

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2011
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem Scott Owens, Leon Watson, Jimmy Williams, Delbert Burlison, Harold Wells, John Shipp

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Pate, Melba Haralson, Dennis Jones, Wayne A. Smith

GUESTS PRESENT: Wanda Allard, Terry Johnson, Judy Burlison, Lana Niemann, Robert Haberle, Joyce Hubbard, Beth McKamy, Marsha Valdetero, Lola May, Mark May, Mike McWhorter, Betty Edwards, Steven Best, Patty Best, Pat Watson, Cathy Smith, Randy Smith, Chantel Smith, Robert Johnson, Paul Hall

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

- a) Invocation – Mayor Walter Derrick
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember John Shipp

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- 1. Randy Smith, Intelligence Chief Petty Officer U.S. Navy, son of Fire Chief Wayne A. Smith, presented the City of Gladewater with a U.S. Flag that was flown over Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan one day after Osama Bin Laden’s demise. Mayor Derrick accepted the Flag on behalf of the City and expressed appreciation for the honor.
- 2. Steven Best, GEDCO Chairman spoke on behalf of GEDCO. He thanked the Council for their support of the budget and activities going forward. He publicly accepted the apology of Mayor Pro-tem Owens. He stated during the budget approval process there were a couple statements made that need to be cleared up. First; it was mentioned in a discussion that we are paying \$64,000 in salary in order to give away \$24,000. Mr. Best said that is not what we pay GEDCO Director Robert Johnson to do. Those funds are used as incentives to recruit or expand businesses and create jobs. He said he hopes we can use all of GEDCO’s undesignated funds for that purpose. Secondly, the adequacy of GEDCO contracts was questioned. Mr. Best stated that all the contracts are written by attorney Gary Shaver. He said he doesn’t remember when the City and GEDCO have worked together as well as they are now. He asked that we look forward, not back and he looks forward to working together.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – October 20, 2011 and October 27, 2011
- b) Blanket Permit for Martin Luther King Parade, January 15, 2012
- c) Water Tap outside the city limits at 11656 Union Grove Road

Councilmember Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 7-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of board appointments

AIRPORT BOARD – Councilmember Williams moved to reappoint Alfred Lacy, Garnet McClure, Ed Parton and Terry Bewley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Shipp. Carried 7-0.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS – Councilmember Shipp moved to reappoint J.L. Elder, Weldon Davis and Elijah (Sonny) Anderson. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Owens, carried 7-0. Councilmember Shipp moved to appoint Jerry Stone to fill the unexpired term of John Murray. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Owens. Carried 7-0.

CEMETERY BOARD – Councilmember Wells moved to appoint Mary Nell Holt, Britta Tipton and Wanda Allard for full terms and Rhonda Owens to fill the unexpired term of Tim York. Motion seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0-1 with Mayor Pro-tem Owens abstaining.

LAKE BOARD – Councilmember Watson moved to reappoint Kevin Clark, Jim St. John and Rocky Hawkins. Motion seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 7-0.

LIBRARY BOARD – Councilmember Burlison moved to reappoint Darren Richardson, Vi Melton and Brenda Kaster. Motion seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

MAIN STREET BOARD - Councilmember Burlison moved to reappoint Reba Smith, Elaine Roddy and Stephani Chance and to appoint Robert Johnson to fill the unexpired term of Brenda Kaster. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 7-0.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – Councilmember Shipp moved to reappoint Linda Dougan, Mark Friend, Sheila Faggans and Harry Sutphen. Motion seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of request by Mike McWhorter to rename Viola Street

Mike McWhorter, 1502 E. Viola Street said wants E. Viola Street to be renamed as Paw Paw and Granny Lane in memory of his grandfather. He said his request to rename it to J.B. Edwards Street was denied back in March because there is already an Edwards Street.

Councilmember Shipp expressed concern over the long term impact of this decision. He said we all have loved ones that we would like to honor but there's other ways to memorialize them. He suggested contacting the International Star Registry or to dedicate a bench or light pole downtown. Councilmember Williams explained that every time we change a street name we have to change 9-1-1, the street maps, post office, etc. Mr. McWhorter said he understands.

Councilmember Shipp moved to deny the request, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

VI. CONSIDERATION of Resolution regarding votes for Gregg County Appraisal District Board of Directors

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to cast our 37 votes to A.P. Merritt, seconded by Councilmember Wells. Carried 7-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION of Resolution regarding votes for Upshur County Appraisal District Board of Directors

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to cast our 116 votes to Darrell McKnight, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of Guidelines and Criteria for Tax Abatement

City Manager Pate said we currently only have one business utilizing the tax abatement program. There have been questions about possible adding language in the future regarding non-transferability and liens.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to approve the guidelines, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 7-0.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 to consult with City Attorney regarding potential litigation – Dual Construction

The Council entered into executive session at 6:34 p.m.

X. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding potential litigation – Dual Construction

The Council reconvened into open session at 6:47 p.m. City Manager Pate announced that we have reached a settlement with Dual Construction for the Gay Avenue project for more than enough to fix the road. He said we are mindful of the school schedule and will start repairs during the spring break.

XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- a) Grants
- b) Special Projects
- c) Announcements

City Manager Sean Pate gave the following report;

1. We scored in the top 4 for the \$150,000 Main Street grant, so we should be funded. This is an extension to the original Main Street grant and will fix the sidewalks on West Pacific. We will have a match, some of which can be in-kind.
2. The Street crew is diligently working on drainage on Melba. They are clearing trees and working with Adams Engineering in replacing soil at the dam with clay compaction.
3. The timber is being clear cut 100 feet behind dam and then will select cut from there.

XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Shipp moved to adjourn at 6:52 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY