

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2008
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem John Ussery, Jimmy Williams, Rhonda Smith, Scott Owens, Richard Parrish

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Derouen

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Farrell Alexander

GUESTS PRESENT: Mary Jane Williams, Delbert Burlison, Judith Burlison, Mark Carpenter, Calvin "Cisco" Frierson, John Choice, Chris Meeks, Karen Morgan, Jim Bardwell

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor Derrick immediately skipped down to Item V, which was discussion of 1-way traffic on Mildred Street.

II. WORKSHOP regarding contracted privatization services with Veolia Water

City Manager Stokes explained the contract does not expire until 9/30/10, but would like to learn the logistics of how the Council wants to proceed with studying this issue over the next several months. After much discussion, the consensus of Council was as follows:

1. Council will handle this issue directly rather than appoint a special committee to do so.
2. Council will meet monthly in a special meeting to discuss this issue, starting in January 2009. Staff will attempt to limit agenda items to only the workshop on Veolia, barring any special circumstances. The special meetings will not be pre-determined each month (i.e. every 1st Thursday of the month) but will float to allow a better chance of all Council being present.
3. Once per quarter the Council will hold a public hearing on this matter to allow the public an opportunity to offer their comments directly to the Council.
4. At the first few meetings, the Council will go over the existing contract and the City Manager will lead that discussion.

III. CONSIDERATION of FY 2008 Veolia Water overages for General Fund and Enterprise Fund

The Council discussed Veolia overages for FY 2008 totaling \$175,947.26. Council members and staff explained that these numbers reflect many items beyond the City's control such as Hurricane Ike expenses, sewer line breaks, as well as items previously authorized by the Council such as a backup pump at the water plant clearwell and the Hampton/Hackberry drainage project.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery made a motion to approve the Veolia overages for FY 2008 in the amount of \$175,947.26, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 6-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of purchase of a new tractor and boom mower attachment

Councilmember Owens led the Council through a discussion regarding the purchase of a new tractor with boom mower attachment. The Council previously

budgeted for this item and voted to buy it. However, the price had increased by nearly \$9,000 due to a mistake by the selling agent. Staff and Councilmember Owens researched all options, including walking away from the purchase of this tractor. Through negotiations with the selling agent, and because of their mistake, the selling agent agreed that if the City purchases the tractor for \$50,700.16 they would reimburse the City \$4,700, which is all of their profit. This represented a total increase of about \$5,000 more than previously budgeted by the City for the purchase of a new tractor.

Councilmember Owens made a motion to purchase the tractor for \$50,700.16 provided the selling agent provide written documentation that they would rebate the City \$4,700. (This price reflects the tractor only and not the boom mower attachment.) Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Carried 6-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of permitting one-way traffic on Mildred Street from Highway 80 to Melba Street

Police Chief Farrell Alexander said that GISD requested this due to problems with traffic especially during the afternoons. Chief Alexander said he has visited with GISD officials and the owner of the laundry mat (only affected property owner on the street). Laundry mat owner preferred if this is done that it only be 1-way during school hours because the laundry mat has no access off of Hwy 80. Council discussed advantages and disadvantages of having this a 1-way street on a part-time basis. Finally consensus was to try this part time and see how it works. If it is not working, Council may re-visit the issue and look into making it 1-way on a full time basis.

Councilmember Owens moved to make Mildred Street 1-way, northbound, from Hwy. 80 to Melba from 7-9 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. on school days. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 5-0-1, with Councilmember Smith abstaining because she is an employee of GISD.

VI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Meeting stood adjourned by consensus at 7:05 p.m.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY