

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2015
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leon Watson

STAFF PRESENT: Melba Haralson, Rob Vine, Casey Chambers, Michael Kirkwood, Wayne A. Smith, Al Harrison, Judy Hagle, Kathi Corwin

GUESTS PRESENT: Robert Johnson, Jim Bardwell

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

II. BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Secretary/Interim City Manager Melba Haralson presented an overview of the proposed budget. General Fund revenues were lost from declining property values, sales tax and mineral related revenue. In order to balance the budget without raising taxes or drawing from reserves, deep cuts were made in each department including the elimination of three part-time positions and greater GEDCO participation for qualified projects.

In fiscal year 2015, the Enterprise Fund is anticipated to fall about \$250,000 - \$300,000 short of budget due primarily to over projected water sales, the abnormally wet spring plus rising chemical costs and overtime. This deficit will have to come from unrestricted reserves. In order to balance this budget and to prevent further draw down on reserves, deep cuts also had to be made in the Enterprise Fund, including the elimination of the Public Works Director position. Critical capital purchases are primarily for the wastewater treatment plant and are being made with remaining certificate of obligation funds.

GEDCO Director/Main Street Board Vice-Chairman Robert Johnson and Kathi Corwin, Main Street Manager gave a presentation to convey the vital importance of continuing the Main Street program.

Police Chief Rob Vine answered questions from the Council regarding his previous request to close the jail and utilize Upshur County to house our Class C prisoners at no charge. This would entail adding another full-time officer to facilitate transports.

After lengthy discussion it was decided by consensus to proceed with the proposed budget as presented and reconsider the jail closure in January or possibly March.

III. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Adjourned by consensus.

HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY
INTERIM CITY MANAGER