

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 10, 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, Wayne A. Smith, Farrell Alexander, Mike Taylor, Betty Charlson, Carl Laza, Stephen Washburn, David Wright

GUESTS PRESENT: Guy Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Jimmy Davis, Mary Jane Williams, Charles Meadows, Arron McLeroy, Don Bouse, John Lee Ussery, Jarrod Alexander, Beverly Tallent, Sue Wright, Brenda Brown, Luke Charlson, Robert Tatum, Chris Meeks, Elaine Roddy, Wynn King

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. SPECIAL PRESENTATION by Police Chief Farrell Alexander

Chief Alexander presented commendations to Officer Betty Charlson and Sergeant Mike Taylor for saving the life of a baby who was not breathing on March 1st. They quickly responded to the call and started CPR and were able to revive the infant, who is now doing well. These officers are a credit to their profession and to our City.

III. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – March 13, 2008
- b) Blanket Permit for 2008 Gusher Days Festival
- c) Blanket Permit for 2008 Independence Day Fireworks Display
- d) Investment Report for quarter ending March 31, 2008
- e) Contract with Traylor & Associates, Inc. for grant management services for HOME Grant #1000863

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried 7-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of easement request from Byrd Land Services for Goldston Oil at old city dumpsite on W. Commerce Street

City Manager Stokes explained that Mr. Schlemmer could not be in attendance due to a family emergency. However, Mr. Schlemmer is willing to negotiate on the price of \$35/rod. Mr. Stokes said a neighboring city just got \$55/rod for a similar easement.

Councilmember Parrish moved to approve the easement at \$55/rod, seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of easement request from Mr. Matt Zhorne across from Lake Gladewater lot 42-E-1

(This item was considered after Item X.) Wynn King, who lives at 2021 E. Lake Drive, directly across from Lake Lot 42-E-1, explained that Matt Zhorne (not in attendance) has property that is land locked and has been using a City right of way for ingress and egress. Mr. Zhorne wants to sell his property and is requesting a permanent easement from the City.

Councilmember Derouen moved to approve the easement at no expense to the City, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Williams. Carried 7-0.

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VI. UPDATE on Gay Avenue drainage project

Mr. Don Bouse of Stokes & Associates reported that they have completed the specs and will be advertising to receive bids on April 22nd. He said they will be back to present a recommendation of bid award on April 29th. They anticipate the work to begin in May after school is out and hope to conclude in 60 days. Mr. Bouse updated the Council on the anticipated scope of the project, which extends from the High School to the creek. He said they won't know exactly how much pipe needs to be replaced until they start excavation.

VII. CONSIDERATION of conveying historic fire truck to East Texas Museum at Gladewater

Elaine Roddy, President of the Gladewater Museum Association agreed to accept a 1952 fire truck from the City as is, with all equipment intact. Mayor Tallent asked where the truck will be stored. She responded that Harold Wells, Museum Director, agreed to make it a permanent display under metal over on his property at 817 N. Main. Mrs. Roddy said if the museum should be dissolved for some reason, all exhibits will go to the Gregg County Historical Society.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 7-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of amendment to Gladewater Memorial Park Rule #3

City Secretary Haralson explained that the Cemetery Board unanimously approved this rule revision due to a recent situation where cremation remains were buried between two existing graves. The City had no record of the burial until the family purchased an additional marker. The Cemetery Board revised the rule to prohibit more than one burial per grave space.

Councilmember Parrish asked about adding the name to an existing monument and scattering the ashes. City Secretary Haralson responded that the Cemetery Board was only concerned with unrecorded burials and additional monuments. It was the opinion of the Board that only one burial should be permitted per grave space.

Councilmember Jerry Williams said he sees a problem for the future, as more people are being cremated and that we should have a separate policy for cremation. He also acknowledged that there needs to be a limitation to the number of burials in one plot.

Councilmember Jimmy Williams said if we keep one body per space we will be okay.

Councilmember Owens moved to adopt the rule revision, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Derrick. Carried 7-0.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 for annual performance evaluations of City Judge, City Manager, and City Secretary

The Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

X. RECONVENE into Open Session and take any action necessary regarding annual performance evaluations of City Judge, City Manager, and City Secretary

The Council reconvened at 7:06 p.m. and took the following action to be effective October 1, 2008;

Mayor Pro-tem Derrick moved to increase City Judge Carolyn Kizer's salary by 8% plus grant a \$200 per month car allowance. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 7-0.

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Councilmember Jerry Williams made a motion to move City Secretary Melba Haralson up to step 14 of the Performance Pay Plan, plus increase her car allowance to \$400 per month. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0. City Secretary Haralson asked for clarification and stated she was already on step 14 of the Performance Pay Plan. Councilmember Jerry Williams then made a motion to move Ms. Haralson to step 15 of the Performance Pay Plan, seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Williams. Carried 7-0.

Councilmember Owens moved to increase City Manager Jay Stokes' salary by 5% and increase his car allowance to \$800 per month. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 7-0.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Spring Beautification Day - April 12th
- b) Hampton/Hackberry drainage update
- c) Lake Gladewater dam update
- d) TML Region 15 meeting in Gladewater - May 5th
- e) Leasing of new lot on Lake Gladewater
- f) Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 29th
- g) Proposed FY 2009 Budget calendar
- h) Update on grant proposals

City Manager Jay Stokes gave the following report;

- a) As a reminder, the Spring Beautification Day is set for Saturday, April 12th from 8:00 a.m. until noon. It will be staged from the Chamber of Commerce and hot dogs will be served for the volunteers.
- b) John Ringler, of KSA Engineers almost as the easements prepared. When they are signed we will be 30-60 days from starting the project.
- c) We need to do a core of the soil in order to see the composition. This project is ongoing.
- d) We will host the TML Region 15 meeting on May 5th at the Gladewater Former Students Building at 6:30 p.m. We will recognize four people who have served Region 15, who are not seeking reelection; Joey Seeber, Mayor of Tyler, Tim Vaughn, Mayor of White Oak, Ned Fratengelo, Mayor of Jefferson, and our Mayor, John Paul Tallent.
- e) There is nothing new to report on the leasing of this new lot. An appraisal needs to be done.
- f) We need to have a special City Council meeting on April 29th at 6:00 p.m. to award the bid for the Gay Avenue drainage project and also to award the bid on the Texas Capital Fund Grant project.
- g) A preliminary FY 2009 budget calendar was distributed, with the primary budget workshop meeting to be held July 24th.
- h) By the May meeting, the Airport Improvement project and the 2006 TCDP project will be finished. The Main Street project is close to being finished, but it has a big punch list. We are getting close to starting Weldon Bumblebee Park. A water rate study is involved for the Water Plant Improvement project and they were surprised that our current rate is so low. The HOME Grant project will be starting up in the near future.

XII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

(This item was taken after Item VIII.)

Guy Harrison, 1008 Forest Hill said he appreciates the opportunity to speak. He said he has already spent \$10,000 on his drainage situation and requested that the Council use its influence to get the Gardens of Gladewater to address its drainage problems as they initially said they would do. He said there is 12 inches of silt coming from the Gardens of Gladewater that is built up between the two fences. Mr. Harrison said he has addressed the Council before and has talked to the City Manager twice. He said he has

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also talked to Mr. Haugh (who represents the Gardens of Gladewater) and he promised they would fix the drainage problem, but nothing has been done. He said it is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens. He further stated the Gardens of Gladewater are an asset to the City, but they should not be a liability to him. He said if the drainage is fixed at Hampton and Hackberry Streets and ignored in his neighborhood it would be discriminatory.

XIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Adjourned by consensus.

JOHN PAUL TALLENT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY