

CITY OF GLADEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
AGENDA  
OCTOBER 20, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harold Wells, Lana Niemann, Elijah Anderson, Leon Watson, Dennis Robertson

MEMBERS ABSENT: J.D. Shipp, Chris Bland

STAFF PRESENT: Theo Melancon, Melba Haralson, Rob Vine, Kathy Cannon, Wayne A, Smith, Tom Sawyer, Al Harrison

GUESTS PRESENT: Christian Allen, Nick Foster, Robert Haberle, Jim Bardwell, E. Johnson, Linda Wells, Mark Carpenter, Terry Johnson, Andre Johnson, Cecelia Tran, Robert Johnson, Chris Jimenez, Markeshia Garner, Jeremy Buechter

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Robertson
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – City Secretary Haralson

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mark Carpenter, 1809 E. Lake said he is an advocate for GEDCO being a “B” Corp and read a list of permitted uses for type B versus type A. He provided a handout to be distributed to Council. He requested that the City Council put it on the ballot for the people to decide, or his alternative is to get a petition. Mr. Carpenter also requested that the Council consider appointing him to the GEDCO Board. He asked Councilmember Niemann to publicly explain why she no longer supports his appointment.

III. CONSIDERATION of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes – September 15, 2016
- b) Blanket Permit for annual Gladewater Lions Club Turkey Shoot to be held November 12, 2016
- c) Blanket Permit Sacred Spur Event Center & Carriage Company to exercise horses prior to holiday season in downtown Gladewater October 20-November 30, 2016
- d) Blanket Permit for Holiday Open House November 12, 2016
- e) Investment Reports for quarter and fiscal year ending September 30, 2016
- f) Engagement Letter with Karen A. Jacks & Associates, P.C. for financial audit of fiscal year 2016

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 5-0.

IV. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- a) Administrative and capital project updates
    1. Ballpark. Heartland is reworking the infields and adding 25-30 tons of Diamond Pro. After that we will have the final walk through then the city can begin to address other erosion issues. Gregg County has notified us that the recycled asphalt is available for parking lot paving.
    2. Public Works Director is commended for finding pipe at \$0.39 per foot in preparation for the 4,000 linear foot water line replacement project.
    3. Outreach – We will continue to keep our residents informed by use of social media, website and other apps.
    4. Developers are taking notice of properties that have been cleaned up.
    5. A public notice will be published next week for grant administration and engineering firm, which will be rated to work on the CDBG Grant application.
    6. Vintage Car project – Thanks to Councilmember Lana Niemann and Police Chief Rob Vine. We have received several donations and the Tyler Paper, then St. Louis, MO picked up on the story. The Mayor of Hideaway donated a 1940-1950 siren for the car in new condition.
    7. We will be focusing heavily on code enforcement in the next few months.
- Acknowledgment and appreciation was given to former mayor John Paul Tallent and Councilmember Anderson for leading clean-up crews around town.

b) Announcements

John Paul Tallent graciously made donations to the police department for new carpeting and to the fire department for new furniture.

V. CONSIDERATION of GEDCO board appointments

Councilmember Niemann responded to Mark Carpenter's request made under Citizens Comments. She explained she was supportive of Mark Carpenter being appointed to the GEDCO Board at one time but withdrew her support during the last election. It was self-serving for him to continue to give out incorrect information regarding the City's debt and financial condition, even after he received accurate information. She shook his hand and expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve and added that she was the one who nominated him for the Airport. Mr. Carpenter responded that he did not embellish facts and figures on purpose to get his point across.

GEDCO Director Robert Johnson presented the recommendation from the GEDCO Board to appoint Robert Green.

Councilmember Niemann moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Councilmember Niemann announced that she was not at the GEDCO meeting so she will vote here.

Motion carried 4-0-1, with Councilmember Robertson abstaining. Councilmember Robertson stated he did not vote but he would have been in favor of appointing Mark Carpenter.

VI. CONSIDERATION of \$10,000 amendment to the fiscal year 2017 budget for city clean-up efforts

As mentioned in the City Manager report, Mr. Melancon announced there is clean-up going on all over town headed up by John Paul Tallent. He is requesting that \$10,000 of the \$50,000 budgeted for demolition be redesignated and earmarked for clean-up. GEDCO gave another \$2,000, making their total \$10,000. He said we need to tie down the legal structure in order to use funds on private property. He asked the Council to earmark \$10,000 for 30 days in order to get attorneys involved to make sure properties are chosen properly and procedure is in place.

Councilmember Watson moved to postpone until next month. Motion died for lack of second.

Mayor Wells said they are doing a tremendous job and he did not believe \$10,000 was enough. Councilmember Watson objected and said there is no accountability for the money, that we need a system first. Councilmember Niemann explained the money will be earmarked but not actually spent until a proper process is in place. Councilmember Watson argued he has a problem with spending money for clean-up when the City didn't have enough money to send Council to TML Conference for training. Councilmember Robertson stated he was in favor of earmarking but we need to be accountable for every dollar. Councilmember Anderson said we are not just throwing the money out there, we are cleaning the city up with it. Inspector Al Harrison explained that \$50,000 is already in his budget for demolition. The request is only to move \$10,000 from that line item to a clean-up line item. He said he will still follow the process before spending the money.

Councilmember Niemann moved to amend the budget to take \$10,000 from the demolition budget and earmark it for beautification/clean-up with stipulation that no money is to be released before the process is in place. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Mayor Wells said he would like to see another \$10,000 added at a later date.

Motion carried 4-1, with Councilmember Watson opposed.

VII. CONSIDERATION of agreement with Union Grove Independent School District for School Resource Officer

Councilmember Watson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 5-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of submission of grant application to Texas Water Development Board State Revolving Fund

City Manager Melancon explained this is a loan forgiveness program with the State Revolving Fund and will be used for the water intake structure and two elevated storage tanks.

Jeremy Buechter, along with Robert Haberle of SPI Engineers further explained the project and program. The current interest rate is 0.95% for sewer projects and 1.25% for water projects.

Councilmember Robertson moved to approve submission of the application, seconded by Councilmember Watson. Carried 5-0.

IX. CONSIDERATION of replacement and/or repair of the Garland Ferguson Park sign

City Manager Melancon said the cost to refurbish the sign is approximately \$1,200 and the Ferguson family has agreed to pay half.

Councilmember Robertson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 5-0.

X. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend §150.03 (C) – Registration Required for Certain Trades, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

Councilmember Niemann moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 5-0.

XI. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend Traffic Code Schedule III – School Zones, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

Councilmember Robertson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 5-0.

XII. CONSIDERATION of ordinance to amend §131.05 (2) – Curfew Hours, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

City Manager Melancon said the ordinance revision was not needed. Councilmember Watson moved to table, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 5-0.

XIII. CONSIDERATION of Fire Protection Agreement with Upshur County Emergency Services District #1 as agent for the City of Union Grove

City Manager explained this year the contracted amount doubled to \$43,000. Councilmember Robertson moved to approve. Seconded by Councilmember Niemann. Carried 5-0.

XIV. CONSIDERATION of Fire Protection Agreement with Upshur County Emergency Services District #1

Councilmember Robertson moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Carried 5-0.

XV. DISCUSSION of possible ordinance to amend §90.01 – Animals, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances to provide for feral cat program

City Manager Melancon stated the contract with Longview Animal Shelter continues to go up. This is a cost effective way to control the feral cat population. ACO Tom Sawyer explained it currently costs \$114 per animal taken to the shelter and the cost will increase substantially next year. This is a catch and release program whereby the cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, microchipped and the ear will be tipped for a cost of \$45. The cats are released back to the same area where they were trapped.

XVI. DISCUSSION of possible ordinance to add §90.34 – Animal Limits, to the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

A brief discussion was had regarding whether property owners should be restricted to a maximum number of animals. It was a consensus to garner like ordinances from surrounding cities in order to present a draft for consideration on a future agenda.

XVII. DISCUSSION of possible ordinance to amend §91.03 – Burning of Refuse, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances

City Manager Melancon said the current procedure is that citizens call into the fire department to request a burn permit. The firemen out to inspect premises to ensure the location is safe, a water hose is present and instruct citizen not to leave the fire unattended. In working with Chief Smith, he is recommending putting the impetus back on the property owner. Spot checks can be performed and both police and firemen can issue citations for violation of regulations.

Councilmember Robertson asked if we are opening ourselves up to more fires getting out of control. Chief Smith responded the fires may not increase but we need to make sure they are not burning prohibited items or in an unsafe area.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Anderson moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Adjourned by consensus.

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HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY