

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 15 2018  
6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor J.D. Shipp, Mayor Pro-tem Elijah Anderson, Farrell Alexander, Nick Foster, Brandy Flanagan, Dennis Robertson, Quyen Tong

STAFF PRESENT: Ricky Tow, Amanda Hill, Rob Vine, Al Harrison

GUESTS PRESENT: Christian Allen, Jim Bardwell, Robert Green, Robert Johnson, Velma Lockett, Teresa Gordon, Sheila Faggans, Tennille Tong, Margo Bell, Raymond L. Johnson, Calvin Frierson Jon Rowe, Odette Alexander, Shannon Shipp, Vabbie Fortson

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Shipp called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.
  - a) Invocation – Robert Green of GEDCO
  - b) Pledge – Robert Johnson of GEDCO
- II. TOWN HALL MEETING of the Gladewater City Council requesting input from citizens as part of “Operation: The Future is Now” – a comprehensive planning and strategy session for the City of Gladewater

Mayor Shipp opened the meeting with an overview of meeting format. Each person wishing to speak would be limited to 3 minutes with the goal to wrap up citizen comments by 8:15. The remainder of the time would be spent on Mayor Shipp’s slideshow detailing the progress and ideas that have been identified in previous work sessions between City Council, The GISD Board and the GEDCO Board. Speakers must be either a citizen of Gladewater, or a business owner in the community.

There were 19 members of the audience including citizens and city staff. Though the outlined time limit rules were not adhered to, a great discussion was had concerning the direction for Gladewater.

Citizens expressed a desire for more cultural awareness and activities for children. There was concern over the condition of the streets, the lake bathrooms and the general appearance of the town. Overgrown lots, dilapidated homes and the, “run down” appearance were all discussed. Public Transportation, better promotion of Gladewater activities, and skills development for a stronger workforce were additional topics covered.

Improvement in communication between the City and Citizens was touched on multiple times. This is something that will continue to be addressed as time goes on and communication methods evolve. Councilmember Foster suggested that citizens work with Christian Allen to get their announcements placed on all City social media accounts.

After the citizens’ comments and discussion portion of the meeting ended, Mayor Shipp continued his PowerPoint presentation where it was revealed that the concerns expressed were also those addressed by the joint councils. Three additional Town Hall meetings are scheduled where citizens are encouraged to attend and continue the conversation started here.

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III. ADJOURN

Councilmember Tong made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Adjourned by consensus at 8:15 p.m.

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J.D. Shipp, Mayor

Attest:

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Judy Van Houten, City Clerk