

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
March 15, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held March 15, 2010 at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: Council Members William Jackson and Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

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

* Mr. Kilgore arrived at 5:19 p.m.

Guests: Mr. Penrose Wolf – Perry Housing Authority and Mr. Brent Lanford – Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.
 - 3c. Review current financial status of hotel/motel tax. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that the most recent review of the hotel/motel accommodation excise tax is down and recommended Council cancel allocations to the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce, 21st Century Partnership, Downtown Development Authority of the City of Perry and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority for months of May and June. Council Member Riley Hunt stated he did not have any objections. Council Member Joe Posey advised no objections. Council Member Randall Walker inquired if the City had an auditing process to audit of the actual payments. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated every two to four years the City contracts with an auditing firm. Council Member Randall Walker questioned the impact the decrease in allocation would have on the

Perry-Houston County Airport Authority. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority has other resources. City Manager Lee Gilmour informed Council if the accommodation excise tax picks up then the City would restore the monthly appropriations. Council Member Joe Posey requested City Manager Lee Gilmour give a breakdown of the hotel/motel tax. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the current tax allocation 6% sales tax - 3% to state, 1% to school board for maintenance, 1% to school board for E-SPOLST and 1% to county for SPLOST. For the accommodation excise tax of the City of Perry – 6% for general operations of which 60% goes to the PACVBA and 40% to the City of Perry for economic development, plus 1% special purpose accommodation excise tax for capital improvements and operation of the Perry Arts Center. Council has agreed to levy an additional 1% special purpose accommodation excise tax to pay for the City's obligation to the Georgia Aquatic Environmental Center (Go Fish project). City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council that there would not be any increase in accommodation excise tax until the Go Fish contract is approved. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised the Council that this item will be referred to the Council meeting.

- 3d. Review RFP response for insurance broker. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that one local firm responded to the RFP for insurance broker and he is waiting on additional information but he will have all the responses and a recommendation ready for tomorrow's meeting. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council this is a follow up from the last budget process when Council agreed the City would seek an insurance broker who would have 30 days to shop for insurance to see if we can get it cheaper than GMA. If GMA is the better deal we will stay with GMA.
4. Other items as needed: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. shared with Council an article relative Google that was published in the Houston Journal and a package he received in a meeting pertaining to Google with 1Lt. Nathan Waters, Mr. Pat Sullivan, City Manager Lee Gilmour and Ms. Deborah Hamlin. Mayor Faircloth stated that the gentlemen are soliciting local support for this venture. Council Member Joe Posey asked what Google would do for the City. Mayor Faircloth advised that it will provide the City a very high speed internet connection. Mr. Penrose Wolf commented that Google will expand its business base. Ms. Hamlin advised Google would be all fiber optic. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that it would be a phenomenal advantage. The process would entail the City applying and the other municipalities would apply and for all of the other applications the City would provide a letter of endorsement. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King stated the City should pursue and see what happens. Council Member Randall Walker asked if the server would be located locally. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that he did not know.

3a. Mr. Benjamin Johns (Applebee's Restaurant) Presentation to Council relative to Sunday alcohol beverage sales. Mr. Johns will reschedule for a later date.

3b. Review of City's website. Mayor Faircloth reviewed with Council the City's website and made suggestions to make the website interactive and user friendly. Ms. Hamlin provided Council a live view of the City's website. Council Member Hunt asked if the changes to the website would require additional labor and was advised no. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked how we are going to make our customers aware of the website. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated information would be sent out in a direct stand alone mailing. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked about the citizens who do not have the internet. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised they can contact the City. Mr. Beecham asked about someone who has a yahoo account. The customer will be advised to check their spam box. Mayor Faircloth expressed that he would like to have the existing website become a very user friendly site, the delivery in a different format and the site needs to change on a periodical basis. Mr. Brent Lanford of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission advised Council that the Regional Commission is available to assist with website transition. Mr. Lanford reviewed the MGRC website with Council. Mr. George Potter asked Mr. Lanford how he keeps their website from being hacked. Mr. Lanford advised monitoring software. Mr. Lanford and Ms. Hamlin will collaborate on the transition of the website.

4. Other items as needed:

Mr. Potter asked Council if they would be favorable to an automated answering system. Mr. Potter advised that current personnel is overwhelmed with phone calls in addition to their daily duties, and by utilizing the automated answering system this would free personnel up to handle other tasks. Mayor Faircloth advised that if Council agrees to this he would like to see the system user friendly. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that he has some concerns – most of the calls that come in want some type of public safety service but do not know who they want to speak to and what if the person they want is out. After additional discussion it was decided that Mr. Potter will come back to Council with a proposal for the automated answering system.

Council Member Joe Posey asked about the buzzards that are plaguing the Water Tank at Calhoun Park. Council Member Riley Hunt advised that he has not seen any buzzards lately.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.