

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 15, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem John Ussery, Judith Burlison, Joe Derouen, Scott Owens, Charles Meadows

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmy Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Stokes, Melba Haralson, Richard Ross

GUESTS PRESENT: Diane Turner, Vi Melton, Mark Priestner, Bobby Fowler, Gail Fowler, Bennie Cornutt, Mark Carpenter, Norma Lacy, Alfred Lacy, Karen Morgan, Haskell Ballew, Jerry Meeks, Jr., Margaret Larkins, John Choice

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Derrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Judith Burlison
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Walter Derrick

II. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – September 17, September 22, and October 1, 2009
- b) Agreement with Gregg County for support of Lee Public Library
- c) Fire Protection Agreement with Upshur County Emergency Services District #1
- d) Fire Protection Agreement with Upshur County Emergency Services District #1 as agent for the City of Union Grove
- e) Resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application with the East Texas Council of Governments for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program
- f) Resolution authorizing pursuit of all Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)

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

III. CONSIDERATION of hiring Planning Concepts for Weldon Bumblebee Park Phase II Improvements

City Manager Stokes announced that we have been awarded \$294,750 from a grant through ETCOG (Hurricane Ike Social Services Grant - Recreation) with no match, which was about 10 times the amount we hoped for. This will allow us to complete all remaining phases of Weldon-Bumblebee Park except for the splash pad, which was prohibited by the grant. He said there is a narrow window and all work must be completed by August 31, 2010. He then recommended that we hire Planning Concepts.

Mark Priestner, President of Planning Concepts said this is an incredible opportunity and the Council is to be commended for planning the entire project ahead, which made this a shovel ready project. He said all the electrical engineering for the entire park is already done. There will be a fast turnaround because of the foresight of the Council in planning.

Mayor Derrick complimented City Manager Stokes for pursuing this grant opportunity.

Councilmember Owens moved to hire Planning Concepts, seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 6-0.

IV. CONSIDERATION of Lake Board's recommendation regarding Ordinance to amend §93.02, §93.03 and §93.04 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

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

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V. PUBLIC HEARING regarding the need to continue the City's Curfew Ordinance

Mayor Derrick opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. then closed since there were no public comments.

VI. CONSIDERATION of continuation of Gladewater Code of Ordinances §131.05 – Curfew

Councilmember Owens said it is a well written ordinance and it's useful to the Police Department to curtail late night activity.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery said he appreciates the Police Department and stands behind them, and then moved to continue the curfew ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Meadows. Carried 6-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION of Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

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

VIII. DISCUSSION regarding potential RV park regulations

City Manager Stokes said he reported his concerns last month regarding the Boomtown RV park downtown. He looked at ordinances from other cities and didn't find anything that really addressed the issues here. He said he has been getting complaints about the appearance of the park and asked at what point it becomes a trailer park instead of a RV park. He attended a GADA meeting and found they were all concerned. He wants all sides to be heard but doesn't think what is down there now is what was intended.

There was lengthy discussion between various Council members and Gail and Bobby Fowler (owners of Boomtown RV Park), Diane Turner (GADA), Bennie Cornutt and Larry Seery (owners of Antique Capital RV Park), and Jim Bardwell (neighbor and Publisher of Gladewater Mirror).

The primary concern was the appearance of Boomtown RV Park and it seemed the tenants were parked there more on a long-term residential basis rather than for recreational purposes. Complaints have been received about the poor condition of the RV's, vandalism and noise, including domestic violence.

Gail and Bobby Fowler said they purchased the property in June and have future plans to improve it.

Mayor Derrick said he thinks the City Council would not want to become regulatory and would like people to take care of these issues themselves. He asked the Fowler's to consider how soon they plan to upgrade.

Mark Carpenter, 2301 Woodbine, said he thinks they will upgrade the property and welcomed them to Gladewater.

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants Update
- b) Special Projects Update

City Manager Stokes gave the following report;

- a) 1. We will open bids for the Water Treatment Plant project on 10/27/09 at 10:00 a.m.
- 2. SECO grant – Bad news - Police Chief Farrell Alexander said the air conditioning unit is shot at the Police Dept. and it will cost about \$30,000. The good news is the SECO grant may pay for it. If some entities don't accept funding it will be redistributed so we may get more money.

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3. SWAC-ETCOG grant – We are applying for a litter abatement officer and the completed application is due in by 10/30/09. He asked for pictures of litter to submit with the application.

b) 1. The public works cost comparison of the five cities requested by Council will be ready to present at the 10/29/09 meeting. A draft was presented of Gladewater and Kaufmann. He asked the Council to look it over and let him know as soon as possible if they need more information, otherwise all others will be prepared in the same format.

2. The street paving cannot be done until weather permits. This may be the wettest September and October we've had. Stokes & Associates will also come back to do guarantee work on Gay Avenue when weather permits.

3. The downtown restroom renovation is ready for bid. We want to wait until after Christmas to start construction.

4. The Fall Beautification Day went well. We filled 4 – 30 yard dumpsters.

5. National Night Out also went well. Councilmember Owens said this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year he has hosted a party. He lives in a very diverse neighborhood and said he noticed this year people were visiting more. He estimated about 70 people attended.

6. The carnival is one week from Saturday (10/24) at the Emergency Services Building. The Police and Fire Departments have put in a lot of hard work.

7. The buzzards are back and have invaded Weldon-Bumblebee Park. The Texas Department of Wildlife has been contacted and they should be out to take care of the problem within a couple weeks.

8. Haskell (Hack) Ballew is now the acting Veolia Project Manager and Karen Morgan is being promoted to Assistant Project Manager. John Choice has also moved back from the project in Bonham to run the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

X. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

XI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Meadows moved to adjourn at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Adjourned by consensus.

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WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY