

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

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held March 3, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Council Member Willie King arrived at 5:02 p.m. Council Member James Moore arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: None.

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

Director of Administration – Brenda King arrived at 5:08 p.m.

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Penrose Wolf – Perry Housing Authority, Mr. and Mrs. Walton Wood, Mr. Bob Hubbard – Planning Commission and Mr. Chuck Ramsdale – DDA.

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

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James Worrall.
 - 3a. Discussion and review of the TE Project for General Courtney Hodges Boulevard. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request from the last meeting for the status of the TE project for General Courtney Hodges Boulevard. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed summary that is broken down by the application, Georgia Department of Transportation, survey contract, engineering part 1, engineering part 2 and costs. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that the bids for the General Courtney Hodges sidewalk improvements are on City Council regular agenda for consideration. Once the bid has been approved the City will

advise Georgia Power to proceed with the installation of the pedestrian lighting. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that Council has already approved the lights for the median and some of the work has been started, the arms for the lights are too short, that was a mistake from the manufacture and has been corrected. There was also a question relative to the height of the lights that was apparently a mistake by Georgia Power and/or the manufacture; however the light's height will stay the same as approved by DOT. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that based on the original costs there may be money left over from the grant to do the other side of General Courtney Hodges. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked if DDA approved of everything Council has approved as far as the lights and poles. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that DDA was thinking that there was going to be a different style of pole but advised DDA that it was cost prohibited to have that style of pole and secondly, DDA had concerns relative to the height but the height was approved by DOT and lastly, DDA had concerns about the arm length but that has been addressed and everything is okay. Council Member Joe Kusar asked when the project is complete, what exactly would have been done. Are they widening the sidewalks? City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that they are not widening the sidewalks, when the project is complete the sidewalks will be brought up to disability access standards at the streets, plus the pedestrian lighting. Council Member Joe Kusar asked if the pedestrian lighting is an upgrade to the lighting that is already on the existing poles on the sides of the street. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that actually the pedestrian lighting is new lighting and the lighting that are on the existing poles will be coming off. Basically when the project is done there will be standards running down the median which will be the major lights with the pedestrian lighting that will be on each side of the street. Some of the old poles will be removed and the mongoose lighting at the intersection will also be taken down. Council Member Joe Kusar asked if there are any funds or proposal to improve the median landscaping. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the request has come from DDA for the median landscaping. Council Member James Moore asked what DOT has approved that could be used for median landscaping. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that DOT approved some trees to a certain height and some type of grassing. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that Council has approved the request from DDA for a grant application to do the landscaping; we are currently waiting to status of the grant. Council Member Joe Kusar asked when we might know about the grant status. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that we should know something about the grant application in mid-April. Council Member Joe Kusar asked if the pedestrian bridge is part of the TE project for General Courtney Hodges. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the pedestrian bridge is a separate TE grant that the City has received and the City has done the original design and are waiting for an environmental clearance from the GDOT. Council Member Joe Kusar asked if the City Manager could give

Council a summary of that project also. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would put together a summary of that TE project for Council.

- 3b. Review of possible change in Perry service area. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed the possible changes in the Perry service area. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City has received an inquiry from a representative of a property owner and also discussion with the City of Warner Robins to have a portion of the City's service area to change back to the City of Warner Robins. The administration recommendation upon receiving a formal request that Council does not have any objections on letting the portion go back to the City of Warner Robins except for the portion of Woodland Subdivision that already has the infrastructure installed. Director of Community Development Mike Beecham asked if the property would have to be formally deannexed from the City once the City receives the formal requests. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that 'yes' the property would have to be formally deannexed. Mayor James Worrall stated that if the City receives the formal request it will be only the second time in the history of our community a piece of property has been deannexed.

City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that on tonight's regular agenda is an ordinance to amend the impact fees. The City needs to amend the impact fee ordinance to do two (2) things. 1. Figure for parks area - the current calculation is too high, we need to make reduction. 2. Discussion about area to be included in the zone was revisited because of one concern that some of the property owners on one side of Perry Parkway who have been in the City for years and the current layout would impact them.

Recommend that the service district boundary be changed to where any of the properties that were in the City as of 2003 would be exempt from the charge. Council Member Joe Kusar asked since there is a reduction in the impact fees for the park area if the impact fees for the fire area are enough. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the prior figures for the fire area are enough.

4. Other items as needed:

Mayor James Worrall had the following items:

- The Armory building and the roof – Asked the status of having roof repaired. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that we're waiting for preparation of specifications to go to bid. Mayor James Worrall stated that there is several different organizations and groups that use the building and would like to get it fixed and stated that mold is also growing on the walls. Council Member Joe Kusar suggested that instead of repairing the building look for alternatives such as Rozar Park being used. Council Member Willie King stated that the City should look at the cost associated with fixing the Armory as opposed to tearing it down, rebuilding or adding on to Rozar Park. All members

concurred to look at the costs associated with repairing the Armory and all alternatives.

- City of Perry employee cell phone switch – Mayor James Worrall stated that the City employees recently switched from Verizon Wireless to Nextel and wanted to know about the switch. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City has currently switched cell phone carriers, the City was originally with Nextel and switched to Verizon Wireless and now the City has switched back to Nextel. Director of Administration Brenda King stated that the City cell phones were switched due to issues with the bill, the City was told one thing and being charged something different. Council Member Joe Kusar asked who had City cell phones and if they are needed. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked if the City cell phones were being monitored as far as using a City cell phone for personal use. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the calls are lumped together in a package plan. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would provide Council with a list of who has a City issued cell phone. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated that the police department has 16 cell phones and the fire department has 3 cell phones; and can justify each phone.
- Armory front lawn - Mayor James Worrall requested if Council concurs to move the juniper bushes from the front lawn of the building to the corners of the building. All members concurred.
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra – Mayor James Worrall asked if any Council member is planning on attending to let him know so that they can plan to go together or buy a table together.
- GMA in Savannah – Mayor James Worrall asked for two choices for the hotel accommodations. Council suggested the new hotel on the river walk and The Hilton Garden Inn. Council Member Joe Kusar asked that due to funds and the economy if it's worth the City attending this year. Council Member Joe Kusar asked for a concurrence on whether or not the City should attend the meeting. Majority Council Members concurred to attending the GMA in Savannah.
- Retreat as suggest by Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace – Mayor James Worrall stated that it is a wonderful idea. Mayor James Worrall asked for suggestions or ideas on a place to have the retreat here in Perry. Council Member James Moore suggested using the Ag Center that the City used about 10 years ago. Council Member James Moore thinks the retreat is a great idea as long as you have a good facilitator for the meeting.
- Mayor James Worrall asked Council to sign the resolution for the “Exceptional Child Week” that is being presented at the regular Council meeting tonight.

Council Member Charles Lewis – Asked about the lights being out on Perry Parkway and Thompson Road bridge. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he has contacted Flint Energies to go out and fix the lights.

Council Member Joe Kusar – Stated that he has met with Mr. Davis Cosey and Mr. Shrad of Ambryo Architecture about the animal shelter and believes that they have come up with a different proposal than the one on tonight's City Council agenda. The proposal would be to get more donations and use of private money for the project instead of City money. Council Member Joe Kusar stated that he asked Mr. Cosey and Mr. Shrad to put together a proposal to take back to the Public Safety Oversight Committee, but basically they propose that the animal shelter be built and then sell the building to the City. The City would be able to pay back the amount over a period of years.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Member Riley Hunt – No.

Council Member Willie King – No.

Council Member James Moore – Asked if that is a request from Mr. Davis Cosey and Mr. Shrad. Council Member Joe Kusar stated that it was a request.

Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace – No.

Council Member Charles Lewis – No.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.