

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION  
MINUTES  
MAY 26, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Robertson

STAFF PRESENT: Theo Melancon, Melba Haralson, Al Harrison, Wayne Smith, Kathy Cannon, Rob Vine

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Bardwell, Christian Allen, Cathy Smith, Nick Foster, Terry Johnston, Sheri Johnston, Mack Bain, Shannon Bain, Shawn Fortenberry, Ray Peden, Marcy Johnson, Carole Sasser, Rosemary Thomas, Galen Thomas, Lorraine Clark, Scott Owens, Karen Carenter, Rachel Haynes, Randy Koss, Gary Clark, Chris Langford, Mark Carpenter, Kevin Clark, Jack Earp, Cathy Shipp, Glenn Shipp, David Sturkie, Cameron Sturkie, Joan Sturkie, Paul Sturkie, Matt Sturkie, Teddy Hansard, Bettie Liddell, Patsy Callaway, Randy Callaway, Shannon Ellis, Gene Walker, Tara Perkins, Vince Phillips, Karen Phillips, Linda Wells, Charity Robinson, John Black, Lisa Martin, Mary Anne Cumbie, Leon Word, George Glenn, Elaine Roddy, Marty McLeod, Terry Johnson, Jane (illegible), Henry Pharr, Patricia Watson, Amanda Brown, Joshua Brown, John Paul Tallent, Linda Daniels, Corinne Shearer, Roger Daniels, Ian Hufton, Robbie Floyd, Dub Floyd, Chris Lankford, Angel Duncan, John Sturkie, Rickie Blackmon, J.P. Richardson, J.Y. Kindt, Deb Fishburn, Bill Fishburn, Colt Edwards, Dick Dobbins, Gena Silva, Ann Cummings, Lois Reid

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING regarding a proposed ordinance to amend §154.006 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances; Zoning Code – Certificate of Occupancy

City Manager Melancon and City Inspector Al Harrison gave a presentation to provide health and safety statistics as compared to the national average and pictures of dangerous conditions and code violations found in current or recently occupied rental properties.

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

The following citizens addressed the Council; Mark Carpenter, Rosemary Thomas, Scott Owens, Sherry Johnston, David Sturkie, Matt Sturkie, Gene Walker, Paul Sturkie, Kevin Clark, Randy Koss, Charity Robinson, Lorraine Clark, Brent Abernathy, John Paul Tallent, J.P. Richardson, Dub Floyd, Shawn Fortenberry, Angel Duncan, Chris Lankford, John Sturkie, Rosemary Thomas, Joan Sturkie, Mack Bain, Mary Ann Cumbie, Colt Edwards.

With no other public comments, Mayor Wells closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

III. CONSIDERATION of whether to place the proposed ordinance to amend §154.006 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances; Zoning Code – Certificate of Occupancy on the June 16, 2016 City Council agenda

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp stated it was obvious the ordinance has not met the approval of everyone and said this is not the last step, but the beginning of the process.

Councilmember Niemann said all of the input was appreciated. The common goal is to beautify Gladewater. She said we can start here with rental properties but need to put an overall plan together to address owner occupied properties. She said she is in favor of the ordinance but not as written. She suggested that the \$25 inspection fee be set aside to be used for clean-up and beautification efforts. She believes the best of Gladewater is to come.

Councilmember Watson said there is a lot of work to be done. The certificate of occupancy is just the first step in that direction.

Councilmember Anderson said we need to realize what needs to be done and not just look at each other. We need to come together and work together.

Councilmember Bland thanked all the speakers and said he believes the opinions were split about 50/50. He said it is clear that we need to also focus on homeowners.

City Manager Theo Melancon said we have worked hard on this ordinance. He said we had a simple ordinance in the beginning but not every city has the same need. He said if this ordinance goes forward it needs to include changes of occupancy so the burden is not so heavily placed on landlords and property managers.

Councilmember Niemann moved to place the certificate of occupancy on the June 16, 2016 City Council agenda with the stipulation that amendments are made and a final draft will be made available to the public and put on the website one week in advance. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Shipp. Carried 6-0.

IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to adjourn at 8:00 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