

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2009
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem John Ussery, Rhonda Smith, Joe Derouen, Scott Owens, Richard Parrish, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmy Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson

GUESTS PRESENT: Judith Burlison, Delbert Burlison, Chris Meeks, Karen Morgan, Jim Bardwell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. WORKSHOP regarding contracted privatization services with Veolia Water

City Manager Stokes answered questions and comments posed at the last meeting.

1. Street Sweeper – According to the contract, the street sweeper will be used downtown on a weekly basis. This has not been done over the course of nine years; however, there are lots of areas of the contract where Veolia went over and above. The street sweeper is old and it is difficult to keep it operational. We started contracting with another firm to sweep streets all over town on a quarterly basis.
2. Study of Privatization – It was asked if we have done a study of the cost of privatization versus doing the work ourselves. As Councilmember Jimmy Williams attempted to explain last month, a study was done prior to privatizing. Perhaps Mr. Williams can further explain next month.
3. Employees – According to the contract, Veolia is required to have 19 full time employees. They fluctuate between 18-19 employees as it may take some time to fill vacancies, especially for positions requiring specialized licenses.
4. Water – We will be spending about \$8,000,000 to improve the Water Treatment Plant. Construction will begin shortly and will take a couple years to complete.
5. Water Rating – According to the state, we still have a “Superior” rating on our water.

Mr. Stokes then went over the highlights of the contract through Section 5. Section 6 to the end of the contract will be discussed in the special April meeting.

Council discussed details of the contract. Councilmember Owens requested that at the May meeting we look at the prior cost study and also compare current costs to other cities our size.

III. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Owens. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY