

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 19, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro-tem Elijah “Sonny” Anderson, Stoney Stone, Teddy Sorrells, Rocky Hawkins, Kevin Clark

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Brandy Flanagan, Michael Webber

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Smith, Judy Van Houten, Al Harrison, Alan Kessler, Anna Conlan, Brandy Winn, Brian Smith, Kyle Ready, Meghan Foster, Michael Simmons

GUESTS PRESENT: Tammy Kessler, Jake Kessler, Jennifer Moss, Lisa Nordon, Sandra Ayers, Candice S. Wells, William Blackmon, Milton Anderson, Vincent Phillips, Lois Reed, Leah Brooks, Rose Rachal, Elaine Roddy, Francisco Martinez, Andrew Wright, Sheila Faggans, Mark Carpenter, Steven Foster, Jeff Simpson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Sorrells
- b) Pledge – Councilmember Hawkins

II. MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson invited Lois Reed to give Mayor Flanagan’s events update. Mrs. Reed gave the following updates: 1) Wreaths Across America was held this past Saturday. A total of 450 live wreaths were placed between Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery and Rosedale Cemetery. Contact the Chamber of Commerce to start making donations for 2025. 2) The Christmas Parade was enjoyed by a large crowd, thanks to the skies clearing up just in time. Special “Thank You” to Citizens Bank for sponsoring the parade as well as cookies and hot cocoa. 3) The Manna House distributed food boxes and toys to seventy-five families. 4) The East Texas Food Bank distributed fresh vegetables to 712 families at the Rodeo Grounds this past Tuesday.

Councilmember Stone said he is a business owner in downtown and grew up in Gladewater. He is excited to see the Magic of Christmas returning to our downtown. He has received compliments from out-of-town visitors regarding the decorations.

Councilmember Sorrells gave an update on the Caring Hearts Cancer 5K that he highlighted in November. The total raised from that event was actually \$3,600 instead of \$1,800 as previously stated. He then acknowledged City Treasurer Meghan Foster on her recent graduation through the Texas CPM Program. He then spoke about our public works department and everything they do daily to maintain, find, and fix in our infrastructure. We have aging infrastructure, but we are not alone, and in fact, aren’t the worst of the worst in East Texas. He listed other cities and how many boil water notices they have had in the past two years.

Councilmember Hawkins acknowledged the volunteers with the Robert & Margaret Bell Adolescent Center, specifically Dr. Margo Bell, the Price Family, and others who prepared and served Thanksgiving lunch this year. They are a benefit to our community.

Councilmember Clark extended condolences to the family of the late John Lee Ussery. He was a life-long resident of Gladewater and a valuable member of our community. His knowledge and wisdom were ever a resource for those he encountered.

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson said he wants to spotlight all city workers as “Team Gladewater”. He said it takes everyone working as a team to make things happen. He also thanked Councilmember Sorrells, who during the winter storm in 2021 showed up at his house to repair a water leak so that his water could be restored.

III. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Smith reported: 1) the gentleman hired by the city to trap hogs has already gotten nineteen large hogs and is working to catch a few more; 2) the Fire Chief and volunteers have placed almost all of the buoys at the lake; 3) water main breaks are

primarily a result of the aging infrastructure but we are being proactive; 4) city offices will close at noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and reopen at 7:30 a.m. on December 26<sup>th</sup>; 5) sales tax is up again this month.

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

William Blackmon stated that the water lines are 80 years old and need to be made a priority. He suggested ground penetrating radar to locate lines for repair.

Lois Reed, Chamber Executive Director, invited everyone to attend the Night At The Museum event on January 18, 2025. Special Guest David Varnado will be in attendance at the Rodeo Annex.

V. CONSIDERATION of consent agenda:  
a) Minutes – November 21, 2024

Councilmember Sorrells made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Clark. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING regarding a front set-back variance to Gladewater Code of Ordinance §15.11.120(C)(z)(a) Single Family Districts for a carport at LOT 2 BLK 1 RED BIRD, more commonly known as 290 S. Roden Lane

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Al Harrison explained that the property is in SF6 which requires a 25' front set-back. The builder has a potential buyer, but they want a carport before they finalize the sale. The P&Z Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the variance be approved.

Francisco Martines, the builder and current owner, asked the council to approve the variance request so that he can sell the property. He is ready to start on another house when this one is sold.

With no further comments Mayor Pro-tem Anderson closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

VII. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER a request for front set-back variance to Gladewater Code of Ordinance §15.11.120 (C)(1)(a) Single Family Districts for a carport at LOT 2 BLK 1 RED BIRD, more commonly known as 290 S. Roden Lane

Councilmember Stone made a motion to approve the front set-back variance; seconded by Councilmember Clark. Motion carried 5-0.

VIII. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER Service Agreement By and Between the City of Gladewater, Texas and the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation

City Manager Smith explained that this agreement is for salary and benefits for the GEDCO Executive Director. We have not had this type of agreement with GEDCO in the past.

Mark Carpenter, GEDCO Board Member, said the city pays for and GEDCO reimburses the salary and benefits for the Executive Director.

Councilmember Hawkins made a motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Councilmember Stone. Motion carried 5-0.

- IX. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER blanket permit for A Texas Festival 12 County Antique Market to be held on March 29, 2025 at the Historic Gladewater Rodeo Grounds

Jennifer Moss presented details of the planned event. She asked for clarification on if a firetruck will be stationed at the Rodeo Grounds during the event. Fire Chief Simmons said that since there will be hot air balloons there we will have a truck stationed there. Ms. Moss

then asked for guidance on which entrance/exit should be used. They would prefer to use the Hendricks Street gate instead of Highway 80.

Councilmember Hawkins asked if they are a 501C non-profit organization. Ms. Moss said they are a for-profit organization but do plan to give back to the community through this event.

Councilmember Sorrells made a motion to approve the blanket permit with the entrance/exit gate designated on Hendricks Street; seconded by Councilmember Clark. Motion carried 5-0.

- X. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER appointment to fill two vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission

City Secretary Van Houten explained that there are two vacancies on the board and two applications were received. The board recommends moving Michelle Price from alt. member to board member, appointing Tammy Kessler as a member, and appointing Terri Searcy as the alt. member.

Councilmember Sorrells made a motion to move Michelle Price from alt. member to board member, appoint Tammy Kessler as board member, and appoint Terri Searcy as alt. member; seconded by Councilmember Sorrells. Motion carried 5-0.

- XI. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER the approval of professional engineering services of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. in connection with Texas Water Development Board projects

City Manager Smith said that we had advertised for qualifications and received one response from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. The committee, consisting of himself and City Secretary Van Houten, reviewed the submission and are recommending that they be selected.

Councilmember Sorrells made a motion to approve Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. for professional engineering services in connection with Texas Water Development Board projects; seconded by Councilmember Stone. Motion carried 5-0.

- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Local Government Code §551.087 - deliberation regarding economic development negotiation – Project 1024A

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson recessed the meeting into executive session at 6:42 p.m.

- XIII. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION and take any action necessary regarding Project 1024A

Mayor Pro-tem Anderson reconvened the meeting into open session at 6:58 p.m.

Councilmember Clark made a motion to approve the agreement between GEDCO and Outdoor Management Services; seconded by Councilmember Sorrells. Motion carried 5-0.

XIV. ADJOURN

Councilmember Sorrells made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Clark. Meeting adjourned by consensus.

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BRANDY J. FLANAGAN  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JUDY VAN HOUTEN, TRMC  
CITY SECRETARY