

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2010
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Burlison

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Marsha Valdetero, Harold R. Wells, Cisco Frierson, Mary J. Williams, Karen Morgan, Bob King, Haskell Ballew, John Choice, Todd Clifton, Linda Patton Dougan, Richard Parrish, Joyce Hugman, Leon Watson, Vi Melton, Diane Turner, Cathy Smith, Jimmy Davis, Karen Jacks, Lewis Davis, Aaron Davis, Darren Richardson, Katherine Bowen, James Draper, Mark Carpenter, Eulalia Hill-Allen, Annie Walker, Patsy Carter, Brenda Kaster, Margaret Larkins

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

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Meadows
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Owens

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mark Carpenter – 2301 Woodbine, said he appreciated citizens comments being moved to the top of the agenda. As far as privatization goes, he said the citizens are for the city taking it all back.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – January 21, 2010 and February 8, 2010
- b) Contract with Gregg County for 2010 election services
- c) Blanket Permit for Gusher Days to be held April 16-18, 2010
- d) Interlocal Agreement with Upshur County
- e) Resolution authorizing signators for TxCDBG Contract No. DRS010055
- f) Ordinance to order City Officers election for May 8, 2010

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

IV. CONSIDERATION of FY 2009 Financial Audit presented by Karen A. Jacks & Associates, Inc.

Karen Jacks presented an overview of the financial audit and stated the City received a clean opinion, which is the highest opinion they could render.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery said we are fortunate to have Karen Jacks as she is the expert in auditing municipal governments.

Councilmember Owens commended staff for receiving such a good report.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to accept the audit as presented, seconded by Councilmember Meadows. Carried 6-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of awarding bid for Weldon-Bumblebee Park Phase II Improvement Project

Engineer Brad Baker presented three bids for the project; lowest bid was from TCMC for \$233,828.86, with an alternate bid of \$146,863.80. The estimated construction time is 45 days. Mr. Baker said this will be for all planned features except we have a smaller parking

lot and took out the water fountain and cut the performance and maintenance bond for \$2,800. We have an option to put that back in but we will keep a retainage of 10% and a written guarantee that they will finish the job. The total negotiated bid is \$257,000.

Councilmember Owens moved to accept the negotiated bid of \$257,000 from TCMC, seconded by Councilmember Meadows. Carried 6-0.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING regarding Main Street Program

Mayor Derrick opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Todd Clifton, 1622 W. Lake Drive, said he has been on the Chamber Board of Directors for 26 years and believes it is vital we keep the Main Street program. It is prestigious. Not a lot of cities have it and it provides us with a lot of resources. The Chamber of Commerce is the gateway to the community and we are proud to have Marsha Valdetero as the director and support her in the dual role of Main Street Director. She is experienced; she has an excellent relationship with business owners and citizens and she's already working to promote Gladewater. She has unanimous support of the Chamber Board of Directors and full willingness of the Board to volunteer to staff the Chamber office in her absence. He said he would like to see the Main Street Board take a more active role, receive additional training and be interactive with businesses. He asked the City Council to support this partnership with the Chamber by allowing the Chamber Director to also be the Main Street Director.

Diane Turner, owner of Antiques II and Secretary/Treasurer of Gladewater Antique Dealers Association (GADA), concurred. She stressed the importance to keep the Main Street Program and supported Marsha Valdetero as the director, however said she will need help in order to split her time.

Councilmember Owens said he thought this was the time to look at whether we could overlap the Chamber, Main Street and GEDCO Director positions. He would like to still see savings and this is the best opportunity. However, this is a one year contract and we may look at it again then. He added, in the business world, if an employee decided to decline one of their job functions without talking to their boss, they wouldn't have a job. He said Lon Welton has not given explanation to the Council, only a letter that he quit.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery stated Lon Welton was not an employee of the City, this was a contract with GEDCO and proper channels were followed. He said we are not here to hold grudges but to move forward.

Mayor Derrick closed the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

VII. CONSIDERATION of contract with Gladewater Chamber of Commerce for Main Street services

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the contract with the Chamber of Commerce for \$1,895.83 per month until the end of the fiscal year. Councilmember Derouen seconded the motion. Carried 6-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION purchasing lift station pump

Veolia Project Manager Hack Ballew and Operations Supervisor John Choice presented the need for three new lift station pumps; two on E. Lake and one on Eddy Street. They said TCEQ requires 2 pumps per lift station and these three currently only have one pump, all approximately 25 years old. The lowest bid was from Carter Equipment for \$10,900 for all three pumps and Veolia will install.

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

IX. CONSIDERATION of Ordinance to authorize Allied Waste Services rate increase by Consumer Price Index per contract

City Manager Stokes said the rate is increasing by the CPI, which is 1.9% or 21 cents per residence.

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

X. CONSIDERATION of lease agreement with Gladewater Independent School District and Gladewater Youth Softball Association

For the benefit of the public, Councilmember Owens explained the school owns the property and the softball association is building additional fields.

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

XI. DISCUSSION of potential animal control ordinance

Police Chief Farrell Alexander presented his recommendations for revisions to our animal control ordinance. He was asked to put the ordinance together and bring it back next month.

XII. CONSIDERATION of 2009 Gladewater Police Department Annual Traffic Contact Report

Police Chief Farrell Alexander presented the report and stated we are in compliance with state law and there were no civil rights complaints.

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

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 regarding appointment of Municipal Judge

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

XIV. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding appointment of Municipal Judge

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:32 p.m. Councilmember Meadows moved to appoint Donna Blalock as the Municipal Judge, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 6-0.

XV. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants update
- b) Special projects update
- c) Introduction of Litter Abatement Officer
- d) Staff Recognition
- e) Update on privatization Request for Proposal

City Manager Jay Stokes gave the following report;

- a) Grants update
 - 1. All 5 HOME grant homes have been completed. Everyone is invited to attend an open house on March 4th at 204 E. Eddy. The second round of the HOME grant will be starting soon.
 - 2. The RDA loan closing and pre-construction meeting was held earlier today.
 - 3. The State Department of Rural Affairs awarded a grant for generators at the water treatment plant and waste-water treatment plant and we received word there may be more Hurricane Ike money to come.
- b) Special projects update
 - 1. Texas Wildlife Services has eradicated 50 buzzards and 8 pigeons. There is a growing wild hog population that may need to be addressed.

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2. We are close to a fight with Dual Construction, out of Texarkana, Arkansas over fixing the guarantee work on Gay Avenue.
- c) Introduction of Litter Abatement Officer
Police Chief Farrell Alexander introduced Al Harrison, who has assumed the duties of Litter Abatement Officer.
- d) Staff Recognition
 1. City Secretary Melba Haralson achieved recertification from the Texas Municipal Clerks Association through the University of North Texas.
 2. Fire Chief Wayne A. Smith obtained another grant from Texas Forest Service for \$1.650 with no match for training.
- e) Update on privatization Request for Proposal
Five companies picked up RFP's. We anticipate the March meeting to be long since the RFP's will need to be scored.

XVI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Meadows moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY