

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2010
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem Jimmy Williams, Joe Derouen, Leon Watson, Scott Owens, J.D. Shipp

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Burlison

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

GUESTS PRESENT: John Ringler, Vi Melton, Pat Watson, Mary Jane Williams, Joyce Hugman, Ronnie Moore, Sue Moore, Rocky Hawkins, Norma Lacy, Alfred Lacy, Jimmy Davis, Karen Morgan, Janet Ross, Ashlea Spano, Haskell Ballew, Todd Estes, Glenda Jones, Craig Merrill, Karen Newman, Phillip Creel, Lois Nasados, Jane Brooking, John Choice, Ray Peden

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

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Watson
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Shipp

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joyce Hugman, 1901 E. Lake Drive spoke in objection to renewing the service contract with Veolia Water. She said we are wasting close to \$8 million and resents the over spending. She urged the Council to take the water system back in-house and said it is unreasonable to think Veolia can do it cheaper with their management stretching from Texas to France.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – May 20, 2010 and June 3, 2010
- b) Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Mayor Pro-tem Williams moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 6-0.

IV. PRESENTATION to Gladewater Police Department by Ronnie Moore, Kilgore Public Safety Director

Ronnie Moore, Kilgore Public Safety Director presented Gladewater Police Chief Farrell Alexander with 6 Panasonic laptops they were taking out of service. Chief Alexander expressed appreciation for Kilgore's generosity and said they will be beneficial to officers by allowing them to complete and submit reports from their patrol units.

V. CONSIDERATION of Change Order for Water Treatment Plant sludge and vegetation removal and clear well top modifications presented by John Ringler, KSA Engineers

John Ringler, KSA Engineers gave the Council an update on the Water Treatment Plant project and explained the recent alleged TCEQ violations with regard to sludge removal and the clearwell top. He said we received a grant for \$1.6 million from RUS and roughly a \$5 million loan. Since we must spend all of the loan proceeds before accessing the grant, we have funding available for these projects.

Mr. Ringler then presented two options; The first option is to ask TCEQ for a variance and permission to apply a coating on the clearwell top and make it standard operating procedure in the interim to squeegee off any standing water. The coating will cost approximately \$50,000. The second option is to install a pre-manufactured roof of aluminum or fiberglass over the concrete clearwell top, which would have to be retrofitted. Mr. Ringler said they could get 3 quotes but they will need approval through RUS. He said he believes it will qualify for funding.

The sludge issue came up 2 years ago. There are too many solvents and the lagoons are full. In addition, vegetation needs to be removed. Mr. Ringler recommended renewing the disposal site permit and land-application of the sludge.

Mr. Ringler then discussed the pricing options and recommended getting bids for a unit price per acre for clearing and price per cubic foot of sludge removal. He then asked the Council if they wanted it paid from the construction budget or the operating budget. Councilmember Owens was in favor of paying from the construction budget and Mayor Pro-tem Williams agreed.

Mayor Derrick stated that money is a problem as always and we are looking for the least expensive method.

Mayor Pro-tem Williams moved for John Ringler to work on renewing the permit, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0. Mr. Ringler said he will also get pricing together for the clearwell.

VI. PRESENTATION by Todd Estes, Adams Engineering regarding Lake Gladewater dam repairs

Todd Estes, Adams Engineering presented handouts included in the Emergency Action Plan and gave the Council an overview of the history of the project. He said the hold up on repairs has been the lack of warranty on the epoxy required by TCEQ. He now has a vendor interested in the entire project but the lake level needs to be down below the spillway before the work is done. He said it is only a two week project once it is started.

VII. CONSIDERATION of request by Ms. Loretta Howard to complete construction of Lewis Street

Item skipped.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of amending the FY 2010 budget for street repairs

Interim City Manager Haralson stated last year's street repairs were not completed and paid for until well into this fiscal year. Therefore, this year's allocation paid for last year's work. If we are to continue the street paving program this year the budget will need to be amended.

Councilmember Watson moved to amend the budget \$100,000 for street paving, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of execution of Veolia Water, N.A. service contract

Mayor Pro-tem Williams commented that he was adamantly against the 10 year contract with PSG (now Veolia Water), but we already voted to bring back the streets and parks departments in-house. He moved to approve signing this contract for 3 years so we can move on to the FY 2011 budget and recruiting a city manager. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen.

Councilmember Owens stated that whether public works is privatized or in-house is has to be managed well in order to get value for the money spent. He said his contention is that we overspent for the value of service we got and we have worked diligently the last 10 months to get a better value. He would like to see all these services come back in-house however Mayor Pro-tem Williams has a valid point in that there is not time to bring it back in. He requested that Veolia consider a 1 year contract, which they would not do. He said he will vote in favor of the contract simply because there is no time. He said we need to hire a new city manager, although Melba Haralson is doing a tremendous job as interim.

Councilmember Watson said he is opposed to a 3-year contract with Veolia. He said it is costing the City money that could be utilized in other areas, however we are in a bind. He said he talked to Interim City Manager Melba Haralson, who just finished with the election and is now working on the budget, plus all the other City Secretary business. He said the

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only reason he is voting in favor is because of the timing. Councilmember Derouen said he is voting in favor because it is best for the City right now and moved to approve execution of the contract. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 6-0.

- X. CONSIDERATION of drainage repair to avert damage to East Lake Drive
Haskell Ballew and John Choice of Veolia explained the drainage situation and said if the water is not averted it will cause damage to East Lake Drive. They recommended construction of a concrete channel of 14' on one side and 9' on the other for an estimated cost of \$4,207.50.

Rocky Hawkins, 2005 E. Lake Drive said he has lived there 25 years and he has tried to maintain the ditch between himself and his neighbor but it is more than he can handle.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve the repair for \$4,207.50, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Williams. Carried 5-0-1, with Councilmember Shipp abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

- XI. PUBLIC HEARING regarding whether a public necessity exists for a taxi cab service within the City of Gladewater

Mayor Derrick opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Craig Merrill, 209 Melanie Lane, Longview said he would like to bring a taxi service to Gladewater to give back to the community where he grew up. He now has the amount of insurance coverage required by City ordinance and said he appreciates the Council's consideration of his request.

With no other public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:14 p.m.

- XII. CONSIDERATION of Resolution authorizing the operation of a taxi cab service within the City of Gladewater

Councilmember Derouen said he appreciated Mr. Merrill coming back and requested he provide proof of insurance to the City.

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

- XIII. CONSIDERATION of a request for a fireworks display by Truman Smith Children's Care Center

Fire Chief Wayne Smith said he has concerns with it being so hot and dry. The adjacent property owner has a stand of timber and aerial fireworks poses a potential problem and fire threat. However, the display will be performed by a licensed pyrotechnician and the TAR Club from Tyler has spent \$3-4,000 on fireworks. It is for kids who can't come out to the July 3rd fireworks display. He will have EMS and a fire truck on standby and recommended giving those kids something special.

Councilmember Owens said he appreciates Chief Smith and moved to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0.

- XIV. CONSIDERATION of donation of 2001 Crown Victoria patrol unit to East Texas Police Academy

Police Chief Farrell Alexander said the East Texas Police Academy is hurting for money and resources. They operate off all donated cars. He said we have sold similar cars on the internet auction and got \$1,500-\$2,000. He said we will get \$1,000 in training in exchange for the donation.

Councilmember Owens moved to donate the patrol unit, seconded by Councilmember Shipp. Carried 6-0.

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- XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 regarding
- a) Lake Warden's job description
 - b) Recruitment of City Manager

The Council recessed into executive session at 7:25 p.m.

- XVI. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding
- a) Lake Warden's job description
 - b) Recruitment of City Manager

The Council reconvened into open session at 9:03 p.m. Councilmember Derouen moved to take no action, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 6-0.

- XVII. CITY MANAGER REPORT
- a) Grants
 - b) Special Projects
 - c) Announcements

Interim City Manager Melba Haralson gave the following report;

- a) Grants
 1. WBB Park restrooms, pavilion and sign are beautiful. Still scheduled to be finished by mid-summer.
 2. SECO grant for \$43,303 has been approved. We will be replacing the old fluorescent lighting at city hall and p.d. as well as air conditioning units.
 3. We hired 3 summer intern employees with the ExxonMobil grant; 1 at the library and 2 at public works.
 4. We received the Lone Star grant (a little over \$5k) again this year to hire summer help at the library.
 5. We received a \$10,000 tobacco grant from Gregg County.
 6. We have applied for \$20,000 from ETCOG Solid Waste Grant for 2nd year of litter abatement officer. Since March Al Harrison has attended 120 hours of training, removed 1,930 cubic feet of trash, has 3,572 cubic feet of trash pending owner response, cleared 6 lots, wrote 1 citation and sent 1 case to the district attorney! In addition 3,600 cubic feet of trash was removed in the city wide clean up day.
 7. The Fire Department received \$1,650 from Texas Forest Service for education and \$8,650 from ETCOG with no match for radio equipment.

- b) Projects
 1. Spoke with Don McQuitty of TxDot regarding truck route signs and the problems we are having with trucks coming through downtown. They had to remove our sign on south 271 because the lettering was peeling off and it no longer met their requirements. The problem is that Loop 485 is not designated as a State truck route; it's only by city ordinance. I am working with Mr. McQuitty to begin the process of getting the loop designated as a state truck route. In the meantime we have to order new signs. Until the new signs are installed we cannot enforce the truck route ordinance.
 2. Our attorney, David Watson just sent a letter this week to the bonding company in order to file a claim against Dual Construction.
 3. Veolia has changed strategy on the burn out. Instead of doing a system wide burn out, they are isolating the area affected by the airport and all connections south. The system wide burn out will be done during the winter months when conditions are more favorable.

- c) Announcements

1. The Gladewater Youth Baseball Association, President Mike Timmons, has put about \$10,000 worth of improvements to Bear Park on Pacific Street (the old High School baseball field). Earlier this year Gladewater was selected to host the 13/14 District 4 All-Stars Tournament. Friday night at 8:00 there will be an opening ceremony for the tournament as well as the re-opening of Bear Park.
2. Budget Calendar. These dates are tied to critical timelines set out by the truth in taxation laws and they leave us very little options for flexibility with the dates. Please mark your calendars and let me know as soon as possible if you cannot attend. The main budget workshop will be July 22nd at 9:00 at the library meeting room.

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3. We received a letter from East Texas Korean War Veterans Association and a certificate of appreciation from the American Legion for our assistance in the Travis E. Watkins Medal of Honor Ceremony on March 27th.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Shipp moved to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, INTERIM CITY MANAGER