

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
October 7, 2008
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace called to order the work session meeting held September 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: Mayor James Worrall and Council Member Joe Kusar.

Departmental Staffing: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works, Tish Chase – DDA Manager, Richard Hickman – Code Enforcement, Dianne Abney – Secretary Public Works Department and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Walton Wood, Mr. Daniel Brown and Mr. Matt Karros.

Press: Natasha Smith – Macon Telegraph and Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

- 3a. Review water/sewer service for Go Fish visitor's center. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that the City of Perry fund the extension of the water line at the Visitor's Center. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommendation that the City not take any action on this item, until the City finds out what the funding will be for the contribution. The City is still waiting on information about the interest rate from the Houston County Development Authority.

City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the waste water portion for the Visitor's Center was recommended by Council Member Riley Hunt's oversight committee to have the Visitor's Center hook on to the City's sewer system instead of installing septic tanks. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the estimated cost of having the Visitor's Center hook onto the City's sewer system would be \$70,000 to \$210,000. City Manger Lee Gilmour stated that based on the projected volume of waste water and having to get

easements it would not be cost effective for the visitor's center to tie in with the City's sewer system. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended that the City give the Visitor's Center an exemption and allow a septic system to be installed. Council Member Riley Hunt requested that septic tank be adequate size, not include the hatcheries and installed to the specification with a drainage field. All members concurred with recommendation to give an exemption to allow a septic system to be installed at the Visitor's Center.

- 3b. Review Litter Survey. Mr. Richard Hickman, Code Enforcement presented a power point presentation for the results from the Litter Survey. The presentation reflected that out of 5198 surveys that were mailed out only 533 responses to the survey. Council Member James Moore asked how the City came up with the questions for the litter survey. Mr. Hickman stated that he took information from other communities and the State and came up with questions for the survey. The overall results from the survey suggested that resident's can pickup one piece of litter once a day, secure items in their vehicles and have a litter bag in their vehicles for trash. Some suggestions to help with the litter issue was to have a community clean-up and have people who are caught littering do community service while wearing a shirt that says "Litter Bug". Council Member James Moore asked what is done if someone is caught throwing litter from a vehicle. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated that if the person can be identified and there is testimony from a witness then that person will be prosecuted. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if the owner of the vehicle can be held responsible for the litter. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated per the City ordinance the owner of the vehicle can not be held responsible for individuals throwing litter from their vehicle, unless they are identified as the person littering. Council Member Riley Hunt stated that the wording of the ordinance should be changed. Council Member Willie King suggested that the neighborhoods create a litter watch program like a neighborhood watch to help control litter problems in the neighborhoods. Council Member Willie King also suggested going through the different churches to get the word out about littering. Mr. Hickman suggested looking at programs for the school system to teach kids about littering. Ms. Charlotte Perkins, Houston Home Journal, stated that at the intersection of Gaines Drive and Gen. Courtney Hodges there is a lot of litter all over the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Walton Woods volunteered to clean up that intersection this weekend. Ms. Charlotte Perkins thanked them and stated that she would take their picture and put the article in the newspaper. Mr. Richard Hickman stated that any illegal litter site found has to be entered into the State's database. DDA Manager Tish Chase stated that Ms. Harriott McDannel the Governor's appointee to the abatement and prevention of litter program is forming a committee called Clean-Up Crossroads for the City of Perry. The committee will hold a meeting at the Perry Library on October 30th at

10:00 a.m. for anyone who is interested in attending. DDA Manager Tish Chase stated she would be glad to donate a box of litter bags for vehicles to the City. Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace stated that the City should look at implementing some of the suggestions.

- 3c. Discussion of adjustment fees relative to the Farmer's Market. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed suggested adjustment fees relative to the Farmer's Market fruit/vegetable vendors and Transient merchants. The suggested adjustment would equalize the difference in fees from what the Farmer's Market vendors pay and what the transient merchant pay. The transient business license would increase to \$450.00 a year or \$250.00 for half a year. Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace requested that a gentle reminder be placed on the utility billing reminding individuals that they must have a business license to sell items in the City of Perry. Richard Hickman, Code Enforcement stated that he keeps records of all current transient and fruit/vegetable licenses to hinder individuals from selling items illegally. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommended that if Council concurs to adjust the City of Perry fee schedule relative to the transient merchant business license fee, the item would go before City Council at the next City Council meeting. All members concurred with Administration recommendation to adjust the City of Perry fee schedule relative to the transient merchant business license fee.
- 3d. Consider amendment to Perry City Ordinance relative to control video system in businesses. City Manager Lee Gilmour presented for Councils consideration an amendment to the Perry City ordinance relative to video surveillance systems in businesses. The amendment would require businesses to maintain the video surveillance system and require 24-hour surveillance. This amendment would assist the Public Safety Department investigation dealing with businesses after a crime. All members concurred to proceed with the amendment of the ordinance.
4. Other items as needed:

Council Member Willie King requested that Public Works look into the widening problem at Oldfield Lane.
5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.