

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2009
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rhonda Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Wayne A. Smith, Farrell Alexander, Richard Ross

GUESTS PRESENT: Jimmy Davis, Linda Ambrose, Ken Ambrose, Mary J. Williams, Judy Burlison, Mary Vaughn, Glenda Jones, Craig Merrill, James Draper, Charles Meadows, Chris Meeks, Toby Bryant, D.L. Burlison, John Choice, Mark Carpenter

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a) Invocation – Mayor Walter Derrick
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Jimmy Williams

II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – February 19, 2009
- b) Resolution to ratify Investment Policy
- c) Renewal of Interlocal Agreement with Upshur County

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

III. PRESENTATION on Dallas Force Main Study by Mike Burns, KSA Engineers

Mike Burns, KSA Engineers, presented the study and recommended replacing "Line B", which runs from just west of Rodden Lane at Loop 485 upstream to just south of the railroad near Pacific Street and Hwy 80, for an estimated cost of \$2.4m. Application was made to the Texas Water Development Board for assistance; however funding is doubtful due to the overwhelming number of applicants.

IV. PRESENTATION of Lake Gladewater Dam report

Todd Estes, with Adams Engineering presented results of the testing done on the dam by Apex Geoscience, Inc. The testing revealed that the integrity of the earthen dam is in good shape with the exception of a couple trouble spots that can be repaired over time. He said there are several noticeable leaks in the concrete spillway through the joints, which will continue to worsen. Mr. Estes explained the options ranging in cost from under \$100,000 to over \$2,000,000. He said the most immediate concern is the adoption and implementation of the Emergency Action Plan. As soon as possible repairs should be made to the concrete spillway, then over the next 20 years repairs should be made to the dam itself.

City Manager Stokes pointed out that we hired Adams Engineering to do this study to satisfy TCEQ requirements. He said it will take 2-4 weeks to fix the leaks and we will have to put the project out for bids.

V. CONSIDERATION of submission of Emergency Response Plan for Lake Gladewater Dam to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Todd Estes, Adam Engineering said that TCEQ has seen the plan and is comfortable with it. City Manager Stokes complimented staff for their assistance on the report.

Councilmember Owens moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ussery.
Carried 6-0.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2009

Page 2

- VI. CONSIDERATION of Ordinance to close and abandon an alley in Block 2 of the Paradise Hill Subdivision, lying in a northwesterly direction from First Street to Second Street

Mary Vaughn, 521 1st Street said that in 1976 1st Street was extended and they had to give 20' of their land for the extension of the street. She believes the alley in question is their property and are currently using it as their driveway. She said she will find her paperwork and bring it back to the Council.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to table since there is some confusion as to her property line, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

- VII. PUBLIC HEARING to determine whether public convenience and necessity requires the licensing of a taxicab service

Mayor Derrick opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Craig Merrill, 209 Melany Lane, Longview, said he would like to bring a taxi service to Gladewater. He has received a copy of City Ordinance §121.04 and has not been able to find an insurance company willing to issue coverage for the amount we require. He asked the Council to consider lowering the requirement.

Mayor Derrick explained that changing the ordinance was not on the agenda, so we must adhere to the current ordinance.

Councilmember Owens asked Mr. Merrill if he was already operating here. Mr. Merrill replied that he was not, but he has been advertising.

Mayor Derrick told Mr. Merrill to secure the insurance and come back. He then closed the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

- VIII. CONSIDERATION of Resolution declaring the public convenience and necessity exists for the licensing of a taxicab service

No action taken.

- IX. CONSIDERATION of permit for Juneteenth Parade

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 6-0.

- X. CONSIDERATION of blanket permit for annual Gusher Days Festival

Ken Ambrose, Chairman of the Gusher Days Committee stated that this is the 24th annual Gusher Days Festival. He said it is good for the community and he appreciated the Council's continued support.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Parrish. Carried 6-0.

- XI. CONSIDERATION of a request from G.I.S.D. to close a section of Wood Street during school hours

City Manager Stokes explained the request from the new G.I.S.D. Superintendent, J.P. Richardson to close a section of Wood Street during school hours for the protection of the students.

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

XII. CONSIDERATION of the City Council Retreat Report and Strategic Plan

City Manager Stokes thanked the Council for taking the time to put the plan together. He said Ron Cox will be back on April 3rd to work with staff on implementing the plan.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Parrish.
Carried 6-0.

XIII. DISCUSSION of staff findings on water and wastewater tap fees

Chris Meeks, Veolia Water Project Manager, said they are looking into the cost to install taps versus what the citizen pays. As an example he estimated a residential water tap cost about \$2,000-3,000 and the citizen is only paying \$250. Mr. Meeks cited instances where the lines were deeper than expected. When boring is involved, the cost of materials alone exceeds what the citizen pays.

Councilmember Parrish asked if we can bid for each tap individually plus 15%. Councilmember Jimmy Williams said that would create more work for Chris Meeks. Councilmember Owens said he is in favor of setting a flat fee to recoup costs with an addition for boring and special circumstances.

City Manager Stokes agreed with Councilmember Owens' suggestion and said recommendations will be brought back at the next meeting.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.071 to consult with City Attorney regarding sewer contract renewal with Clarksville City

The Council recessed into executive session at 7:18 p.m.

XV. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary pursuant to sewer contract renewal with Clarksville City

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:58 p.m. and took no action.

XVI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants update
- b) Special projects update
- c) Water issues
- d) Buzzards at the water tower

City Manager Stokes gave the following report;

- a) Grants - Weldon Bumblebee Park is close to completion.
- b) Special Projects
 1. Mills and Eddy Street drainage project started today and should be finished by March 20th.
 2. Thanks to Upshur County Commissioner Lloyd Crabtree for sandblasting and painting the entrance and railing at the cemetery.
 3. The Spring Beautification Day is set for April 4th.
 4. About half of the junk cars that have been tagged have now gone to the Police Department, who will be sending out letters in a week or so. Tarped or covered cars are not immune for the most part; however probable cause has to be determined for a search warrant. The process takes some time as non-compliant citizens still have due process of law.
 5. ETCOG has received money for Hurricane Ike. A prorated set of money is set aside for each county; 40% the county can keep, cities can apply for the remaining 60%. Gregg County got \$2.5m and Upshur County got \$250k, so we think we will get some of that money.
 6. The left over amount of the Main Street money is still undetermined.
 7. We have been approached with the idea of showing a movie at Lake Gladewater Park. Councilmember Scott Owens said that Mr. Shelton, who installs audio-visual equipment, wants to know if the City is interested.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2009

Page 4

They are proposing to do the first movie for free on Memorial Day weekend. There will be discounted rates after that, in the \$425-\$550 range.

- c) Water Issues
 - 1. We are getting close on the Water Plant project. We should have the bond attorney information to Council in April, and then we can go out for bid.
 - 2. There is little hope of getting federal funding on the Water Treatment Plant. We rank #35 of 37 projects.
 - 3. Thanks to staff for the hard work on the broken water main. A lot of people had to put in extra long hours.
- d) There have been no buzzards at the water tower in several weeks. We have been told by an expert that they are probably mating and hatching young. He expects they will be back in greater number, but he is licensed to remove them.

XVII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Judy Burlison, 3067 E. Lake Drive, informed the Council that the Gladewater Garden Club is in the process of becoming an affiliate of "Keep Texas Beautiful".

XVIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Parrish moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY