

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 28, 2014  
6:00 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Pate, Melba Haralson, Wayne A. Smith, Robert G. Vine

GUESTS PRESENT: Cathy Smith, Colleen Bailey, Ryan Bailey, John L. Hawley, Sr., Howard Fountain, James E. Clay, Sandra Clay, Patricia Richardson, B.K. Johnson, John Osteen, Elane Osteen, Margaret Larkins, Phillip Godlock, Pat Watson, Mark Carpenter

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARING for fiscal 2014-2015 budget

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Sean Pate gave a brief overview of the proposed budget, stating there is no proposed tax increase. He explained the fluctuation in the valuations received from Gregg and Upshur Counties and how that determines the effective tax rate. He explained that we are looking to adjust utility rates due to rising chemical and equipment costs.

Bennie Johnson, stated he is the newly elected president of the Red Rock Memorial Park Cemetery Association. He described the condition of the cemetery and expressed their need for fencing, roads, upkeep, expertise as well as monetary donations. He said several churches have pledged support and he will also be seeking support from Upshur County. He asked the City Council to be thinking about how the City can help them next year.

Colleen Bailey presented two issues to the Council for consideration. 1) Ambulance service – She said there is a need to educate citizens about the subscription and what it covers (or does not cover). 2) Kilgore College – She asked the Council to consider looking into the Kilgore College tax. She cited an article she read about the history of the college district and that only six small cities agreed to participate. She said there is a bit of inequity in that only some Gladewater residents have to pay the tax. In addition, only 6% of Kilgore College students come from Gladewater.

John Osteen received clarification that the proposed Smith County Fire District will not result in a tax increase for Gladewater citizens. City Manager Pate explained it only has to do with the City's extra territorial jurisdiction.

With no other public comments the public hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT that final vote for fiscal year 2014-2015 budget will be taken at the regular City Council meeting September 18, 2014

Mayor Wells made the announcement.

IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to adjourn at 6:43 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Adjourned by consensus.

ATTEST:

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HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY