

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008  
6:00 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Richard Ross, Farrell Alexander

GUESTS PRESENT: Joe Spears, Billy Silvertooth, Jr., Jimmy Davis, Brent Bailey, Colleen Bailey, Charles Meadows, Jim Talley, Laura Talley, Ladd Sheets, Chris Meeks Jackie D. Wood, Lon Welton, William Syme, Judith Burlison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. Councilmember Jerry Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – August 21, 2008
- b) GEDCO budget for FY 2009
- c) Agreement with GISD for School Resource Officer

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

III. PROCLAMATION for POWER (People on Wheels Encouraging Responsibility) Fall Sports Fest 2008

Mayor Derrick presented Ladd Sheets with a proclamation, which was accepted with words of appreciation.

IV. CONSIDERATION of request by POWER to waive Lake Gladewater fees for the Fall Sports Fest 2008 event to be held September 27, 2008

Mr. Ladd Sheets talked with excitement about the Sports Fest and said they have enjoyed the hospitality of Gladewater the past few years. They have a lot of sports activities adapted to handicapped individuals. There will be about 70 volunteers. They will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks at no charge. There will be a lot of media coverage and it will have a positive impact on the community. Mr. Sheets asked the Council to waive all boat launch fees as they have in years past.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery expressed appreciation for POWER choosing to hold their event at Lake Gladewater and moved to waive all fees. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend budget for fiscal year 2008

City Manager Stokes said these budget amendments were all discussed during the year. The total amendments for General Fund are \$365,763 and \$71,750 for the Enterprise Fund.

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

VI. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to adopt and approve budget for fiscal year 2009

Councilmember Jimmy Williams expressed appreciation to City Manager Stokes and staff for an excellent job in budget preparation. Councilmember Parrish moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 7-0.

VII. RATIFICATION VOTE to adopt fiscal year 2009 budget with increased property tax revenue

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2008

Page 2

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to ratify the vote, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 7-0.

- VIII. CONSIDERATION of ordinance levying taxes for the use and support of the general government and for retirement of general obligation bonded indebtedness through an interest and sinking fund for fiscal year 2009

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

- IX. CONSIDERATION of agreement with Humane Society of Northeast Texas

City Manager Stokes said the contract will be ready for the October meeting. No action taken.

- X. CONSIDERATION of resolution authorizing participation in Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC)

City Secretary Haralson explained that the recently failed bank of Lehman Brothers provided administrative services for Texpool. Lehman Brothers did not hold or invest our funds, so our money is safe. However, it is the recommendation of Ed Moore, our financial advisor from Southwest Securities, that we diversify our investments. Our investment committee met, consisting of Mayor Pro-tem Ussery, City Manager Jay Stokes, and City Secretary Melba Haralson and decided to invest a portion of our funds in LOGIC investment pool. Mayor Pro-tem Ussery commented that the rates are a little better than Texpool's.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ussery. Carried 7-0.

- XI. DISCUSSION regarding possible task force to review Veolia Water contract renewal

City Manager Stokes said the Veolia contract will expire October 1, 2010. There are a lot of issues involved with this contract and it will take some time to address them. He said all options should be on the table and suggested forming a possible task force. He asked the Council for direction on how to proceed.

Councilmember Owens and Councilmember Derouen said we should have others involved. Several Councilmembers made comments to the effect that it needs to have Council involvement and be better organized and more objective than the committee established last time. Councilmember Jimmy Williams said there is so much about the current contract that is not clearly defined. Mayor Pro-tem Ussery suggested we have a series of workshops. Councilmember Derouen agreed, stating we could decide how best to proceed in the first workshop. City Manager Stokes asked when the Council wanted to have the first special workshop meeting. Mayor Derrick said we need an organizational meeting and asked City Manager Stokes to come up with a plan to present within the next month or so.

- XII. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to prohibit parking of oversized commercial vehicles in residential areas

City Manager Stokes explained that our current ordinance prohibits oversized trucks from parking on public streets. This ordinance will also prohibit them from parking on personal property. Mr. Stokes said with the Council's approval he will get the City attorney to review it.

Councilmember Owens said he would like the definition of oversized vehicles to follow CDL requirements, stating the old ordinance goes by tonnage, not by the rating of the vehicle. City Manager Stokes said if approved by the City attorney, it will be on the consent agenda for October.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2008

Page 3

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to send to the City attorney for review, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 7-0.

XIII. CONSIDERATION of ordinances to amend Gladewater Code of Ordinances

- a) §51.11 Water Rates
- b) §51.30 Sewer Rates

Councilmember Derouen said this is not a popular situation, but we have to pay the bills. Councilmember Owens added that we have a \$6 million water plant to pay for. Councilmember Jimmy Williams reminded citizens that the Enterprise Fund has to be self supporting.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve the amended water and sewer rates, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

XIV. UPDATE on National Night Out

*Note: This agenda item was considered after Item XVII.*

Police Chief Farrell Alexander announced that the National Night Out event is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. He said in past years it was held in June and this year it has been moved to October in hopes of garnering more participation. Currently there are only 5 hosts and they would like to have one more, in addition to donations.

XV. DISCUSSION regarding the City of Clarksville City's request for sewer contract renewal

Clarksville City Alderman Joe Spears said he was appointed to address the Council to reopen negotiations to extend the sewer contract with the City of Gladewater. He said they were able to construct a water plant, but they have a problem with the sewer. He said they only have \$1.1 million and the cost of a sewer plant far exceeds that. In addition, they only have 248 connections, which would be too great a debt to burden their taxpayers with. Mr. Spears said the current contract rate is locked in until 2012, however they are willing to renegotiate it and get the attorneys involved. He asked the Council to bury the hatchet and consider their request.

Several Councilmembers echoed sentiments of great dissatisfaction with Clarksville City because our taxpayers incurred over \$250,000 in legal fees from the previous water and sewer rate lawsuit they filed against the City of Gladewater.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.071 to consult with City Attorney regarding possible contract renewal with Clarksville City

The Council recessed into executive session at 6:36 p.m.

XVII. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary pursuant to contract renewal with Clarksville City

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:49 p.m. No action was taken.

XVIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants update
- b) Special projects update
- c) Street sweeping update
- d) Fall Beautification Day
- e) Water hyacinth spraying at Lake Gladewater
- f) Update on hurricane damage

City Manager Stokes gave the following report;

- a) The 2007 HOME grant has about 8 qualified applicants. They have started the process to see which ones will be funded.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2008

Page 4

- b) There have been weather delays on the Gay Avenue drainage project, but it should be done within two weeks. The American Legion should be finished with the handicap ramp at the Boy Scout Hut by Saturday.
- c) The first round of street sweeping was finished for \$3,400 and it was unbelievable how much was picked up. There were 90 dumps for 48 curb miles. We have budgeted this service for four times a year in the 2009 budget.
- d) The Fall Beautification Day will be Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be dumpsters downtown. Volunteers are needed. Councilmember Owens requested that the brush chipper and a crew also be there to keep the limbs out of the dumpster.
- e) We will be spraying for water hyacinth the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> and have already notified residents.
- f) Mr. Stokes complimented staff of Veolia, Police and Fire Departments for working crews overtime during Hurricane Ike. It was hard work. We lost water due to a power outage at the water treatment plant, however it was only out one hour. Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt has been in touch to assist us in getting reimbursements from FEMA. He hopes FEMA will fund back-up sources of power for the water and sewer plants.

XIX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

XX. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Adjourned by consensus.

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WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY