

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
February 3, 2009
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held February 3, 2009, 5:04 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: Council Member James Moore.

Departmental Staffing: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department, Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works, Rick Hickman – Community Development and Annie Warren-Riley - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Penrose Wolf – Perry Housing Authority, Ms. Tish Chase – DDA Manager, Mr. Bob Hubbard – Perry Planning Commission, Mr. Chuck Ramsdale – DDA, Mr. Dan Groselle – ESG Operations, Inc. and Mr. Paul Ticker.

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

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

- 3a. Review proposal from Houston County Development Authority relative to \$500,000.00 City contribution to State of Georgia Go Fish project. City Manager Lee Gilmour presented Council Member Joe Kusar – Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Oversight Committee to Council. Chairman Joe Kusar advised Council that if the City participates, participation would begin fiscal year 2011, seven (7) year payback, the interest rate would be a percentage of prime (56%), and the interest would be paid from the Hotel/Motel tax. Chairman Joe Kusar asked City Manager Lee Gilmour if the City needed to make any written response. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised if Council concurs, he would response back to the development authority with the Council thoughts. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked about the two avenues discussed – one was

little cheaper, City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the cheaper one would be extending out the number of years on the payment of the note. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that he would also put in his response that if this project goes forward completely and if there are any scale backs, the City will scale back appropriately. Council concurred.

- 3b. Recommendation from the Planning Commission for mowing vacant lots in the City. City Manager presented Director of Community Development Mike Beecham who advised Council that the Planning Commission reiterated all new lots should meet the current requirement - mowed when they exceed eight (8) inches in height. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that the Planning Commission also spoke about mowing the full right-of-way if it is larger than the four (4) foot we currently mow. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt was in agreement but questioned whether the property owner can afford do this because of the economic times. City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council that at the last work session Administration had talked about the standard mowing and requiring the mowing of any parcel adjacent to an occupied parcel. Council Member Joe Kusar recommended proceeding with requiring mowing of all adjacent lots at this time. Notice will be sent to the property owner and the property owner will be given a reasonable time to have the grass mowed and if the property owner doesn't have the grass mowed the City will contract it out and send the bill to the property owner. If the property owner doesn't pay, then a levy will be placed on the property and collected on the next tax bill. Council Member Charles Lewis stated he would like all vacant lots to be cut once when they are in the dominant period if there are residents in the subdivision. Council concurred.
- 3c. Request from Department of Community Development to proceed with replacement of vehicle. City Manager Lee Gilmour presented Director of Community Development Mike Beecham to Council relative his request for a replacement vehicle. Mr. Beecham advised Council that the vehicle the director of Community Development is currently driving is the City Manager's old 1997 Dodge Intrepid. The vehicle has over 100,000 miles and is unable to visit many construction sites. Council Member Riley Hunt questioned the \$16,000.00 amount listed for the truck and wanted to know if we could get the truck cheaper through the State. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that Mr. Moody has contacted the State and is waiting on the State contract price which should be available next week. Council concurred to go to bid for new 2008 or 2009 full size pickup.
- 3d. Confirm amendment language for temporary signs on downtown district. City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council that they had approved the recommendation of the Planning Commission at the last Council meeting relative the signage in the downtown with one amendment. The Planning Commission had recommended that no temporary signs could be in the

downtown district. Council amended the ordinance stating that temporary signs could be allowed in the downtown district for thirty (30) day period and each permit use had to be separated by a ninety (90) day interval, temporary signage could not exceed (16) square feet and had to be affixed to the building wall by metal fasteners per written statement. Council concurred.

- 3e. Review of Water/Sewer Fund. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that no action was needed; this was being provided to Council for informational purposes. A breakout for expenses and income were presented. Council was advised that rates would be adjusted on a regular basis. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked if the income figure included money owed to the City that has not been paid. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated it includes what is projected for the revenue.

Not on agenda: City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that we are now calling customers about cut-offs.

4. Other items as needed: Mayor Worrall asked Council if they had anything they wanted to share.

Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace advised Council that she has information from Mayors Day 2009 that she will be sharing with them.

Council Member Willie King asked Director of Public Works Ronnie Jones about the project he is working on with Mr. Kim Mullins. Mr. Jones advised all is going well.

Council Member Charles Lewis – No.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Member Riley Hunt – No.

Council Member Joe Kusar – No.

Mayor Worrall stated that we need a ceremonial note burning. The City Hall building was paid for in full December 2008.

Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development – Gave Council an update on the Housing Survey. The depilated structures all have been either issued rehab permits or turned over to contractors for demolition.

Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray – Advised Council that the fire department is using the depilated structures for training prior to the demolition. Today we assisted the county with a house fire on Joshua Street and this pass weekend we assisted with a brush fire.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.