

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
JULY 18, 2005
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Paul Tallent, Mayor Pro-tem Walter Derrick, Joe Derouen, Jerry Williams, Scott Owens, Richard Parrish, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmy Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Jimmy Davis, Wayne Smith, Vickey Baker, Virdell Skelton

GUESTS PRESENT: Bob Runyon, Gregory Dohrer, Alex Smith, Reba Smith, Steve Hoover, Joan Sturkie, Ray Sturkie

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tallent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Derouen.

II. CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD for Gay Avenue street project

City Manager Stokes explained the scope of the work and reported on the bids received and stated that the lowest bid was received from Reynolds & Kay, Inc. for \$59,165.34. The work could possibly start this week, but the contract states that it must be completed before school starts on August 17th.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to award to the lowest bidder, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 6-0.

III. PUBLIC HEARING regarding application for \$150,000 Texas Capital Fund Main Street Program grant

City Manager Stokes explained that the grant will be for improvements to library parking, ADA issues entering the library, ADA issues at the historical museum, and repairing the sunken spots and asphalt patches in downtown brick streets.

With no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

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

V. CONSIDERATION OF CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCEDURES for the Texas Community Development Program

Councilmember Jerry Williams moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 6-0.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF AIRPORT BOARD

- a) East Texas Skydiving shipping container
- b) East Texas Skydiving fuel tanks

City Manager Stokes explained that the Council voted in late 2004 or early 2005 to give East Texas Skydiving six months to move their tanks. That time period has expired, and based on what it felt were reasonable circumstances, the Airport Board voted to recommend the Council give East Texas Skydiving ten days to move the shipping container and the fuel tank must be relocated to its newly-leased location at the airport by 10/1/05.

Councilmember Jerry Williams moved to approve the Airport Board's recommendation with regard to the shipping container (item a). Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

Councilmember Parrish moved to approve the Airport Board's recommendation with regard to the fuel tank (item b). Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 6-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF DONATING PORTABLE RADIOS to Clarksville City/Warren City Volunteer Fire Department and Gladewater Independent School District

City Manager Stokes explained that we have extra radios due to receiving new ones as part of the Homeland Security grant.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to donate the amount of radios that Fire Chief Wayne Smith and Police Chief Jimmy Davis think we can reasonably part with. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 6-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF PROPERTY jointly owned by the American Legion

City Manager Stokes explained that we continue having problems getting in touch with the American Legion, and attorney David Watson will be contacting their State Division Headquarters in Austin. If we continue having problems, we will look at possible options of re-bidding without that 1.5 acres, or selling to high bidder on a pro rata basis without the 1.5 acres (if that's allowed by law), or possibly condemning the property so we may possess full title.

No action taken.

IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING SKATEBOARDING AREA on Marshall Street owned by First Christian Church

Joan Sturkie addressed the Council. She spoke of her love of Gladewater and the number of houses she and her family have rehabilitated in Gladewater. She stated that the skateboarding park was affecting her business. She handed out copies of the sign at the park, which she read verbatim. She stated that it is also impacting Corrine Shearer (another owner of rental property, who was not in attendance). She expressed concern about the kids' safety, and asked why the City didn't ask the neighbors what they thought about it being built there prior to its construction, as done with other issues. She stated emphatically that she wants the park closed.

Pastor Ron Irons of the First Christian Church spoke. He said Mrs. Sturkie had given a fine speech, but it was financially motivated. The park was built for kids, and skateboarding is a fast growing recreation. He wishes the church could monitor it better, but they can't due to staffing issues. They are working with other churches to see if together they can monitor it better.

Mayor Tallent said that skateboarding over there is a problem. Councilmember Jerry Williams said it's located in the wrong place, and is concerned about the property rights of the neighbors negatively affected by it. City Manager Stokes said the City had no authority to disallow it from being built since it is a mission of the church, and there were no zoning issues which required the neighbors to be notified. Councilmember Owens said he used to see kids skateboarding in the streets in his neighborhood, now he doesn't and presumes it's because they're using the facility on Marshall Street.

Pastor Irons said his church's advisory board would consider closing the park if the City would provide skateboarding opportunities for youth elsewhere. Mayor Tallent and City Manager Stokes said the proposed FY 2006 budget contained funding for parks. The Council asked Mr. Stokes to look at cost and liability issues surrounded by the City opening one, and to check with the City of Kilgore since they recently built one.

This will be discussed again at another Council meeting with all parties involved.

X. BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Stokes presented an overview of the proposed FY 2006 budget. He stated that we were doing well with revenues in FY 2005, and in August will be asking for amendments as we did last year. Mayor Tallent reiterated that he would not support

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an increase in the ad valorem taxes. Mr. Stokes stated that we would learn our final values within the next few weeks.

It was agreed that:

- a) If final values get us \$1,488,775 without a tax increase, we would not need to have another budget workshop.
- b) If final values get us more than \$1,488,775 at last year's tax rate we would hold the tax rate and take the additional income to pay for the library, reducing dependency on the library's reserve funds.
- c) If final values are low enough that a tax increase would be needed to levy \$1,488,775, we would have another budget workshop to explore our options.

XI. ADOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Owens.
Carried 6-0.

JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY