

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

1. Call to Order: Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held April 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace left at 6:52 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. and Council Member William Jackson.

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, Danny Barfield – Gas Utilities Operations Manager and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Tony Holder and Mr. Bud Patel–Recreation Commission, Mr. Kim Mullins – DDA and Mr. Ken Smith – Houston Springs Homeowner’s Association.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King.

- 3a. Review training proposal. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the training proposal from Ms. Kate Lewis relative to customer service training. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that Ms. Kate Lewis would be attending at the City Council regular meeting to answer any questions. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if Ms. Lewis is reputable. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated Ms. Lewis has worked with the Bank of Perry and Mercer University. Council Member Joe Posey stated the cost seems reasonable for the training. Council Member Randall Walker asked about the funding. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised the funding would come from the Customer Service cost center. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised if there are no questions from Council relative to the proposal,

recommend for regular meeting proceeding with contractual agreement with Kate T. Lewis for the provision of customer service training. All members concurred.

- 3b. Update of Gas Service. Mr. Danny Barfield – Gas Utilities Operations Manager provided Council an update on the City’s gas services. The purpose of the update is to communicate to elected officials about the Public Awareness program for the pipeline operators. The public awareness program is intended to educate the consumer and excavator in hopes of preventing damages that could result in injuries, death and property damage. Letters are sent out every year to customers explaining the properties of natural gas and what action to take in an emergency.
- 3c. Recreation Commission concerns relative to Creekwood Park. Mr. Tony Holder – Recreation Commission Chairman reviewed with Council its request to move forward with the Creekwood Park football field. The initial request is for \$6,014.00 for the rental of construction equipment. Director of Parks and Recreation, Rick Kilgore passed out information about the project to Council, which outlines the costs of the rental equipment with the work done by the Public Works Department. The Recreation Department has received private donations that will pay for the sod and irrigation to be installed. The biggest expense for the football field will be the lighting. The lighting could be a lease purchase agreement, and is at a cost of \$71,000.00. All Council members concurred that at this time the City does not have the funding for the lighting. Mr. Kim Mullins stated that he might be able to help with the rental equipment, if Council agrees to take the cost difference and put toward the lighting project. Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Kilgore stated after the football field project is started the Recreation Department could generate revenue and work with companies to get sponsorship and donations to move the project forward. The only downside to not having the lighting would be that any games would have to be played during the day and any night games would be played on the Creekwood baseball field. City Manger Lee Gilmour stated the funding for the rental equipment (\$6,014.00) would come from SPLOST. All Council members concurred to move forward with the project without the lighting.
- 3d. City of Perry Outdoor Warning Siren System. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request to declare the City owned hazard warning system surplus and dispose of in accordance with City policy. The outdoor warning siren system is old and the City has no reason to maintain and keep the system. City Manager Lee Gilmour asked if Council concurs to recommend to declare the City owned hazard warning system surplus and dispose of in accordance with City policy. All members concurred.

3e. Department of Community Development presentation. Mr. Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development reviewed with Council a power point presentation of the Department of Community Development policies, procedures and operations. After conclusion of presentation various questions were asked by Council concerning general questions on operations.

4. Other items as needed:

Council Member Riley Hunt asked for clarification relative to the Dogwood Festival being moved to the Georgia National Fairgrounds. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated originally the festival was downtown, but due to a conflict with the Methodist Church parking lot being used on Sunday morning, the Chamber of Commerce decided to move the festival to the Georgia National Fairgrounds. The festival is a Chamber of Commerce fundraiser event. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if citizens will have to pay to enter the fairgrounds. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the event will be free. Council Member Riley Hunt thought a letter should be sent to the Chamber.

Mr. Kim Mullins – DDA – asked Council for their consideration to authorize increase in the expenditure limit for the Commerce Street parking improvements Phase II. The DDA is requesting an additional \$55,000.00 to finish the parking improvements. Council Member Randall Walker asked what if Council does not approve the funding. Mr. Mullins stated the DDA would pay through their resources. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated funding would come out of the Downtown restricted account which has a balance of \$80,000.00. Council Member Randall Walker asked that in the future if the DDA foresees any problems with future projects to have the courtesy to make Council aware at that time. Mr. Mullins stated that in the future he would inform Council of any issues when they arise. City Manager Lee Gilmour asked if Council concurs to recommend authorizing an increase in expenditure limit for the Commerce Street parking improvements Phase II. All members concurred.

Council Member Joe Posey asked if the dress code for the City was in effect. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the dress code was in effect and has been passed out to the employees.

City Manager Lee Gilmour gave Council an update on the Census. As of April 5, 2010 the City of Perry has a 58% response, City of Warner Robins has a 54% response and Houston County has a 56% response. The State of Georgia has a 52% response. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City of Perry is above the State and National average.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.