

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
January 14, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held January 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James E. Faircloth Jr. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King. Council Members Riley Hunt, Phyllis Bynum-Grace, William Jackson, Joe Posey, and Randall Walker.

Elected Official Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

City Departmental Staffing: Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray - Fire Department, Brenda King - Director of Administration, Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development, Harold Deal – City Engineer, Lt. James Buck – Public Safety, Captain Bill Phelps – Public Safety, Captain Heath Dykes – Public Safety, Lt. Bruce Ham – Public Safety, Det. David Hill – Public Safety, Det. Christopher Sutcliff – Public Safety, Gang Investigator Quridsha Gilliam – Public Safety, Officer Keith Kindle – Public Safety, Battalion Caption Jeffery Patterson – Fire Department, Lt. Robert Rowell – Fire Department, FF Kenneth Genthner – Fire Department, FF Darryl Kitchens – Fire Department, FF Brett Warmack – Fire Department, FF Daniel Starlnelker – Fire Department and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Davis Cosey – Friends of Perry Animal Shelter.

Press: Marlon Walker – Macon Telegraph.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.
 - 3a. Review major drainage project request. Mr. Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works reviewed with Council the major drainage project request.

- Spring Valley S/D – King Circle: Mr. Jones reviewed with Council the proposed solutions for Spring Valley Subdivision to improve the drainage problem which includes: Streamline the pipe network, remove and replace the inverted pipe, replace and install additional catch basins, acquire additional easements, install (420) feet of new 36 inch pipe, separate the old drainage system and utilize it as a backup through a splitter inside a junction box. Mr. Jones stated that the estimated cost is \$36,422.00 using in house labor; time frame is four weeks for Public Works to complete. Mayor Faircloth asked if there would be any interruptions for the home owners. Mr. Jones stated that there would be no interruptions. Council Member Riley Hunt asked about the easements. Mr. Jones stated that the easements have not been done yet, but he has discussed with the homeowner.

- Camelot Subdivision – Kingston Road: Mr. Jones reviewed with Council the drainage problem which includes clogged pipe, debris, and overgrown channel. The proposed solutions are as follows: Remove accumulated debris, vegetation and re-grade the existing storm water conveyance channel. The estimated cost is \$7,136.00 using in house labor; time frame is two weeks for Public Works to complete. Mayor Faircloth asked if the estimated costs included renting the equipment and if we have someone to run the equipment. Mr. Jones stated that we have someone to run the equipment and the rental cost is included. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked how the City will keep the channel from overgrowing again. Mr. Jones stated that the City would maintain the channel.

- Gresham Creek Subdivision: Mr. Jones reviewed with Council the drainage problem at Gresham Creek which are: Storm water run off from adjacent property due to improper grading has created a large opening across two properties. Mr. Jones stated that City will have to get an easement to repair the problem, but stated the property owner is willing to work with the City. Mr. Jones stated the proposed solutions are: Perform hydrology study, design storm water conveyance channel, procure necessary easements, re-grade embankment at a 3:1 slope, fill in large opening, construct storm water conveyance channel and stabilize disturbed soil with permanent grassing. Mr. Harold Deal – City Engineer stated that he has spoken with the property owners and they are agreeable to allowing a construction easement, but not interested in a permanent easement. Mayor Faircloth asked if the other property owners were agreeable. Mr. Deal stated that they were. Mr. Jones stated that the estimated cost is \$7,836 using in house labor; time frame is two weeks for Public Works to complete. Council Member Randall Walker asked what happens if the property is sold who is responsible to maintain. Mr. Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development stated that if the property is sold, we would request an easement from the developer. Council Member Joe Posey stated that since the development is relatively new what caused the

problem. Mr. Jones stated that the developer created the slope. Council Member Riley Hunt asked where the money will come from for these projects. City Manager Lee Gilmour suggested that the Spring Valley project could possibly be paid for out of SPLOST '06 money and Camelot Subdivision and Gresham Creek projects would have to be paid out of the General Fund account. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would report back to Council about these projects and the possible funding source. Council Member Riley Hunt asked about the status of the Baird Street project. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would follow up on the project and report back to Council. Mayor Faircloth asked if Council concurred to proceed. All members concurred to proceed.

- 3b. Consider whether to apply again for State grant money for housing assistance. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request to consider whether to apply again for State grant money for housing assistance. The grant money will be used to make improvements to housing. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that there is no local match requirement for this grant and recommended applying again. All Council Members concurred to proceed applying again.
- 3c. Consider proceeding with Go Fish \$500,000.00 City contribution. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request to proceed with Go Fish \$500,000.00 City contribution. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the project is located at the Fairgrounds and as stated previously, Council had no commitment with the Houston County Development Authority until 80% including the City portion was raised. The City will borrow the money from the Houston County Development Authority and it will be paid back with interest. The funding source would be increase of the Hotel/Motel Tax 1% that was approved from the General Assembly. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the Hotel/Motel tax is currently 7% and would increase to 8%. Council Member William Jackson asked how long it would take to pay back. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that it would take (8) years and would only raise the Hotel/Motel tax for this purpose and then remove it. Council Member Riley Hunt asked about the surrounding counties. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that Warner Robins has gone to 8% and Macon is going to 8%. Mayor Faircloth asked about the time frame for the City to respond. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended contacting the Houston County Development Authority for agreement terms for Council to review and approve. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the Go Fish project is a viable economic opportunity for City tourism and the City reluctantly agreed to increase the Hotel/Motel tax rather than raise taxes for all property owners. Council Member Randall Walker asked about the Hotel/Motel taxes that were raised last year. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that taxes were increased to pay for the re-roofing of the Perry Arts Center. Mayor Faircloth asked how long the increase was going to last. City Manager

Lee Gilmour stated that the increase would last for (2) years to pay for the re-roofing of the Perry Arts Center. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that it will be a wash for the City operating procedures only and would be a major problem if the Development Authority does not loan the money. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City will have a response from the Houston County Development Authority in February and then execute the agreement, loan the money in March and increase the Hotel/Motel Tax by 1%. Mayor Faircloth asked Council if there is a consensus to proceed. All members concurred to proceed.

- 3d. Department of Public Safety presentation. Director of Public Safety George Potter reviewed with Council a power point presentation of the Department of Public Safety Police, Fire and Animal Control policies, procedures and operations. After conclusion of presentation various questions were asked by Council concerning general questions on operations, enforcement and personal. Director of Public Safety George Potter asked Mr. Davis Cosey – Friends of the Perry Animal Shelter to review with Council the partnership between the Perry Animal Shelter and Friends of the Perry Animal Shelter. Mr. Cosey stated that the organization is a non-profit organization that works with the animal shelter and assists the animal shelter by raising funds and volunteer work to help for the care, treatment and adoption of the animals. Friends of the Perry Animal Shelter purchased a net launcher and gave it to the City to help capture animals humanely. The cat trailer that was donated to the City has opened and since then the rate of adoption of cats has increased 6%. Mr. Cosey stated that at this time the New Perry Animal Control and Adoption Center is on the back burner, but are still working on the project. Mr. Cosey stated that he is currently working towards a program to receive dog/cat food for \$.10 on the \$1.00. At this current time we do not have the storage capacity to accept deliveries, but is searching for storage space for the food. Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. stated that he appreciates all the work of the Supervisors, Police officers and Firefighters for all their hard work.
- 3e. Consider applying for COP grant. Director of Public Safety George Potter presented to Council the request for applying for COP grant. The COP grant will provide funding for entry level police officers salary and benefits for three years. Director of Public Safety George Potter is requesting permission to apply for the grant to hire five (5) additional police officers. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if you would have to keep the police officers after the three years. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated that we would have to keep the police officers one (1) year following the grant. Council Member Joe Posey asked if you have to hire additional officers. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated that the grant is for additional officers. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if you can bring back laid off officers. Director of Public Safety George

Potter stated that yes the grant will pay for brining back laid off officers. Mayor Faircloth asked if the grant will pay for additional fire fighters. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated that the grant will only pay for police officers. Mayor Faircloth asked if this item has to be recommended to Council for vote. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that if Council concurs, the item will be recommended to Council to vote to apply for the grant. All Council Members concurred to proceed and recommend to Council.

4. Other items as needed:

Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. stated that Monday is a Holiday and City Council will meet on Tuesday for Pre-Council and regular meeting.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.