

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 2008  
6:00 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Farrell Alexander, Wayne Smith, Larry Player, Richard Ross

GUESTS PRESENT: Jimmy Davis, Karen Jacks, Alfred Lacy, Norma Lacy, Deborah Pike, Charles Meadows, Ed Parton, Garnet McClure, Brenda Brown, Mark Carpenter, Joe Wise, Keren Alexander, B.J. Hill, Sara Jo Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tallent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. Councilmember Jimmy Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – January 17, 2008
- b) Ordinance to Order City Officers Election
- c) GEDCO Financial Audit for FY 2007
- d) Resolution to adopt Citizen Complaint Procedures for 2007 Texas Capital Fund (TCF) grant
- e) Resolution to adopt Excessive Force Policy for 2007 Texas Capital Fund (TCF) grant
- f) Resolution to establish local Section 504 Grievance Procedures for 2007 Texas Capital Fund (TCF) grant
- g) Cemetery Board appointments of Gerry Rivers and Steven Best

Councilmember Parrish moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 7-0.

III. CONSIDERATION of Financial Audit for fiscal year 2007

Karen Jacks, CPA and owner of Karen A. Jacks & Associates, presented an overview of the financial audit. She said the City earned a clean, or unqualified opinion, which is the highest possible opinion and said the staff should be commended.

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to accept the audit as presented, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of awarding bids on the following property

- a) 1996 New Holland 555E backhoe
- b) 5 hp Asphalt roller

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to award the 1996 New Holland 555E backhoe to Southern Auto Parts, who was the highest bidder, for \$4,100. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

Councilmember Owens moved to award the 5 hp asphalt roller to Jessie Dollison for \$375. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of renewal of Land Applied Sludge Permit

City Manager Stokes explained that the process of land applied sludge is antiquated. He said it costs the City about \$1,500 per year for the permit, about \$200 per year to maintain, plus the cost of disposal. Mr. Stokes recommended that we not renew this permit and said Vital Earth is interested in taking the sludge for \$1,000 per year.

Councilmember moved to accept Mr. Stokes' recommendation to reject renewal of the permit, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

VI. CONSIDERATION of pursuing additional HOME Grant funding

City Manager Stokes explained that some cities are turning back HOME grant monies and it may lead to repooling those funds. If the City is interested in going after more HOME grant funds we will get about \$60,000 for every \$15,000 we put in. He said we already have 4 houses budgeted.

After a short discussion, Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to go for 8 more houses, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

VII. PRESENTATION of 2007 Racial Profiling and Police Activity reports

Police Chief Farrell Alexander briefly explained the reporting capability of the new computer system and presented the 2007 Racial Profiling and Police Activity reports. He said the reports coincide with the demographics of Gladewater.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of budget amendment to purchase video cameras for the Police Department

Chief Alexander said all but two of the cameras purchased in FY 2006 are not working and the company from which they were purchased appears to be out of business. He explained the dire necessity for 8 new mobile video cameras for \$39,288, which includes shipping.

Councilmember Parrish asked if we could resell the current cameras and if the cost of the new cameras included installation. Chief Alexander answered that there was not much resale value, but we could try to sell the cameras "as is". Chief Alexander said installation is as simple as a couple bolts for the new cameras.

Councilmember Jerry Williams asked about the warranty on the new cameras and what the life expectancy is. Chief Alexander responded that the cameras should last for 3-5 years and they are covered under the manufacturer's warranty for one year. Councilmember Jerry Williams then asked if there are any grant funds available and the Chief answered that there is none for cameras.

Councilmember Owens asked if we needed to go through the bidding process or Buy Board. City Manager Stokes said the limit is now \$50,000, so we do not.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams commented that these cameras are needed to protect our officers and are the tools necessary to win cases.

Councilmember Derouen agreed that we need to do this for our Police Department and moved to amend the budget to buy 8 cameras for \$39,288. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of a request by Bobby Joe Hill to reduce the speed limit on Clearview Street

Councilmember Parrish moved to table, as Mr. Hill was not in attendance. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 7-0.

*Note: Mr. Hill entered the meeting after consideration of Item X and was allowed to present his request.*

Bobby Joe Hill, 611 Clearview, apologized for being late and thanked the Council for hearing him. He said he has a problem with speeders on his street and the main problem is the school bus. He explained that his street is 385' long and a dead end. He has not gotten any satisfaction from the school district. Chief Farrell Alexander suggested we step up patrol efforts, but they slow down when they see a police car. Mr. Hill requested the speed limit to be lowered to 20 mph on Clearview Street. Chief Alexander said he has no problem with Mr. Hill's request since it is a short, dead end street.

Councilmember Owens said we were approached recently about installing speed bumps and we worked instead with the Police Department to enforce the speed limit.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2008

Page 3

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to drop the speed limit to 20 mph since it is a dead end street. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 6-1, with Councilmember Owens opposed.

- X. CONSIDERATION of revised Gladewater Municipal Airport Leases
- a) Land Lease for Private Hangar
  - b) City-owned Enclosed Hangar Space Agreement
  - c) City-owned Open Hangar Space Agreement

City Manager Stokes explained that it has been a long, hard journey to get a lease that everyone can agree on. He said we are not asking for any consideration on Items b and c at this meeting. They will need to mirror the lease in Item a.

Mr. Stokes said that based on a discussion with City Attorney David Watson, the language of the present lease indicates that it is renewable annually on the same terms and conditions. Any changes to the new lease will not affect the current lease holders. Transfers and new hangars will get the new lease; the others are grandfathered in at \$0.12 per square foot. Attorney David Watson wrote the lease that was presented to the Airport Board. The Board had concerns that there was no provision of renewal. City Manager Stokes said he had concerns over future revenue. An agreement was finally reached on a new lease (attached and made a permanent part of these minutes) that meets the needs of all concerned. The lease rate can be reviewed each year with 5-year adjustments approved by the Airport Board and ratified by the City Council.

Councilmember Jerry Williams asked if the grandfathered leases were assignable or transferable to heirs. City Manager Stokes responded that if someone sells their hangar the new owner would be subject to the new lease. In case of death, it is unclear whether or not the old lease can be left to an estate. Mr. Stokes said the City Attorney drew the lease up as he recommends it.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve the lease as presented for private hangars. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 7-0.

- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.071 to consult with City Attorney regarding revised Gladewater Municipal Airport Leases

A consultation with the City Attorney was not necessary, as the lease was approved.

- XII. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding revised Gladewater Municipal Airport Leases

- XIII. PUBLIC HEARING regarding demolition of structures at the following locations;
- a) Lot 4, Gladewater Colored Church of Christ Addition, located at the intersection of Miller and Roden Streets
  - b) Lot 1, Block 5 Carver Addition, more commonly known as 622 Eleanor Street

Mayor Tallent opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. City Inspector Larry Player requested permission to demolish these structures. He has made several attempts to contact the owners of record to no avail. Mayor Pro-tem Derrick said he thinks the owners may be deceased on the old Masonic Hall and he personally tried to find someone connected to the Eleanor address and could not.

- XIV. CONSIDERATION of demolition order for structures at the following locations;
- a) Lot 4, Gladewater Colored Church of Christ Addition, located at the intersection of Miller and Roden Streets
  - b) Lot 1, Block 5 Carver Addition, more commonly known as 622 Eleanor Street

Councilmember Derouen moved to approve the demolition of the structure at the intersection of Miller and Roden, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

Councilmember Jerry Williams moved to approve the demolition of the structure at 622 Eleanor Street, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2008

Page 4

XV. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Update on grants
- b) Gay Avenue drainage
- c) Lake Gladewater Dam
- d) Perryman Baseball Fields
- e) Wastewater Treatment Plant inspection
- f) Purchase of new water meters

City Manager Jay Stokes gave the following report;

- a) Texas Capital Fund - We are waiting on a letter from the Historical Commission to start the library parking lot and entrance to the Gladewater Museum.

2006 TCDP\_– While boring toward downtown from the Police Department, we hit 2 old gas tanks. Luckily there were no catastrophes. Big D Hazmat removed the gas promptly, but the tanks are still there and in the way. TCEQ and TxDot have been notified. It is not clear at this point who is responsible for removal of the tanks. The soil is being tested and we are optimistic that the soil will not be contaminated. If we get clearance we can lay the last 40' of water line. If it's not cleared, then we will have to reroute the line.

- b) Gay Avenue Drainage - Chris Meeks of Veolia Water helped the engineers dig up toward the bridge. No later than April we should have the final design.
- c) Lake Gladewater Dam - Adams Engineers reports continued progress. They will need to meet with contractors will to do short term work.
- d) Perryman Baseball Fields – Recent wind storms took down one light pole at the field. The estimated cost is \$2,500 to put the pole back up and repair wiring. We will get \$5,000 back in TML-IRP adjustments that will help pay for it. All the poles will need to be replaced in the near future. We are also working to get free recycled asphalt from Gregg County for the parking area.
- e) Wastewater Treatment Plant inspection - The plant is in good shape, however we need to be aware of this early precursor. We will have to replace the Dallas Lift Station going south (downstream), which will be cost 7 figures. We are not under mandate or enforcement action by TCEQ, but we need to start thinking about the future.
- f) Purchase of new water meters – We have purchased about \$20,000 of new water meters. We were looking at how many meters are dead (minimum bill) and we are losing revenue. Chris Meeks of Veolia Water, has been told to go ahead and get the meters replaced with Master Meters instead of Schlumberger meters.

XVI. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mark Carpenter, 2301 Woodbine, suggested that the City take bids for equipment by using the website of AuctioneerExpress.com. He said he was opposed to the City buying a new backhoe. He would have opted to fix the old one or buy a used one. Mr. Carpenter said if Councilmember Owens had reminded him about the backhoe up for bid, he would have bought it for \$6,000.

XVII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Adjourned by consensus.

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JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY