

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2009
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Walter Derrick

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Cathy Smith, Judy Burlison, Charles Meadows, Jimmy Davis, Joyce Hugman, Delbert Burlison, Ed Parton, Al Heard, Garnet McClure, Karen Morgan, Chris Meeks, Brent Bailey, Colleen Bailey, Ryan Bailey, Harvey Rodford, Connie Rodford, Alfred Lacy, Norma Lacy, Lorraine Clark, Jane Brooking, Lois M. Nasados, Vi Melton, Lee Todd, Cori Todd, Mark Carpenter, Joe Wise

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. Councilmember Parrish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CONSIDERATION of revised Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan

City Manager Stokes explained that we adopted this plan 3 years ago, but must revise for the updated water usage by May 1st.

Councilmember Owens moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

III. CONSIDERATION of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Longview and City of Gladewater for the Recovery Act: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program award

City Manager Stokes said our Police Department will receive \$10,575 from this grant and Longview is doing the administration part of it.

Councilmember Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 6-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of Bond Resolution for RDA funding of Phase II of Water Treatment Plant improvements

Mr. Stokes stated this is still with legal counsel and is not ready for consideration. Councilmember Parrish moved to table, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 6-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of Resolution to support improvements to Gladewater Municipal Airport and accept funding from TxDOT for said project

City Manager Stokes said this is a \$306,940 grant, with only a 5% match of \$15,347, for the City to build a 2nd row of hangars. This project is already designed and ready to go.

Councilmember Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

VI. WORKSHOP regarding contracted privatization services with Veolia Water

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery explained that at the last meeting we went through the first half of the Veolia contract, tonight City Manager Stokes will lead a discussion through the last half, starting with Section 6. After this meeting Jay Stokes will do his homework to compare our costs to other comparable cities, however he

needs to know which cities to use for the comparison. The months of June through August will be spent on budgeting and it will be difficult to garner information during that time.

Councilmember Derouen said we should compare to cities with the approximate same size and age of infrastructure.

Councilmember Owens said we should compare to two or three cities from that aspect, but no two cities are the same.

Councilmember Williams added that we have copies of information from the review committee and from our auditor, Karen Jacks in 1999 as well as her analysis from June 2000. Perhaps these existing studies could be used and the CPI factored in for each year.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery suggested that City Manager Jay Stokes present Council with ideas on how to proceed with the parameters of study in the May meeting.

City Manager Stokes reiterated that after the May meeting we can pick this issue back up in the fall in order to get through the difficult upcoming budget process and special related meetings. He asked that the Council tell him specifically which cities to use in the comparison as well as which aspects of the city, in the May meeting.

City Manager Stokes then led the Council through the remaining terms of the contract. There was discussion regarding street repairs, industrial pretreatment, maintenance and repair fees, CPI dates, required number of full time employees, dual insurance coverage and electrical costs.

Councilmember Smith became ill and left the meeting. Mayor Pro-tem called a recess at 6:40 p.m. so that Councilmember Smith could be attended to. The meeting was reconvened at 6:55 p.m. with a remaining quorum of five members.

Councilmember Owens picked up on the discussion regarding electric costs. He said if this is just a pass through for the electricity to operate the water plant, wastewater plant and facilities, then we should take it out of the contract the City pay it directly. City Manager Stokes said it supposed to be 50% so Veolia can get half of the energy savings methods. Mayor Pro-tem Ussery said that is to make sure they have incentives to save money. Councilmember Williams said it should be our savings and the City should pay the electric bills.

The contract ended with additions to Appendixes for Weldon Bumblebee Park, Gay-Haggans Cemetery, chipping and filling fish ponds.

With regard to the earlier discussion regarding 19 full time employees, City Manager Stokes pointed out that if we move away from that requirement, it will be more performance based, which could be as detailed as to not allowing the grass to be over a certain height. He said we may not want to be so restrictive as Veolia often does things over above the requirements of the contract.

VII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 5-0.

MAYOR PRO-TEM JOHN USSERY

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY