

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2010
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Burlison

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Wanda Allard, Mary J. Williams, Vi Melton, Carol Tidwell, Diane Turner, Cisco Frierson, Norma Lacy, Alfred Lacy, Karen Morgan, Haskell Ballew, J.D. Shipp, John Choice, Leon Watson, Phillip Creel, Carol Ussery, Nancy Mellott

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

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Williams
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro-tem Ussery

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – March 18, 2010 and April 9, 2010
- b) Investment Report for quarter ending March 31, 2010
- c) Ratification of City of Gladewater Investment Policy
- d) Ordinance enacting and adopting S-14 supplement to the Gladewater Code of Ordinances
- e) Blanket Permit for East Texas Museum “50’s Day” on May 22, 2010
- f) Blanket Permit for Solid Rock House of Praise Church Car Show on June 12, 2010

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

IV. CONSIDERATION of Agreement with Veolia Water North America for the operation, maintenance and management of the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, distribution and collection systems, and meter reading services

Councilmember Owens said the Council as a whole made the decision to go this direction. He said we can never relinquish our liability and responsibility to a third party; and that being the case we would be better off to take these services back and save the money.

Councilmember Williams stated the liability issue is stipulated in the contract. He said he would love to have everything like we did 15 years ago, but we can’t take it back all at once. He said we have 3 years to get prepared and see what happens then.

Councilmember Owens commented that Council members can disagree or express differences of opinion and still walk away as friends.

Mayor Derrick said we have a strong contract and called for a vote.

Councilmember Williams moved to award the contract to Veolia Water for 3 years, seconded by Councilmember Derouen. Carried 5-1 with Councilmember Owens opposed.

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery stated this is a wonderful picture that started 10 months ago. It shows what planning can do. He said he is proud, we have done a good job and it will move the City forward.

V. CONSIDERATION of Ordinance to amend Chapter 32 of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances – Personnel Policies and Procedures

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Councilmember Owens commended Interim City Manager Melba Haralson for bringing this forward to clarify the change for longevity. He said it is a conservative approach that doesn't carry over or impact the budget. Councilmember Williams concurred.

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

- VI. PUBLIC HEARING regarding the need to continue §131.05 – Curfew, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances, pursuant to Section 370.002 of the Local Government Code

Mayor Derrick opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Wanda Allard asked Mayor Derrick to explain the curfew ordinance. Several members of the Council offered explanation, including Mayor Derrick.

- VII. CONSIDERATION to abolish, continue or modify §131.05 – Curfew, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances, pursuant to Section 370.002 of the Local Government Code

Mayor Pro-tem Ussery moved to continue the curfew ordinance with no changes, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 6-0.

- VIII. DISCUSSION of potential ordinance to prohibit trucks from entering Roden Lane from South Loop 485

Councilmember Bell explained this issue came up in the Planning & Zoning meeting. She said most trucks come in on Commerce Street, but go out through Roden Lane. Oil trucks come in by Weldon School on and continue on to Eddy Street. Mayor Derrick said it keeps Eddy Street in shambles. There was discussion regarding access to the tank farm in the area. Councilmember Owens said we get the benefit of tax revenue from the oil industries and we have to give them access. Councilmember Derouen suggested getting the company name off the oil trucks, contacting them and they will probably work with us.

- IX. DISCUSSION regarding possible sale of timber on 108 acres of City owned property at north end of Lake Gladewater

Interim City Manager Haralson said this acreage at the north end of Lake Gladewater is land-locked. Several years ago the City wanted to harvest this timber and we could not get proper access, especially to the west side. She said we now may be able to gain access and asked the Council if they wanted her to pursue it.

Councilmember Williams said selling timber helped us out before with street repair and it would be advantageous to the City to harvest it. Councilmember Owens agreed and said we should pursue. Councilmember Derouen said there needs to be restrictions on cutting so that we don't have a silting problem into the lake. Ms. Haralson will pursue the options and present them at the May Council meeting.

- X. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grants update
- b) Special projects update
- c) Announcements

Interim City Manager Melba Haralson gave the following report;

- a) Grants update

1. Met with Eric Williams, of TCMC, contractor for Phase II of Weldon Bumblebee Park. Today they poured concrete for the basketball court and walking trails. The plumbing & electrical is already done for the restrooms. Weather permitting, they should finish by mid- summer - ahead of schedule.

2. Lots of activity at the WTP. Gracon Construction is moving in equipment and materials.

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3. The airport project is underway. A new taxi-way is being built with room for hangars on both sides. There's also a 50/50 RAMP grant at the airport getting ready to start to install 3- 2" water lines. Will be done by July or Aug.

4. We received a release of funds notification today for FEMA Disaster recovery grant that will fund 2 generators (one for WTP and one for WWTP). Grant is 500k with 25k match.

5. HOME grant – we have 2 more applicants in the final stages of the qualification process. If all goes well, we will have all 5 HOME grant recipients.

6. SECO grant – This is stimulus money for energy efficiency projects. We get periodic emails to say it's still under consideration.

7. For the past several years we have received a grant from ExxonMobil to help with summer mowing, etc. They have changed the criteria for the grant and we likely won't get funded. Now the employee has to be a full-time college or university student enrolled in the fall semester 2010, both intern and supervisor must attend a mandatory ½ day seminar before work starts and after job ends.

8. Met with Mike Burns and Wanda Vance this week about possible grant funding to assist with repairs on the Dallas Force Main. I've asked Mike to give an update at the May council meeting.

9. Fire Chief Smith received a grant from Texas Forest Service for \$1,650 and another grant from ETCOG from \$9,210, which will be used for additional equipment.

b) Special projects update

1. Met with Todd Estes of Adams Engineering about repairs to the dam/spillway. He will look at revising the bid specs and hopefully we will be able to get this project underway later this summer when the water level is low. I have asked him to come give an update in the June meeting.

2. There is a letter in your packet regarding Dual Construction. They are not honoring their guarantee of drainage work on Gay Avenue. Stokes Engineering estimates it will cost \$22k-41k to repair the defective work. Our attorney David Watson is sending a demand letter.

3. Evidently a tall truck drove through the city hall parking lot pulling the Verizon phone line and brick away from the building. The brick was repaired today, then we will have a pole installed to extend 3-4' above the building so Verizon can raise the phone line.

c) Announcements

1. So far we have received 54 resumes for the city manager position.

2. The Gladewater Mirror would like to start sponsoring a farmer's market downtown every Saturday during the growing season from 8-noon.

XI. ADJOURN

Margaret Bell moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, INTERIM CITY MANAGER