

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Walter Derrick, Mayor Pro-tem Scott Owens, Jimmy Williams, Harold Wells, Delbert Burlison, Leon Watson, J.D. Shipp

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Pate, Melba Haralson, Wayne A. Smith, Dennis Jones, Farrell Alexander

GUESTS PRESENT: Cathy Smith, Mary J. Williams, Pat Watson, Marsha Valdetero, Beth McKamy, John Ringler, Lola May, Mark May, Pete Wynn, Tony Cain, Joyce Hubbard, Mark Carpenter

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

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Williams
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Councilmember Shipp

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – August 18, 2011 and September 1, 2011
- b) Contract with Gladewater Chamber of Commerce for services related to Hotel Occupancy Tax
- c) Contract with Gladewater Chamber of Commerce for Main Street Services
- d) Grant Contract with the Gladewater Youth Baseball Association
- e) Grant Contract with the Gladewater Youth Softball Association
- f) Grant Contract with the Gladewater Flag Football Association
- g) Grant Contract with the Gladewater Youth Track Association
- h) Agreement with Gladewater Independent School District for School Resource Officer
- i) Fire Protection Agreement for Upshur County Emergency Services District #1
- j) Fire Protection Agreement for Upshur County Emergency Services District #1 as agent for the City of Union Grove
- k) Agreement for Private Animal Shelter Services with Humane Society of Northeast Texas
- l) Engagement Letter for Audit of fiscal year ending September 30, 2011

Councilmember Burlison requested that Item J be pulled out for discussion. Councilmember Williams moved to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 7-0.

Councilmember Burlison questioned why the contract for Upshur County Emergency Services District #1 was for \$1 per year. City Manager Pate stated it used to be Union Grove Volunteer Fire Department, which disbanded, and then we took over coverage and receive the funding that was originally allocated to them. City Secretary Haralson further explained there are two contracts for a combined total of \$21,500 (Items I & J), and the Upshur County Emergency Services District controls funding for both.

Chief Smith described the coverage area and stated we get assistance from other departments; Pritchett VFD, CC-WC VFD, etc. He said we all help each other if manpower is available. Councilmember Burlison said he doesn't think we should give them fire protection. Mayor Derrick received affirmation from Chief Smith that he thought the combined total of \$21,500 for the unincorporated area of Upshur County described is sufficient.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens offered words of appreciation for Chief Smith and our Fire Department for the supreme job done with all the recent wild fires and said we are lucky to have a department of this caliber. Chief Smith said there are so many to thank; the Police Department and Chief Alexander, EMS and lots of volunteers all came together.

Councilmember Wells moved to approve Item J, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Owens. Carried 6-1, with Councilmember Burlison opposed.

IV. CONSIDERATION of Water Treatment Plant backwash pond sludge removal

City Manager Pate said this is part of the Water Treatment Plant project. TCEQ has issues with the lagoons and sludge removal and KSA Engineers was asked to explore options. He said Gracon Construction is the approved contractor on the project and it looks like their estimate of \$168,499 is in line, and will satisfy TCEQ. The loan funds are now exhausted and we should be able to use the grant funds to pay for this.

John Ringler, KSA Engineers said he will forward Gracon's estimate to RUS to do the work if the change order is approved. Mr. Ringler then answered questions from the Council.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to approve the change order for \$168,499, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

V. CONSIDERATION of Resolution approving an application for funding through the Texas Department of Agriculture Main Street Program

City Manager Pate described the project and grant application. He said this is only a \$100,000 grant. The remaining cost will have to come from reserves funds. It may be 9 months before we know if we are funded.

Councilmember Burlison moved to approve resolution, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 7-0.

Mayor Pro-tem Owens then complimented Marsha Valdetero and the Main Street Board for their work. Those sentiments were echoed by other Council members.

VI. CONSIDERATION of Resolution denying the rate increase, rate plan and deferred accounting order proposed by Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), authorizing participation in Cities Advocating Reasonable Deregulation ("CARD")

City Manager Pate explained the resolution and recommended approval.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 7-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION of nominations for Gregg Appraisal District Board of Directors

Councilmember Williams moved to nominate Daryl Atkinson with our 37 votes, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Owens. Carried 7-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of nominations for Upshur Appraisal District Board of Directors

Councilmember Williams moved to nominate Darrell McKnight with our 110 votes, seconded by Councilmember Burlison. Carried 7-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of request by Robert Ullrich to use Ken Bennett Pavilion for pictures with Santa during the month of December

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the request, seconded by Councilmember Wells. Carried 7-0.

X. CONSIDERATION of Ordinance to amend Budget for fiscal year 2011

City Manager Pate offered to answer any questions and said we want to move \$100,000 from the Enterprise Fund to I & R fund to pre-pay a portion of debt service for FY 2012.

Councilmember Williams moved to approve amendments, seconded by Councilmember Shipp. Carried 7-0.

XI. CONSIDERATION of Resolution approving the adoption of GASB 54 Standards and Applications, approving a Fund Balance Policy for the General Fund and designating Special Revenue Funds

City Manager Pate said this new law requires that we report special funds and fund balance in a different way.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 7-0.

XII. RATIFICATION VOTE to adopt fiscal year 2012 Budget with increased property tax revenue

Record vote was taken as follows;

Ayes: Williams, Shipp, Owens, Watson, Derrick, Burlison

Nays: Wells

XIII. CONSIDERATION of Ordinance to adopt and approve the Budget for fiscal year 2012

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Shipp. Carried 7-0.

XIV. CONSIDERATION of ordinance levying taxes for the use and support of the general government and for retirement of general obligation bonded indebtedness through an interest and sinking fund for fiscal year 2012

Mayor Pro-tem Owens moved to approve the tax rate as follows; .582628 for Maintenance & Operations, .059932 for Debt Service, for a total rate of .642560. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Williams. Carried 6-1 with Councilmember Wells opposed.

XV. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- a) Grants
- b) Special Projects
- c) Announcements

City Manager Pate gave the following report;

1. Dennis Jones & crew plus Upshur County did spectacular work on Phillips Springs Drive.
2. On the timber project, we gained entrance to the back side of the dam from Robbie Evans, which is much appreciated.
3. Spillway repairs – They had to re-epoxy, which should be good for an extended period of time.
4. Upshur County cut \$5,000 in funding for our library. Several citizens showed up and expressed their views. This deficit will be offset with the contingency funds.
5. The TML Conference is next month in Houston.
6. Need to dispel the rumor about the lake level. It is not true that we will lose ability to pump water with another 6” drop in lake level. There are 3 intake valves and we are still using from the 1st intake. There is 14 feet from the 1st intake to the 3rd intake.
7. Commendations to the Fire Department and Police Department and many volunteers. We received an abundance of donations. The staging area was well organized and well staffed. It was very much appreciated.

XVI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Shipp moved to adjourn at 7:15, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Adjourned by consensus.

WALTER DERRICK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY