

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Harold Wells, Mayor Pro-tem J.D. Shipp, Elijah Anderson, Leon Watson, Dennis Robertson, Lana Niemann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Bland

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Pate, Melba Haralson, Paul Jaap, Wayne Smith, Kathi Corwin, Robert Vine

GUESTS PRESENT: Christian Allen, Nick Foster, Terry Johnson, Margaret Larkins, Rebecca Jaap, Randy Koss, Memori Ruesing, Matthew Ruesing, Linda Wells, Elaine Roddy, Diane Turner, Lola May, Mark May, Mark Armstrong, Stacie Whitaker, Lynn Whitaker, Lois Reed, Janet Davis, Jim Bardwell, Gerald Williams, Phyllis Williams, Robert Johnson

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

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Robertson
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Watson

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Diane Turner, 112 S. Main Street, GADA President, said there will be a fund raiser held at Walker Manor on July 11, 2015 with a concert, food and silent auction. She said GADA's goal is to raise funds to lease a billboard between Terrell and Gladewater on Hwy 80 East for one year. She asked not only for the Council's approval, but invited them to personally attend the function to show support.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – May 18, 2015, May 21, 2015, June 1, 2015 and June 9, 2015
- b) Fireworks display on June 26, 2015 for Truman W. Smith Children's Center
- c) Gladewater Antique Dealers Association fund raiser event to be held at Walker Manor July 11, 2015
- d) COBRA Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement

Councilmember Niemann moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of request by Lynn and Stacie Whitaker to combine Lake Gladewater lots 44-E-2 and 45-E-2

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 6-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of request from Matthew and Memori Ruesing for a Historic Property tax exemption

Memori Ruesing, 214 E. Commerce, said her home is a Texas recorded historic landmark. They have hired an attorney because they believe the Council was unable to render an unbiased vote with regard to their request for tax exemption. She stated her belief that the Council was confused by incorrect information provided by GEDCO Director Robert Johnson. She requested reconsideration of a 20% exemption and asked that Councilmember Niemann recuse herself from discussion and voting, citing various personal reasons including that she ran against her in the last election and lost.

Robert Johnson, GEDCO Director, said he spoke at the last meeting as a former employee of the Texas Historical Commission. He said he is for historic preservation but it has to be done in a logical and linear manner. He cited Section 106 regarding landmarks and tax credit laws. He said it was agreed upon that we would work on a plan to adopt later and failed to see where he was in error.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp said he was supportive of city staff looking to the exemption and even made a personal donation to the Ruesings since the exemption would not be in place in time

for this tax year. He said he is bothered that now we are asked to make a decision based on potential litigation.

Memori Ruesing said they have a right to protest and that a law was passed in 2014 that gave them the right to take it all the way to district court.

Councilmember Niemann said her confusion is that we (Council) agreed to work on having this exemption in place for next year. It just was not ready before April.

Kathi Corwin, Main Street Manager, said she has obtained examples of other historic preservation ordinances and she is working on it.

Councilmember Robertson said he is for the exemption, they deserve the exemption and they will get the exemption. It was his understanding that it was postponed this year but will be in place next year.

Matthew Ruesing stated they qualify for it now. They are not trying to disqualify anyone down the road but they already have a historic marker.

Councilmember Niemann acknowledged that they are already qualified and when the ordinance is in place they will get the exemption as long as they continue to qualify.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved that the City stay the course and continue with the Main Street Manager's efforts to create an ordinance for the Council's consideration. Motion seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 5-0-1, with Councilmember stating that she abstains, not because she has to, but so there will be no questions later.

VI. CONSIDERATION of 9-1-1 addresses and potential street name change for a portion of Paradise Hill

City Secretary Haralson stated she notified Kim Wheeler, ETCOG 9-1-1 Addresser, that portions of Paradise Hill as depicted on the drawing she furnished is actually private roads, not dedicated city streets and therefore should not be renamed or renumbered as part of Paradise Hill. Kim Wheeler said she will assign private road numbers and address accordingly. She asked the Council to decide whether to stop numbering Paradise Hill at 516, where the actual roadway stops or to continue assigning numbers to the end of the platted roadway that is not yet constructed.

Councilmember Niemann moved to stop numbering at 516, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION of revisions to Façade Improvement Grant Program Guidelines

Kathi Corwin, Main Street Manager stated the revisions were only to adjust the application timelines.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Shipp. Carried 6-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of resolution requesting assistance with infrastructure funding from Gregg County

City Manager Pate said this a formality needed for Gregg County to provide reimbursement funding for upcoming seal coat project.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 6-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of submitting a letter of request to Gregg County for donation of the Gladewater Museum building located at 116 W. Pacific and Garfield Community Center building located at 197 Eleanor to the City of Gladewater

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to table, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 6-0.

X. CONSIDERATION of ordinance for regulation of sexual offenders

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2015

Page 3

Police Chief Rob Vine stated this protects our children by regulating where sex offenders can reside or frequent and establishes child safety zones.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0.

XI. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend Traffic Code §70.57; Reckless Driving, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

Police Chief Rob Vine said currently “digging out” is a class B misdemeanor requiring arrest and impound of the vehicle. This ordinance makes it a class C, which warrants a citation.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 6-0.

XII. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend Chapter 93; Parks and Recreation and General Regulations §93.11 (A) Park Hours, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

Chief Vine stated this establishing uniform hours for all city parks. Everett Park will be closed from dusk to dawn and all other city parks will be closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. There is an exception for fishing at Lake Gladewater.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 6-0.

XIII. CONSIDERATION of budget amendment for \$67,650 for early payoff of sewer jetter and backhoe loan

City Manager Sean Pate suggested the early payoff of the sewer jetter, explaining that next fiscal year Warren City will no longer be buying water or paying about an \$11,000 pro-rata share of debt. That is a loss of approximately \$61,000 in revenue. He said if we retire this debt early that will be less cut-back needed on next year’s budget.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve. Motion died for lack of second.

XIV. CONSIDERATION of Cemetery Board’s recommendation regarding placement of Historical Marker for Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Travis E. Watkins at the entrance of Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery

Councilmember Watson explained the American Legion Post received approval from TxDOT to rename Highway 80 from Gladewater to Big Sandy as Travis E. Watkins Memorial Highway in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Travis E. Watkins. He said they have money left over after purchasing the two signs for another sign to be placed at the entrance to his resting place at Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery.

Councilmember Watson then moved to approve placing a sign at the entrance of Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery in honor of Master Sergeant Travis E. Watkins. Motion seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 6-0.

XV. CONSIDERATION of appointment of City Council members as ex-officio members of advisory boards pursuant to §30.04 (D) of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

Councilmember Watson moved to table, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 6-0.

XVI. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to;

- a) Texas Government Code §551.074 regarding recruitment of City Manager
- b) Texas Government Code §551.071 to consult with attorney and receive confidential legal advice, including via telephone conference call as permitted by Section 551.129 of the Texas Government Code.

The Council recessed into closed session at 6:50 p.m.

XVII. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding

- a) Recruitment of City Manager
- b) Consultation with City Attorney

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:41p.m. Councilmember Robertson stated they have reviewed a number of qualified resumes and will continue to accept applications until July 2, 2015.

No action taken. Mayor Wells stated the Council did not consult with the City Attorney.

XVIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Update on ball park complex – The project is progressing. They are making up time lost by inclement weather.
- b) Update on relocation of public works facility – We have acquired about 5 acres along Commerce Street and the land will be cleared soon.
- c) Update on 12" water line project – The pipe has been staged. They will begin closest to the school and go up to East Lake Drive. The anticipated completion date is November 2015.
- d) Update on sealcoat project – Public Works has been shoring up the streets. Project is slated to kick off in mid July.

City Manager Pate expressed appreciation for his five years in Gladewater and said he will take the friendships with him. He said he left a closing assessment with Melba Haralson, Interim City Manager.

XIX. PRESENTATION to outgoing City Manager Sean Pate

Mayor Wells presented a plaque of appreciation to Sean and wished him well as he continues his career in Bonham.

XX. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to adjourn at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Adjourned by consensus.

HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY