

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 20, 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, Michael Kirkwood, Paul Jaap, Casey Chambers, Wayne A. Smith

GUESTS PRESENT: Brenda Attaway, Janice Attaway, Robert Rapone, Gary Clark, Dortha Cauthen, Ken Cauthen, Lilli Jones, Jim Jones, Johnny Teve, Larry Lossett, Temetra Lossett, Alfred Shepperd, Phyllis Williams, Gerald Williams, Kelly Young, Jamie Cline, Raymond Young, Jennifer Tankersley, Randy Koss, Cindy Thompson, Judy Martin, Millie Koontz, Sally Pyburn, John Pyburn, Sherry Easley, Dot Gay, Joe Gay, James Byrd, Cindy Byrd, Kyle Martin, B.K. Johnson, Paula Ellis, Pete Gerbine III, Jimmy Mohon, Anita Corbell, Charles Mouton, Pat Watson, Bud Wilken, Mike Parson, Ida Parson, Jane Gregston, Barbara Kennedy, Don Humphries, Jr., D. Sumpster, Mary Anne Cumbie, Mike Reynolds, Jane Reynolds, Ray Hamilton, Donna Hamilton, k Doug Kendall, Sharon Kendall, Libby Gamble, Arely Gamble, Daniel McCain, C. Barnhill, Ellis Hayden, Jackie Hayden, Paula Wise, Zachary Wise, Judy Banner, Paul Banner, Anna Hatfield, Mark Kirbo, Richard Yeakley, Mark Carpenter, Janet Michalka, Jim Bardwell, Ronald Stutes

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING regarding proposed annexation

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and turned the floor over to City Attorney Ronald Stutes. Mr. Stutes gave a presentation regarding the history of annexation and the legal process involved.

Councilmember Owens spoke on behalf of the Reinvestment Committee. He said the committee was charged with the responsibility of looking at city assets, how they can best be used and to look at the current and future impacts on the city and its resources. After studying the issues, the committee came up with the proposed annexation. The newly defined area is ripe for future development and annexing that area makes it easier for GEDCO to offer incentives to businesses, which will create new jobs. Councilmember Owens further explained the reason for the rush was the creation of Gregg County Emergency Services District #2. He said the City would have to pay a portion of the debt they encumber if we annex it later. He stated that since the election passed to create GCESD #2 we can work with them on a contract basis and get partial reimbursement when we have to render services outside the city. Mr. Owens commented that that this is the way the process should work and the committee has presented a workable solution.

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing up to the floor at 6:30 p.m.

1. Randy Koss questioned whether the boundary line on either side of U.S. Hwy 271 was correct. City Manager Pate said he would check into it and provided affirmation that current property uses would be grandfathered. Mr. Koss said in the near future the city needs to extend the sewer system if they want to develop that area.
2. Bud Wilkins asked about zoning of the proposed area. City Manager Pate stated the Planning & Zoning Commission will make recommendations to the City Council once the annexation is approved. Planning & Zoning will hold public hearings prior to establishing zoning but priority will be commercial.

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3. Jamie Cline said volunteer fire departments from all around responded to the 2011 wildfires, not the City. She also said when they call Gregg County they respond quickly.
4. Phyllis Williams commented on the ambulance service and said it was the City's decision to pay \$90,000 per year. She said citizens pay for the ambulance with insurance, it is not free.
5. Gerry Williams thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief for listening. He said we now know all of you better and he offered to do anything to help the City. He said they will keep the Friendship Community committee together.

Councilmember Niemann stated we all want what is best for the City and our community; not just inside the city limits but outside also.

6. Jim Jones said he hopes the antagonistic days are over. He thanked the Council and said at the end of the day we are all friends and neighbors.
7. Paula Ellis thanked the Council for listening. She said at the first meeting they thought no one here cared. She said the compromise is good, then quoted a scripture from Romans 12 that says if it is possible live at peace with everyone.

Councilmember Niemann thanked Ms. Ellis for her comments and stated we (City and GEDCO) have been working with you in different ways with your company. We all have checks and balances and we look forward to working together in the future.

8. Bob Chavin said he was disappointed in the way the information got out in the newspaper, namely \$65,000 for fire protection. He said Councilmember Owens was given credit for several articles in which he spoke about growth. Mr. Chavin said he calculated Gladewater's growth at 1.6% in last 20 years.

Councilmember Niemann stated there was a lot of misinformation on all sides. She was astonished at some of it and a lot of time was wasted trying to clear up those things. She appreciated the signs that said "Get the Facts". She said Gladewater has had growth and cited examples of McDonald's, Texas Tire & Brake, TECO and The Cutting Edge, in addition to a \$1.7 million line replacement we just completed and the new water treatment plant. People don't realize how much we have accomplished because they don't come to the meetings. The City is planning and making movement. She said she probably spends 40-80 hours per month on the growth of the City. There are good things happening in Gladewater.

Councilmember Watson said he has been on the Council 10-11 years, we had a company that was hired to manage water, sewer and streets. Our current City Manager Sean Pate, got us out of that contract and hired 2 good men. ; Paul Jaap and Casey Chambers to run those operations. We have an excellent Fire Chief Wayne Smith, and new Police Chief Robert Vine, both doing an outstanding job. The City is growing and progressing. The Robert Johnson, GEDCO Director is working hard and is interested in seeing Gladewater grow and Lana Niemann is also bringing businesses in.

9. Anita Fobell, thanked the Council and staff, particularly City Secretary Melba Haralson. She said Ms. Haralson was hard working and helpful in fulfilling numerous public information requests. She said the cost of fire protection has been mentioned a number of times. Her research found that between 2010 and 2014, 27% of fire department calls were outside the city in both Gregg and Upshur Counties. She said it wasn't just Phase 1 area that all those calls were going to and asked why the City doesn't bill Gregg County ESD for those services. She expressed concern for small businesses inside the city limits. She said code enforcement has a full plate but the City needs to be cleaned up in order to be more appealing for businesses. She then asked if there was any recommendation to P & Z on zoning.
10. Mark Carpenter said he is glad to see everybody being so cordial and civil. He hated to see signs that said to boycott Gladewater because that is the wrong way to go. He said the City should sell itself on merit, not forced annexation which violates the Golden Rule.

With no other public comments, Mayor Wells closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

- III. ANNOUNCEMENT – Second public hearing regarding proposed annexation will be held December 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells so announced.

- IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to adjourn at 7:12 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Adjourned by consensus.

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HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY