

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
March 18, 2008
5:00 P.M

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held January 15, 2008 at 5:10 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

* Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace arrived at 5:19 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: Council Members Brian Bowen and Riley Hunt.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour. *City Attorney David Walker. City Departmental Staffing: Brenda King - Director of Administration, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, Steve Howard – Chief Building Inspector, Captain Bill Phelps – Public Safety, Deputy Chief Joel Gray - Fire Department, and Annie Warren-Riley - Recording Secretary.

*Mr. Walker arrived at 5:22 p.m.

Guests: Ms Julie Evans, Ms. Melanie Lewis, Mr. Davis Cosey, Ms. Wendy Leonard, Mr. Scott Free and Mr. John Garlock.

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

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

- 3a. Christmas at the Crossroads – Ms. Julie Evans and Ms. Melanie Lewis. Ms. Evans and Ms. Lewis addressed Council about the upcoming Christmas parade and encouraged Council participation in the parade. There was discussion of having the parade at night but because of safety the parade is held during the day. Council members discussed the possibility of having a float for all members to ride on at this year's parade.

- 3b. Discussion of possible amendment to Certificate of Occupancy requirements. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council their request of having a certification process to catch existing structures that were unfit or unsound. One of the options was a certificate of occupancy which is a standard one we use when there is new construction or major

substantial change or addition on a structure. Mr. Howard outlined in his memo some issues that have come up in his review. First, we have some structures which already have a certificate of occupancy and we do want to seem redundant and there could be some legal problems if we come back and say our previous certificate is no good. Second, we would be setting a legal precedent in Georgia which could set us up for some possible litigation. Recommendation from Council Member Joe Kusar to let this matter rest. Council unanimously concurred.

- 3c. Discussion of unified animal control resolution. Mayor James Worrall presented background information relative to the animal shelter before continuing with the discussion of the unified animal control shelter. Mayor James Worrall informed everyone that the unified animal control resolution has not been adopted. Council Member James Moore felt that we are too far on our animal control shelter in Perry to have a unified animal control shelter. Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace felt that we should have our own animal control shelter. Council Member Joe Kusar would like to see Perry move forward with an animal shelter that incorporates animal control in Perry. Council Member Willie King asked how long is an animal held before you decide what you are going to do. Council Member Joe Kusar advised that is the difference between of the government responsibility and animal control. There is a guide in place for how long we keep animals before they are euthanized. Mr. Davis Cosey doesn't see a unified animal control shelter with Houston County. Mayor James Worrall inquired about a long range plan to teach adoptees about training their animal. Captain Bill Phelps spoke about the need to have an animal control shelter in this area – one quarantine that occurred last year was used as an example. One shelter can not provide all the needs that we have. Council Member Joe Kusar stated that we would be happy to accept some funding from the county. Council concurred unanimously that they will not discuss the resolution proposed. City Manager Lee Gilmour will send a letter to the respected bodies advising them of our concerns.
- 3d. Consider appointment of Ralph Gentry to Gas Authority. Mayor James Worrall presented for Council consideration the appointment of Mr. Ralph Gentry to the Gas Authority. Council concurred with the Mayor's recommendation unanimously.
- 3e. Consider request from Catherine Ann Toomer to make a presentation to Council at the April 1, 2008 council meeting. Council concurred to allow Ms. Catherine Ann Toomer to make a presentation to Council at the April 1, 2008 meeting for thirty (30) minutes.
4. Other items as needed: Mayor James Worrall advised Council there is a letter in their boxes from the Baltista Club relative to recycling; and a letter from the

federal government relative to the new cement plant and the opportunity for the public to comment on it.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.