

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 21, 2010  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem John Lee Ussery, Jimmy Williams, Joe Derouen, Scott Owens, Charles Meadows

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Burlison

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Mary Jane Williams, Reba Smith, Diane Turner, Roy T. Van Houten, Linda E. Van Houten, Douglas Phillips, Stephanie Van Houten, Joyce Hugman, Kirk Rotramel, Cisco Frierson, Karen Newman, Haskell Ballew, Karen Morgan, Chris Meeks, Linda Patton Dougan, Allen Fowler, Jack Fowler, Mark Carpenter, Carol Ussery, Alfred Lacy

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
a) Invocation – Mayor Walter Derrick gave the invocation.  
b) Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro-tem John Lee Ussery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA  
a) Minutes – December 17, 2009  
b) Investment Report for quarter ending December 31, 2009

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

- III. RECOGNITION of Eagle Scouts

Mayor Derrick presented certificates to Eagle Scouts Douglas Phillips and Jack Fowler.

- IV. CONSIDERATION of contract with Gregg County for 2010 election services

*Note: This item was considered after Agenda Item VII.*

City Secretary Haralson explained the pros and cons of continuing to use paper ballots versus an all electronic voting system and said pre-clearance submission will need to be made to the U.S. Department of Justice if we change our method of voting.

Councilmember Owens said if we want to we could always go back to paper ballots next year, and then moved to go all electronic, go ahead with the preclearance submission and contract with Gregg County. Motion was seconded by Charles Meadows. Carried 6-0.

- V. CONSIDERATION of Request for Proposal for water and sewer privatization services

Councilmember Owens said staff has done a very good job in getting the RFP together. He said he would like to see a budget for the street department being brought back in-house. He stated he is not voting in favor because he believes we could save money by bringing the whole thing back in-house.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to go out for bids, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 4-2 with Councilmember Owens and Councilmember Meadows opposed.

- VI. CONSIDERATION of participation in the Folks Learning About Gladewater (FLAG) Program

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery, who is also President of the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber adopted Vision 2012 and one of their goals is to educate Gladewater citizens on how the city works; water treatment plant, 9-1-1 system, Police Department, Fire Department, etc. He explained that citizens can sign up with the Chamber to take these educational tours (one per quarter - on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) at 1:00. Tour groups will be limited to 10-12 people and they will be given a certificate of participation.

Councilmember Williams moved to participate with the Chamber of Commerce in the FLAG Program. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

VII. DISCUSSION regarding continued participation in the Main Street Program by the Gladewater Antique Dealers Association (GADA)

Reba Smith, President of GADA urged the city to continue to participate in the Main Street Program and suggested specific qualities and qualifications the new Main Street Director should possess.

Diane Turner, Secretary/Treasurer of GADA reiterated the importance of staying in the program and would like someone chosen who is truly dedicated and interested in downtown businesses.

Councilmember Ussery said we worked hard to get here and don't want Laura Bush's visit to be in vain. He then suggested we contract those services to the Chamber of Commerce, just as we previously contracted them to GEDCO. He said the staff is already in place and it's the most viable option.

Councilmember Owens said contracting with the Chamber is certainly worth considering, then the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Program and GEDCO are all primarily charged with promoting Gladewater and looking for business to come in. He stated since their functions overlap and are looking for ways to cut expenses, these 3 jobs could be combined. He said we should take our time and discuss the options fully. If an interim director is needed staff could be appointed.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery expressed disagreement, stating we don't need to delay as that is more of a way to publicize the problem. He said he doesn't believe GEDCO or the Council has a desire to combine these jobs and the Main Street falls more in line with the Chamber functions.

Councilmember Owens said we don't lose anything by slowing down and discussing it.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery said the Chamber is having a retreat next Tuesday night and he would like to bring it to them to negotiate an agreement.

Councilmember Williams said we don't have money budgeted for a full time position.

Mayor Derrick expressed agreement with partnering with the Chamber as the qualities quoted by Reba Smith, GADA President is already possessed by Chamber staff.

City Manager Stokes said he had a long discussion with GADA and we can't accommodate some of their ideas. There are rules set out by the state for this program and our only option will be to consolidate positions.

Councilmember Owens said if we table it until next month we will be able to have a public hearing. Mayor Pro-tem Ussery said they will be able to speak through citizen comments. Councilmember Owens responded that is at the end of the meeting after we have already voted. He said he wants to hear from them so maybe we should move the citizen comments to the top of the meeting.

City Manager Stokes said this is not an action item and he is comfortable with no decision tonight. If this lingers on we can fill out paperwork. We may not need an interim.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery asked to give him time to talk to the Chamber Directors and next month we can have a public hearing and take action.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 to discuss Main Street Manager position

Not needed.

IX. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding the Main Street Manager position

None.

X. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants update
- b) Special projects update
- c) Meeting announcements
- d) Animal control ordinance update

City Manager Jay Stokes gave the following report;

- a)
  - 1. We should close on the RDA loan for the water plant the first week of February.
  - 2. We gave out the 1<sup>st</sup> set of keys today to the homeowner of the house built on Eddy Street through the HOME Grant. Two more sets of keys will be given out tomorrow.
  - 3. The final plans are complete for Weldon-Bumblebee Park Phase II and will be going out for bids. We will award in February.
  - 4. Through the SWAC Grant we will hire a Litter Abatement Officer who will be part of the Police Department. He/she will be a certified police officer so they can write citations. We will post the job opening internally and try to hire someone next week.
- b) Steve Epperson has trapped 30-40 buzzards outside of town and has found more in other locations.
- c)
  - 1. We will be hosting the TML Region 15 meeting Monday, January 25, 2010 at the Former Students Building. So far we only have 70-75 RSVP's.
  - 2. We will have a joint meeting with GISD on February 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.
- d) The animal control ordinance will be on the February agenda.

XI. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURN

Mayor Derrick commented it means so much to these families who receive new homes through the HOME Grant.

Councilmember Meadows moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

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WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY