

MINUTES
PRE COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
March 2, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the pre council meeting held March 2, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace arrived at 5:06 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: None.

Departmental Staffing: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Walton Wood, Mrs. Becky Wood, Mr. Chuck Ramsdale and Mr. Kim Mullins.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal and Mr. Marlon Walker – Macon Telegraph.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.

- 3a. Discussion of March 2, 2010 regular meeting agenda. Mayor Faircloth reviewed with Council the regular meeting agenda.

9a. (1). Resolution to amend the City's cemeteries operating policy relative to cremation burial request. Mayor Faircloth stated that since Council has discussed this in its March 1, 2010 work session and directed more research the item will be removed from the regular meeting agenda and requested City Manager Lee Gilmour to bring back more information.

9c. Request for use of funds for the Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Faircloth stated that the request is to authorize spending up to \$8,000.00 from the Downtown Development Restricted Funds Account to install power lines underground in the Commerce Street parking facility.

City monies will be matched with contributions of \$4,000.00 from the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce and \$4,000.00 from the Perry Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority.

9e. Approval of agreement for construction supervision services and additional funding between the City of Perry and Perry Volunteer Outreach, Inc. relative to Grace Village, Phase 2 project. Mayor Faircloth stated that this is a continuation of the project with funding from the CDBG grant. The project is to build a (40) bed rehab center for women.

9f. Award of bids. Mayor Faircloth stated that the money for the project would come from the 2006 SPLOST Construction Fund – Water/Sewer allocation.

- 3b. City funding support for Go Fish project. Mayor Faircloth stated that on Monday, March 1, 2010 a tour was conducted by GDNR Commissioner Chris Clark of the Georgia Aquatic Environmental Education Center. The Mayor and Council Members who attended stated it was a very informative meeting and were impressed with the project. Mayor Faircloth asked Council if they concurred to proceed with funding the project subject to terms and conditions outlined with the Houston County Development Authority. The funding would come from increasing the Hotel/Motel Tax by 1% and the tax would be a single purpose tax. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that if Council concurs, the item will be recommended to Council to vote to proceed with the project. All members concurred to proceed. Mr. Kim Mullins asked if the hotel/motels have been notified about the project. Mayor Faircloth advised that the Perry Area Convention & Visitors Bureau has known about the project for over a year and the information about the project has been sent out. Council Member Randall Walker asked if the City would have a public hearing for the project. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated only if it were an ordinance would there have to be a public hearing, but he would verify the process.
- 3c. Discussion of Houston County Development Authority field trip. Mayor Faircloth stated that on February 24, 2010 Mayor and Council went on a field trip to Atlanta hosted by the Houston County Development Authority. Mayor Faircloth asked Council for their thoughts and comments about the meeting. Council Member Randall Walker stated he was impressed with the quality of people they have working and the opportunities as far as funding. Council Member William Jackson advised he was very impressed with the attendance of (25) people from Houston County and it was a very informative meeting. Council Member Joe Posey noted that it was a good meeting and stated there is competition out there and during these hard economic times separate entities now have to work together to accomplish the same goals. Council Member Randall

Walker stated the County is extremely under funded compared to Lowndes County which has the same size tax base, but allocates more funding to development. Mayor Faircloth stated that when money runs out, innovation and creativity begins. The Houston County Development Authority is constantly working with existing businesses and searching for new businesses and letting them know about funding to help bring in more jobs. The majority of new jobs are coming from existing industries and some of them qualify for tax benefits. Mayor Faircloth stated that he has started working with Chairman Ned Saunders of the Houston County Board of Commissioners about the situation to address under funding and would like Council's consensus for him to continue to work with Chairman Saunders on this process. All members concurred to have the Mayor proceed with working with Chairman Saunders.

- 3d. Update from Cox Cable relative City's franchise area. Mayor Faircloth stated he wanted to share a letter from Cox Cable which states, " Effective May 3, Cox will implement a \$3.95 charge for in-person or drop box bill payments made at any of the Cox Digital store locations". Mayor Faircloth advised that this is a sign of the times and an example of what companies are doing to increase their revenue. Council Member Joe Posey asked if the City has the capability for citizens to pay online. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated at this time the City does not, but is examining the option to pay online. Council Member Riley Hunt requested that Public Works monitor Cox Cable as they are boring under our streets and cutting across yards and not putting things back. Mayor Faircloth stated that Cox Cable is putting in terminal boxes at every other house in his neighborhood and wondered who's responsible if someone backs over the boxes. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that it would be their responsibility and also suggested sending out a notice to citizens that if there are any issues that Cox Cable is responsible. All members concurred to send out a notice to the residents.

4. Other items as needed:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King inquired if the Braid Street project was still on hold. City Manager Lee Gilmour confirmed it was.

Mayor Faircloth advised that he may have to leave the City Council meeting suddenly due to family emergency; his father is being taken to the hospital.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.