

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 15, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Scott Owens, Joe Derouen, Rhonda Smith, Richard Parrish

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro-tem Ussery, Jimmy Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Farrell Alexander, Wayne A. Smith, Richard Ross

GUESTS PRESENT: Jeremy Rowe, Jean Rowe, Jimmy Davis, James Draper, Christian Kaster, Tim Slivensky, David Slivensky, Rocky Roncour, John Ringler, Chris Meeks, Cathy Smith, Margaret Larkens, Nathaniel Wise, Mark Carpenter

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- a) Invocation was given by City Manager Jay Stokes.
- b) Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Rhonda Smith.

II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – December 18, 2008 and January 6, 2009
- b) Water tap outside the city limits at 1533 FM 2685
- c) Engagement letter with Karen A. Jacks & Associates for the FY 08 financial audit
- d) Agreement with GISD for collection of ad-valorem taxes
- e) Lease Agreement with Dale Lange for approximately 35 acres at old city landfill site

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

III. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend §50.15 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances–  
Schedule of Rates for Allied Waste Services

Councilmember Owens moved to adopt the 1.1% increase, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 5-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of revised fees for professional services related to Water Plant expansion

John Ringler, KSA Engineers, updated the Council on new developments, pending items and scope changes regarding the project. He went over the issues to resolve and the proposed schedule. Mr. Ringler then asked for an increase in professional service fees of \$89,000 primarily due to scope changes and design of the raw water pump station emergency generator. He said he would like to submit \$1.1 million for funding to Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program (TEIP) at 1% interest, although the City can reduce the scope of the project instead.

Councilmember Owens said he understands the emergency generator, but needs explanation on the other scope changes. Mr. Ringler responded that the current lime equipment is usable, but not user friendly as operators frequently have to manually handle 50 pound bags of lime. He said all of the scope changes were asked for by the City or operators at the Water Treatment Plant. He added that some issues came up in the distribution system that was not in the original bid and some costs have escalated.

Councilmember Smith received clarification from Mr. Ringler that all of the \$89,000 requested is for their fees. Mayor Derrick said we don't have alternatives in many cases regarding the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Ringler stated they have tried to keep the Council up to date on changes as they occur.

Councilmember Derouen questioned the need for extra lime equipment, stating it is the most expensive item. City Manager Stokes said that is the way the system is designed.

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Councilmember Smith moved to increase the professional service fees by \$89,251. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 4-1, with Councilmember Owens opposed.

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

The Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

- VI. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary pursuant to possible sewer contract renewal with Clarksville City

The Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:50 p.m. No action was taken.

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Code Enforcement update
- b) Grants update
- c) Water tap fees
- d) Special projects update
- e) Smith County ESD #2 Contract
- f) Buzzards on water towers

City Manager Jay Stokes gave the following report;

- a) Code Enforcement has removed 16 junk vehicles and is working with the Police Department on several others.
- b) Grants update
  1. The Planning & zoning Commission met last week on the Master Plan. They decided that the best approach is to look at the City in quarters, divided by Highway 80 and Highway 271. They will start with the southwest quadrant next month and work in a counter-clockwise direction. They will meet with the consultant in June.
  2. Through the Solid Waste Grant Program, we have received the recycle bin. By the end of the month we will have ads in the newspaper and it will be up and running in February.
  3. There's nothing to report this month on the HOME grant. Traylor's office continues the qualification process with homeowners.
  4. On Weldon Bumblebee Park, the contractor is waiting on playground and pavilion equipment, which should be in soon.
- c) With regard to water tap fees, Chris Meeks joined Jay Stokes in explaining that there have been several circumstances lately where water lines are much deeper than expected. We are spending about \$2,000 to make the tap and are only charging the customers \$200. Chris Meeks will look at what other cities charge in the area and report back. Mr. Meeks added that often it is necessary to bore, but fortunately on the last tap around the lift station we were able to borrow a boring machine. He said for sewer taps, many times utilities are in the road and the cost of asphalt alone is much greater than the tap fee. In addition, meters have gone up and some cost more than the tap fee alone. City Manager Stokes said there has to be a more equitable way, especially in special circumstances. Councilmember Owens commented that we need to find a middle ground that is fair to everyone.
- d) Special Projects Update
  1. The street sweeper is back and it's going well.
  2. Chris Meeks, Veolia Project Manager completed a vehicle inventory as requested in the January 6, 2009 Special Session.
  3. We received the check from the John Deere dealership for \$4,800 as promised.
  4. We have had a recent problem with a sewer line leaking, so the Council needs to be aware that there will be related overage expenses from Veolia.
  5. The new boom mower is being used on the south side of town and it looks good.

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- e) We received a contract from Smith County ESD #2, but we have concerns about the undefined area of coverage in the contract. Chief Smith is working on it and will present it in February meeting.
- f) We have a problem with about a hundred buzzards roosting on the Allison Street water tower. There have been a lot of suggestions on how to get rid of them. In the past we have shot them with a 10 gauge shotgun or high powered pellet gun, however we have to get a permit because they are a protected bird. We need a cost effective solution that will not damage the telecommunication equipment or the water tower. Councilmember Smith commented that they are God's creatures and we should just leave nature alone. Mr. Stokes said he's been told they are migratory, but in the meantime there's a problem with droppings on the tower and below. There's no solution at this point but we will keep trying.

VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Owens. Adjourned by consensus.

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WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY