

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2010
9:00 A.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Melba Haralson, Richard Ross, Larry Player, Wayne A. Smith, Judy Hagle, Farrell Alexander

GUESTS PRESENT: Mark May, Lola May, Jim Bardwell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

II. WORKSHOP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

Interim City Manager Melba Haralson presented an overview of the draft budget for fiscal year 2011. Highlights of proposed budget included; the ad-valorem tax rate of .612318, which is the effective tax rate. Significant decreases in revenues were noted and expenses were trimmed in every department. The proposed budget also established the Streets and Parks Department as well as redistributed funds from the Lake Department in the Enterprise Fund to the Parks Department and Police Departments in General Fund. For the 2nd consecutive year the Performance Pay Plan was not funded and wage freezes remain in effect, with the exception of 911 Dispatchers and the Dispatch Supervisor. Capital Outlay was minimal and all service fees and rate structures remain flat. The budget calls for \$74,640 to come out of General Fund reserves.

Mayor Pro-tem Williams was concerned about continuing the wage freeze. He said we have lost good tenured employees and the longer we go without funding the Performance Pay Plan the harder it will be to catch up. He requested that we come out of reserves for approximately \$55,000, including benefits, to fund employee raises. Interim City Manager Haralson said this would raise the overall pay scale 2% and would allow eligible employees to move up a step.

Councilmember Owens suggested that in the future we look into emailing water bills in order to save postage and also look into doing demolitions of condemned structures in-house.

III. DISCUSSION regarding economic development issues at the request of Councilmember Leon Watson

Councilmember Watson presented a handout he received from the TML Conference and said the Council needs to concentrate on bringing commercial businesses in. He cited the inability of GEDCO as a 4a corporation to assist commercial and retail businesses. Mr. Watson said we need more cooperation out of GEDCO to steer business prospects in the right direction. Councilmember Owens said this is a topic that merits discussion but it is up to the voters. He said we do not have the power to change GEDCO from a 4a to a 4b corporation. Mayor Pro-tem Williams added that we are all GEDCO directors in that we can talk positive about our city and encourage people to come in and build. He said it is everybody's responsibility to promote Gladewater.

Councilmember Burlison said that available property needs to be posted on GEDCO's website. Councilmember Owens asked that this be tabled until a future workshop. Mayor Derrick said this being a discussion item only, there is nothing to table.

IV. ADJOURN

Councilmember Shipp moved to adjourn at 11:58 a.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY
INTERIM CITY MANAGER