

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
May 10, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the special called meeting held May 10, 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, Joe Posey, William Jackson and Randall Walker.

Elected Official Absent: Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

City Departmental Staffing: Brenda King - Director of Administration, Rick Kilgore – Director of Parks and Recreation and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Walton Wood, Ms. Terre Walker, Mr. Bob Lawson and Mrs. Glen Starlnecker – Perry Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Ms. Megan Smith and Mr. Kenna Scragg – Perry Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Tish Chase, Ms. Ann Adams and Mr. Davis Cosey – DDA, Ms. Mary Therese Tebbe – 21st Century Partnership and Mr. Art McDonald – Perry-Houston Airport Authority.

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

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

- ❖ Mayor Faircloth advised Council they were going to deviate from the agenda to address the citizens who were present. Mayor Faircloth stated Council has not made any decision relative to the FY 11 budget; there were two possible budgets presented, a minimal and a basic. Council is considering everything and based on discussions of Council, we have no intention of closing down the recreation department. Various citizens in the audience asked Council questions about suggestions and ideas for raising money to save the recreation various programs. Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Kilgore spoke to Council to address the questions and concerns of the citizens. The Recreation Commission met for a special called meeting and discussed ideas, suggestions and changes within the recreation department to help not only generate revenue, but also save money for the City. Director Kilgore reviewed with Council and citizens

the recreation department proposals. The overall goal is to make the recreation department self sufficient.

3a. Review FY'11 Operating Budget.

Perry Area Convention & Visitors Bureau – Mr. Bob Lawson and Mr. Glen Starlnecker presented to Council their requested budget for FY' 11. The FY' 11 proposed budget is slightly decreased as compared to last year's budget; the decrease is due to the hotel/motel tax revenue. Council Member Joe Posey asked if the Go-Fish project was taken into account for the budget. Mr. Lawson stated the project was not calculated in nor the new programs at the Ag Center. Mayor Faircloth thanked them for everything they do for the City.

Chamber of Commerce – Ms. Megan Smith and Mr. Kenna Scragg presented to Council their requested budget. Ms. Smith reviewed the budget which has a 14.6% cut from prior year's budget. Ms. Smith reviewed with Council the activities performed by the Chamber for the City and everyone is tightening their belts during these tough economic times. Mayor Faircloth thanked them for everything they do for the City.

DDA – Ms. Tish Chase, Ms. Ann Adams and Mr. Davis Cosey - Reviewed with Council their plans during these tough economic times and to bring more merchants into and promote the downtown area. The Commerce Street project and other projects have improved the overall look of the downtown area. The DDA main objective is to promote the downtown area to bring in more businesses through a marketing plan. The marketing plan consists of promotion through advertisement, internet and television ads. Council Member Willie King asked if they have surveyed the citizens to see what type of business they would like to see in the downtown area. Ms. Chase stated that they have done a survey. Council Member Joe Posey asked that DDA come back before Council and layout plans of what they are doing and what their plans are. Council Member William Jackson suggested the DDA, Chamber of Commerce and the Ag Center work together to get information out to visitors about what Perry has to offer. Mayor Faircloth thanked them for everything that they do.

21st Century Partnership – Ms. Mary Therese Tebbe – Stated during these economic times she wanted to thank Mayor/Council for their support.

Perry-Houston Airport Authority – Mr. Art McDonald - Thanked Mayor/Council for their support. The budget request funded by the City for FY 11 has a 5% reduction compared to last year's budget. The Authority generates revenue by selling fuel and hanger space. Mayor Faircloth asked about the hanger space. Mr. McDonald advised the hangers are at 100% occupancy for all three hangers and there is a waiting

list for hanger space. Mayor Faircloth thanked the Airport Authority for everything that it does.

City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the memorandum which outlined the possible adjustments to the Hotel/Motel Tax. Most outside agencies supported by the City are funded through the Hotel/Motel Tax Special Revenue Fund. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed the responses to the questions that were asked by Council at their May 3rd budget session. The final item City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council was the suggested FY' 11 budget adjustments. The suggestions were based on the input provided through citizen's response, department head presentations and outside agency requests. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated in his perspective the suggestions outlined by the Recreation Commission is going to take time; the City will not see a cost savings immediately. Mayor Faircloth stated due to the spotlight on the recreation department it may bring in more people and increase participation of the citizens relative to the various programs. Council Member William Jackson and Joe Posey suggested having each department come before Council with their suggestions and ideas on ways to help the City save money and become more efficient.

4. Other items as needed: None.
5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.