

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
December 16, 2008
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held December 16, 2008 at 5:05 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: None.

Departmental Staffing: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department, Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Tish Chase – DDA Manager, Dianne Abney – Secretary Public Works Department, Glen Hancock – Public Works Facilities Maintenance Manager and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Sharon Kelly - ESG Operations Inc. Art McDonald and Billy Jerles – Airport Authority. Mr. Bob Hubbard.

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

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

- Mayor James Worrall stated that he has asked Ms. Tish Chase, DDA Manager to give an update on the Armory since the rain storm.

Ms. Tish Chase, DDA Manager reviewed with Council that since the last rain storm on Thursday the Arts Center was flooded with about 3” of water. The Arts Center is about 60 x 90 ft room. The Peach State Water Recovery was called in to dry out the water damage to the building. The dance floor that was donated by members of the community in the amount of \$5,500 was completely ruined and has filed an insurance claim. The adjustor came down and based on what was found the insurance is pending. The adjustor wanted to know what the plans are to repair the roof before the adjustor agrees to replace the dance floor. The roof

was scanned using an infrared camera to locate any leaks in the roof. The current leak seems to be about 9 inches long in the very center of the roof. The roof will either have to be replaced or repaired. Ms. Chase stated that the building gets a lot of use from different organizations and request that the City waits until after the holidays to make a decision. The different organizations have been notified about the situation and are willing to keep their bookings. Council Member Joe Kusar asked under the lease agreement, whom is responsible for the repairs. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that it would be the City's responsibility. Council Member James Moore asked if the roof has leaked prior. Ms. Chase stated that yes but this is the first big leak. Mayor James Worrall stated that item will be put on an agenda to discuss at a later date.

- 3a. Mr. Art McDonald – Airport Authority. Mr. Art McDonald stated that the Airport Authority found out in November that the airport has been tentatively approved for a \$250,000 grant from the GDOT for the purpose of the capital improvement project. This project would be to construct or extend the taxi lane at the airport which will facilitate access to the runway and taxi lane for hangers that will be constructed in the future. Mr. McDonald stated that in order for the Airport Authority to execute the grant the Airport Authority will need upfront \$38,500 for design and bidding services with an additional \$85,000 matching fund requirement for the actual construction. In order to get the grant on contract the design work will have to begin in January. By using the 50/50 cost share between the City and the County, half of the \$38,500 would be the City's share for the current fiscal year and half of the \$85,000 would be the City's share which would fall in next fiscal years budget. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the Airport Authority would need an answer tonight from Council to consider funding the request. Council Member Joe Kusar recommended if Council concurred to review the City's budget and give a decision to the Airport Authority at City Council's January 6th meeting. All members concurred.
- 3b. Mayor/Council options for expenditure controls. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council options for expenditure controls. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that by reducing conference travel would be one way to help cut costs. Council Member Joe Kusar requested that every department head try and come up with some ideas on how to cut costs. Council Member Joe Kusar stated that he would like to take a look at the possibilities of the Hotel/Motel Tax. Mayor James Worrall recommended having this item referred to the Administrative and Finance Oversight Committee for further review. All members concurred.
- 3c. Council consideration for proceeding with capital expenditures.
 1. Ms. Brenda King, Department of Administration.
 - Postage Machine

City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that per Council all capital expenditures must be brought before Council for approval. Ms. Brenda King presented for Council's consideration a request to purchase a postage machine. The purchase is needed due to the changes with US Postal Service to deter postal fraud. As of December 31st the current postage machine will not meet the required postal standards. Council Member James Moore stated that on the positive side the postage machine came in \$3,500 under budget. Ms. King stated that the City currently processes 200 pieces of mail a week. Mayor James Worrall asked if the new postage machine would seal envelopes. Ms. King stated that the new machine will seal envelopes. Council Member Riley asked if the new postage machine could fold mail. Ms. King stated that neither the new postage nor old one is capable of folding mail. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that this item is on tonight's City Council regular agenda for approval. Council Member Joe Kusar recommended the item to City Council. All members concurred.

2. Mr. Ronnie Jones, Department of Public Works.
 - Ford Ranger
 - Mosquito sprayer

Mr. Jones presented for Council's consideration a request to purchase a Ford Ranger and mosquito sprayer. The current vehicle that is being used is a 1987 GMC ½ ton that has 159,783 miles on it. The vehicle would have to be completely overhauled and repaired; to purchase a new vehicle would be more cost efficient. The current mosquito sprayer unit is need of complete overhaul due to engine problems. Council Member James Moore asked Public Works would be replacing the sprayer with the same type that they currently use. Mr. Jones stated that if possible would like to replace the sprayer with the same type. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommendation if Council concurs to allow Mr. Jones to go out for bid for the items and bring back to Council for approval. All members concurred with recommendation to have to items go out for bid and come back to Council for approval. Council Member Riley Hunt asked when Public Works would start spraying for mosquitoes. Mr. Glen Hancock – Public Works Facilities Maintenance Manager stated that they usually start in early March. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if the items are approved by Council when would they be purchased. Mr. Jones stated that the items would be purchased in February.

4. Other items as needed:

- Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department reviewed with Council the ISO rating for the City of Perry. As of May 1, 2006, the ISO revised the City of Perry class to a 5/9 rating with the applicability of a 10 in those

areas greater than 5 road miles from the City's single fire station. The class 5 rating applies to properties located within a 5 road miles of the fire station and within 1000ft of a fire hydrant. The class 9 rating applies to properties located within a 5 road mile of the fire station and over 1000ft of a fire hydrant. The class 10 rating is applicable to properties located greater than 5 road miles from the fire station regardless of the distance to a fire hydrant. Deputy Fire Chief Gray asked if ISO would consider use of automatic aid as criteria met for reducing the City of Perry protection class rating. ISO stated that they would consider reducing the protection class rating if the following criteria are met: (1) that station providing the automatic aid must be within 1 ½ road miles of the area; (2) the crew for that station must include minimum staffing of 4 personnel, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Deputy Fire Chief Gray also asked if ISO would consider temporary stations due to the size of the City's area of service; stations that are greater than 5 road miles from any other city station. ISO stated that they would consider temporary stations if the following criteria is met: (1) the station must include a building that provides complete heated enclosure for the fire apparatus; (2) the crew for that station must include minimum staffing of 4 personnel, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Deputy Fire Chief Gray stated that there is no easy viable alternative to having the City of Perry ISO rating reduced. Council Member Joe Kusar recommended this item to the Public Works Oversight Committee for further discussion. All members concurred to have this item referred to the Public Works Oversight Committee.

- Ms. Sharon Kelly, ESG Operations, Inc. presented to Council a status report for the fire hydrant work orders since ESG assumed responsibility for Line Maintenance on November 5, 2008. The City has a total of 64 fire hydrants that required maintenance or had open work orders. Currently there are 60 fire hydrants that need repair and/or maintenance per the reports from Captain Patterson. Eleven of those work orders are considered "critical" as they are inoperable, and have been "black bagged" by the fire department. To date, ESG has repaired a total of 6 of the critical hydrants. Mayor James Worrall thanked Ms. Kelly for the status report.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.