

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL  
May 19, 2009  
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held May 19, 2009 at 5:02 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

\* Council Member James Moore arrived at 5:07 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

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

Guests: Mrs. Becky Wood, Mr. Bob Hubbard – Perry Planning Commission, Ms. Traci Williams – Kids’ Journey, Ms. Tian Foss – Kids’ Journey.

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

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

- 3a. Presentation – Kids’ Journey. Mayor James Worrall introduced Ms. Traci Williams and Ms. Tian Foss– Kids’ Journey. Ms. Foss reviewed with Council the State of Georgia Caring Communities Grant. Ms. Foss stated that the grant was awarded to five (5) Counties last year and will be awarded to ten (10) Counties this year. The grant will be written by Kids’ Journey and would target pregnant and parenting mothers and fathers who are 14 -19 years old. By targeting those age groups it would help reduce the risk factors for child abuse, neglect and improve family relationships. The Kids’ Journey would support pregnant and parenting teens by

providing education in the home, school and at the Perry Family Learning Center. The Kids' Journey would also support teen fathers by providing a mentor, support to encourage positive interactions with the mother and child and parenting classes at the Perry Family Learning Center. The direct benefits to the City of Perry are; (1) decrease risk factors for child abuse and neglect, (2) decrease substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, (3) decrease repeat pregnancy rates, (4) improve family relationships, (5) provide fatherhood support and (6) increase the number of students obtaining a High School Diploma or GED Certificate. The long term benefits would be the children of teen parents are ready for kindergarten and youth 14 – 19 years old will be better parents and have better relationships with their own children be and better educated for the work force. Ms. Foss stated that what is needed from the City of Perry for the grant are; (1) to act as the Fiscal Agent, (2) hire, supervise and support the coordinator and the direct service activities of this grant, and (3) support coordination of meeting times, dates and places for the grant agencies. Council Member Joe Kusar asked if the person that has to be hired for the grant could be an existing City employee. Ms. Traci Williams stated that the City could use an existing employee as long as that person has the time and training hours for the grant. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked how much salary would be for that person. Ms. Williams stated that it would be up to Council to decide the salary. Council Member Joe Kusar asked how much the grant is for. Ms. Williams stated that the grant is \$325,000 per year for three (3) years. Council Member Willie King asked how Kids' Journey would inform the citizens if awarded the grant. Ms. Foss stated that the public would be informed through local programs such as, WIC, DFACS, Perry Hospital and Children First. Council Member James Moore asked what happens if Kids' Journey is not awarded the grant. Ms. Williams stated that they would continue trying to get the grant. City Manager Lee Gilmour asked what the obligations at the end of the grant are from the City. Ms. Traci Williams stated that there would not be any obligations for the City. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that if Council concurs to make the recommendation from work session to Council to authorize proceed applying for the State of Georgia Caring Communities Grant. All members concurred. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City would need a copy grant application.

- 3b. Review tax relief for Developments. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request from the developers requesting tax relief. The developers are requesting the City waive the penalties and fees on property taxes. The recommendation from

the Administration is to not waive the penalties and fees because it would be setting up precedence and everyone would want relief. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked if any of the surrounding Counties or Cities is offering developers any type of relief. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that as far as he knew “No”. All Council Members concurred with the Administration recommendation not to waive the penalties and fees for developments.

3c. Update on Hotel/Motel tax audit. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council based on the Hotel/Motel tax audit, four (4) businesses were identified for follow up. Since the follow up, three (3) have become compliant with any outstanding tax money. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would like to send all the businesses a letter thanking Hotel/Motel’s for being in compliance. All Council Members concurred to send out a letter. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked how much does the one (1) Hotel/Motel that is not in compliance owes. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that they owe approximately \$4,000.

4. Other items as needed: Mayor Worrall asked if anyone had anything they wanted to share.

City Manager Lee Gilmour –Advised Council of issue with meters at The Corner Pocket located at 1201 Main Street. The meters have been subdivided to have separate meters to serve each customer. The owner of The Corner Pocket connection for water was tied in to another meter at the location instead of the meter designated for the location. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated if Council concurs to issue a letter to the owner of The Corner Pocket advising him he has 30 days to make the connection to the meter that is designated for the service location. All members concurred to issue a letter to the owner of The Corner Pocket relative to connection to meter at service location.

Council Member Riley Hunt – Asked about sign content at the American Lubefast, stating that had some complaints about the content. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City can’t do anything about sign content but will speak to business owner about content. Council Member Riley Hunt asked how the water collection and tax collection was going. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that they were going okay.

George Potter, Director of Public Safety – No.

Deputy Chief Joel Gray – No.

Mr. Mike Beecham, Community Development Director – No.

Council Member Willie King – Asked about the status of Westwood trailer park. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the engineers have started work at the Westwood trailer park.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.