

CITY OF GLADEWATER
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2017
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Harold Wells, Mayor Pro-tem J.D. Shipp, Elijah Anderson, Nick Foster, Leon Watson, Dennis Robertson and Lana Niemann

STAFF PRESENT: Theo Melancon, Melba Haralson, Rob Vine, Michael Kirkwood, Kathy Cannon, Judy VanHouten

GUESTS PRESENT: Christian Allen, Richard Wood, Bill Manley, Josh Bardwell, Mike Timmons, Scott Owens, Larry Montgomery, Linda Wells, Diane Turner, Terry Johnson, Colt Edwards, Pat Watson, James Walker, Kenneth Skipper, Cecilia Melancon, Lois Reed, Elaine Roddy, Mary Anne Cumbie, David Sturkie, Robbie Duncan

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

- a) Invocation – Councilmember Anderson
- b) Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro-tem Shipp

II. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a) James Walker, 1005 Forest Hills, presented a Public Information Act request to the City Secretary regarding the city's debt and stated several previous City Councils have kicked the can down the road. He said the city manager was trying to address the problems and is disappointed that he is leaving.
- b) Robbie Duncan, owner of Duncan Wrecker Service stated he received a ticket 8 months ago for not following the truck route. He went before the judge and was unsuccessful in appealing the ticket. He believes it should be dismissed because he was driving a tow truck.
- c) Scott Owens, 200 Maple, expressed regret for City Manager Theo Melancon leaving and said he made great progress. He stated his belief that two members had created a hostile work environment and in the spirit of moving forward he encouraged the council to work with the next city manager.
- d) Colt Edwards, 152 Spring Lake, expressed appreciation for Theo Melancon and expressed disgust and disappointment that we are where we are today. He expressed his belief that the Council has over stepped their role and that Gladewater is losing a very good city manager.
- e) Mary Anne Cumbie, 513 Hancock, expressed disappointment that Theo Melancon is leaving and stated a hostile work environment is illegal. She expressed belief that Gladewater will have trouble getting a new city manager and asked that a motion be made to move the discussion for appointment of an interim city manager into the open meeting.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes – May 18, 2017

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

IV. CITY MANAGER REPORT on administrative and capital projects

City Manager Melancon reported;

- a) Clarksville City passed the MOU for Gladewater to help with drug interdiction.
- b) Kilgore donated two patrol vehicles for our SRO program.
- c) Texas Water Development Board has sent action letters to the City and soon it will be moving into the loan phase so SPI can begin design.
- d) Preventative maintenance is being done on sewer lines resulting in fewer code greens.
- e) Main Street Director Kathy Cannon is working with owner of burned building so an engineering firm can come in and do their on-site analysis.

V. CONSIDERATION of ETex Franchise agreement

Larry Montgomery explained that ETex will be providing fiber-based internet to commercial

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customers only. He said they will be laying approximately 3 miles of fiber optics and requested that franchise fees be waived.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp asked if we allow them to lay lines in our right of way, would they potentially offer residential service later. Mr. Montgomery answered yes, but they would offer to pay franchise tax at that time. Mr. Shipp expressed concern that other entities like Suddenlink would raise objection if franchise fees were waived.

Councilmember Niemann asked City Manager Melancon what the net effect would be. Mr. Melancon guessed approximately \$2,000, but if they expand to residential service it would be considerably more.

Councilmember Robertson stated this service is similar to Verizon and Suddenlink and he cannot see waiving the fee for one and not for all.

Councilmember Foster asked who covers the cost of laying the lines. Mr. Montgomery stated ETex pays but they are still doing market research.

Councilmember Niemann moved to continue with franchise tax without change, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Shipp. Carried 7-0.

VI. CONSIDERATION of water and sewer utility rates

City Manager Melancon presented a handout with his recommendations of increasing water and sewer rates as follows;

Texas Water Development Board State Revolving Fund Loan - \$5.5 Million over 20 years

Debt Service - \$5.25 per month

\$2.00 – Water Rate Increase

\$3.25 – Sewer Rate Increase

Maintenance and Operations

\$3.50 per month (water and sewer) base increases. This can be split however the Council decides.

\$0.25 increase per 1,000 gallons of water and sewer consumption at each consumption level.

Assuming 2,700 connections the estimated revenue generated will be approximately \$113,400 per year from the base increase and \$24,000 per year from consumption increase, totaling \$137,400 in generated revenues for maintenance and operations.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to increase the base water rate by \$4.00 and the base sewer rate by \$4.75, with a \$0.25 increase to each consumption tier. Motion seconded by Councilmember Niemann. Carried 7-0.

VII. DISCUSSION of regulating boat traffic within 150 feet of structures or shorelines

City Manager Melancon said due to erosion issues, the Lake Board is asked that we consider regulations to boat traffic. However, this item needs to be tabled in order to gather more information.

Tabled by consensus.

VIII. CONSIDERATION of extension of ballpark mowing contract and seeking bids for same

Ball Park Chairman Mike Timmons and Secretary Colt Edwards said the mowing contract this month and we need to expand the scope of the contract to include infield dirt, mowing areas outside the fence line, too many areas are being sprayed and grass is needed for erosion control.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp expressed appreciation for the Ballpark Board and said we need their input regarding maintenance of the facility.

City Manager Melancon said public works can take over the facility for a month while the scope of work is being considered with the board. He will ask Public Works Director Steve Matlock to attend the next Ballpark Board meeting.

Councilmember Robertson stated we have a major investment in this park and it should be a jewel. We need to keep it in top grade condition and suggested perhaps he could have ETBU staff come over to meet with our staff.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to allow public works to maintain the fields at the end of the contract and have the Ballpark Board along with staff define the scope of contract. Motion seconded by Councilmember Robertson. Carried 7-0.

- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 regarding appointment of interim City Manager

The Council recessed into executive session at 6:53 p.m.

- X. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding appointment of interim City Manager

The Council reconvened into open session at 8:37 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Shipp moved to explore a partnership with Texas First Group to hire an interim city manager at a meeting to be held June 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. He further moved to appoint Chief Rob Vine to be the temporary interim with an additional \$4,000 per month. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Foster. Carried 7-0.

- XI. PRESENTATION to City Manager Theo Melancon

Mayor Wells presented a plaque to Theo Melancon and well wishes were extended.

- XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Robertson moved to adjourn at 8:41 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Foster. Adjourned by consensus.

ATTEST:

HAROLD R. WELLS, MAYOR

MELBA HARALSON, CITY SECRETARY