

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2014
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Harold Wells, Mayor Pro-tem Scott Owens, Elijah Anderson, Delbert Burlison, Leon Watson, J.D. Shipp, Lana Niemann

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Pate, Melba Haralson, Robert G. Vine, Michael Kirkwood, Paul Jaap

GUESTS PRESENT: Colleen Bailey, Ryan Bailey, Dale Bailey, Yolanda Bailey, Pat Watson, E.M. Parton, Michael Tolbert, Charles Mouton, Linda Wells, Mark Carpenter, Jim Bethune, Phyllis Bethune, Ron Stutes, Suzanne Bardwell

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
a) Invocation – Councilmember Watson
b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Burlison

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ryan Bailey, age 10, thanked the Mayor and Council for letting him be the 8-minute mayor in 2012. He said Clubhouse Magazine, published by Focus on the Family is printing their story this summer and the East Texas Down Syndrome Group asked him to be their 2014 Goodwill Ambassador. He also announced that the date for the East Texas Down Syndrome Buddy Walk is Saturday, October 11, 2014 at Teague Park in Longview.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – February 20, 2014
b) Contract with Gregg County for election services
c) Resolution approving submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for an in-car camera system
d) Ordinance to amend Gladewater Code of Ordinances §150.02 – Schedule of Permit Fees
e) Ordinance to amend Gladewater Code of Ordinances §123.12 – Permit Fee Required for Food Service Establishments

Councilmember Burlison requested that Item E be pulled out to discuss separately.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item E, seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 7-0.

With regard to Item E, Councilmember Burlison stated this came up awfully quick and he needed more time to study the issue.

City Manager Pate explained this is an existing ordinance that was adopted in 1999. We have surveyed other cities and need to modify the fee schedule with an increase of \$10-\$15 for each category. He said there has been no fee increase in 15 years. Mr. Pate agreed with City Inspector Christopher Wells that the people utilizing health inspection services should pay for the service instead of tax payers as a whole. He recommended approval of the increased fees.

Councilmember Niemann stated the fees are extremely reasonable and she does not think it would deter a business from opening.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens added this is the first time we have a well-run health inspection service; that we previously had to rely on the county or state inspectors.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 5-2, with Burlison and Shipp opposed.

IV. CONSIDERATION of noise complaint on Shell Camp Road

Jim Bethune, 3033 George Richey Road, presented his complaint regarding noise generated by a Quantum Resources compressor. He stated he has received no satisfaction from Quantum Resources and he is pursuing this issue with state senators.

Gladewater Police Chief Rob Vine said they investigated the noise complaint. He said the maximum lawful noise level is 85 decibels. His officers measured from three different locations on different dates and times and the highest reading was 55 decibels, so there is no violation of law.

City Manager Pate cited a letter received from Quantum Resources that stated the compressor has been in continuous operation at that location for 10 years and the noise level has not recently increased. They stated that perhaps some of the noise may have been associated with gas generators used during recent power outages. However, in their desire to be a good neighbor they have ordered and will be installing a new hospital-grade muffler within the next week.

Councilmember Niemann said the Council will remain sensitive and encourage Quantum Resources to follow through on the installation of the muffler.

No action taken.

V. CONSIDERATION of waiving boat ramp fees for Gar Fishing Tournaments

Lake Board member Jim St. John said the Lake Board desires to improve the quality of fishing on the lake. They have organized a gar fishing tournament to be held once per month through the summer. Mr. St. John said the gar population has improved and they feed on other species of fish. These are bow fishing tournaments and they will be from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. He asked the Council to waive the boat ramp fees as these tournaments are to provide a service to enhance the lake.

Councilmember Niemann moved to waive the fees, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Owens. Carried 6-0-1 with Councilmember Shipp abstaining due to Shipp's Marine sponsoring the tournament.

VI. CONSIDERATION of extended City Hall business hours

City Manager Pate stated that City Secretary Haralson approached him with the idea of extending City Hall business hours to accommodate citizens. He said it is not unreasonable to modify the hours and he is familiar with other cities doing so.

City Secretary Haralson explained that many citizens have to take off work to apply for, terminate or transfer water service, set up payment plans for property taxes, conduct business with municipal court, purchase a cemetery plot, lease hangar space, reserve pavilions or take out permits. She said the city's website is currently not interactive to conduct most of this business and it would be a progressive step in providing better customer service to our citizens. The proposed hours are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon (so as not to create an overtime situation). She further explained that on Friday afternoons if an emergency situation arises citizens can call the Police Department and they will dispatch the appropriate personnel. In addition, water bills can be left in the drop box and penalties will not be assessed until the following Monday, which essentially gives citizens an extra two days to make timely payments.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens said it is a great idea. Councilmember Niemann said it would be more accommodating to citizens who can't get here by 5 p.m.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve extended hours as presented, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Mayor Pro-tem Owens asked when it would start. City Manager Pate said we want to give ample time to advertise and suggested a start date of May 1st. Motion carried 7-0.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code 551.074 for deliberation regarding appointment of City Attorney

The Council recessed into executive session at 6:41 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding appointment of City Attorney

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:11 p.m.

Councilmember Anderson moved to appoint Ronald Stutes as the City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- a) Update on water main project – They are still working on obtaining right-of-ways.
- b) Update on Main Street Manager – There were about 30 resumes received and about 12 were turned over to the recruitment committee to set up interviews. They will submit the top 3 for consideration.
- c) Announcement of Council workshop – A special workshop will be held Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. regarding plans for water and sewer line replacement and street improvements.

X. ADJOURN

Councilmember Shipp moved to adjourn at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Adjourned by consensus.

HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY