting will be on Thursday, May 17th at 6 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Adjourned by consensus.

JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY