

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
September 1, 2009
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held September 1, 2009 at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James Worrall. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt. Council Members Charles Lewis, Joe Kusar, James Moore, Phyllis Bynum-Grace and Willie King.

Elected Official Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

City Departmental Staffing: Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department, *Brenda King – Director of Administration and Annie Warren - Recording Secretary.

* Ms. King arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Guests: Mr. Joe Posey, Ms. Becky Wood, Mr. Jimmy Faircloth – Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, Mr. Randall Walker, Mr. Chuck Ramsdale – DDA, Mr. William Jackson – DDA, Mr. Penrose Wolf – Perry Housing Authority and Mr. Larry Yockachonis – ESG Operations, Inc.

Press: None.

3. Old Business: None.

4. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James Worrall.

4a. Review of permitted locations relative transient merchants. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the complaints received relative transient merchants. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that City Attorney David Walker stated that Council can ban transient merchants city-wide. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended to Council to change the current permitted locations of transient merchants – General Courtney Hodges Boulevard and Sam Nunn Boulevard; transient merchants be

placed on Sam Nunn Boulevard on the westside of I-75 between I-75 and Mason Terrace. City Manager reviewed other possible options with Council.

- 4b. Recommendations from Perry Planning Commission for WRATS citizen advisory committee appointees. City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council of the two (2) vacancies on the WRATS Citizens Advisory Committee. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council the Perry Planning Commission conducted interviews on August 24, 2009 and are providing their recommendations to Council. The top candidates were Mr. Calvin Middlebrooks and Ms. Rosella Cooper. Council Member Charles Lewis stated Mr. Middlebrooks would be an asset to the community. Council Member Joe Kusar noted that two candidates had the same number of votes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt stated he is happy with the top two candidates; Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace stated she was happy also with the top two candidates. Council Member James Moore stated that he did not know either candidate. Council Member Willie King stated that since two of the candidates had the same number of votes, one candidate should not be selected over the other because of the alphabetical listing. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt stated that he knows Ms. Cooper personally and that why he selected her over the other candidate. Council Member Phyllis Bynum- Bynum stated that she knows Ms. Cooper personally also and that why she selected her. Council Member Council member Joe Kusar stated that he did not know either candidate. Council Member Charles Lewis stated he did not know the two females. Council concurred with the top two candidates.
- 4c. Follow up on City gas operations. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the hedging program. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that the hedging has not helped the City. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended to Council to 1) Cease agreement with SEGAS, 2) Don't hedge. Council Member Joe Kusar agreed with City Manager Lee Gilmour's recommendation and recommended that the City use the gas authority numbers as the City prices without a hedge so our customers do not have a spike. Council concurred. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the natural gas billing data reflecting the product (MCF) - what the City pays to MGAS; the City Gate Cost – what the City adds on to cover the City operations. The price stays the same for a fiscal year. In FY 07 Jointly Owned had to make an adjustment and the City was able to go down to \$3.523. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed the income/expense comparison for City operations with Council. Last year the City had a net lost of \$276,122 which indicates the City Gate Cost is lower than it should be; Administration is recommending an adjustment to the City Gate Cost. City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council that the City's propriety/enterprise funds must stand on their own. Council Member Joe Kusar asked City Manager Lee Gilmour about the

information he had requested relative other cities. City Manager Lee Gilmour said this information will be forth coming.

- 4d. Discussion relative to proposed food tax. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the letter from the City Attorney David Walker relative to the request of the local hotel owners to propose a food tax instead of the one (1) percent hotel/motel tax to pay for the capital improvements at the Perry Arts Center. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended to Council to contact the Georgia Municipal Association to have this examined in the next legislation session. Mayor James Worrall advised the Council that the last year Representative Larry Walker was in General Assembly the City contacted the legislative delegation about this and the response was they would not touch it. Mayor Worrall advised that he believes the City will get the same response today. City Manger Lee Gilmour advised Council that Administration will pursue the avenue of Georgia Municipal Association. Council concurred.
- 4e. Consider contracting with firm for site engineering work for fire station #2. City Manger Lee Gilmour advised Council that Ocmulgee Engineering, Inc. has done the pre-engineering work for fire station #2 and is a local firm. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommendation to Council to contract with Ocmulgee Site and Engineering Services, Inc. to perform the site layout work. Council Member Joe Kusar advised Council that he noticed on the north Perry bypass quiet a large area of clearing and no silt fence. Mr. Michael Beecham advised that Community Development is trying to find out who did that. Council concurred to proceed with Ocmulgee Site and Engineering Services, Inc.
5. Other items as needed: Mayor Worrall asked if anyone had anything they wanted to share.

Council Member James Moore – No.

Council Member Joe Kusar – No.

Council Member Phyllis Bynum–Grace- No.

Council Member Charles Lewis – No.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt – No.

Council Member Willie King asked if grass could be planted on the vacant lot – where the building burned. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised the City will pursue it with the property owner.

Mayor Worrall asked Mr. William Jackson if there has been any conversation in a formal DDA meeting about the wall or a mural. Mr. Jackson advised there has been no formal conversation; it's private property. Mayor Worrall stated it is his understanding that someone was going to see Mr. Snyder Chapman about doing something with the lot and someone is going to see Mr. Tommy Long who owns the building where the wall is and making the wall look like a solid brick wall.

Council Member James Moore requested an update from Mr. Morgan Law as to what he is doing relative to representing the City of Perry and Mayor Worrall advised of the need of an update from Mr. Billy Jerles with the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.