

MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
MAY 27, 2008

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held May 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

* Arrived at 5:35 p.m. and left at 7:30 p.m.

Elected Officials Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour. City Departmental Staffing: Director of Administration Brenda King and Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray.

Guests: Daniel Brown, Bob Hubbard, Charles Lewis, and Megan Smith.

Press: Natasha Smith – Macon Telegraph.

3. Mayor James Worrall read a letter to Council from the Government Finance Officers Association congratulating the City relative to qualifying for the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for 2007.

4. FY 2009 Budget Overview.

The general budget overview and highlights of each fund was provided and explained by City Manager Lee Gilmour:

- 2% COLA pay adjustment.
- 1% merit increase.
- Recommend at City's expense to adjust pension plan to provide for early retirement of all positions at fifty (55) years of age but does not recommend post-employment benefits.
- Propose to fund study to look at post-health benefits accounts; allows employees to contribute toward post-health saving account. Recommended in budget pension benefits but not post-health benefits.
- Fuel budgeted at 125% of FY 08 costs.
- Electricity is increased 10%.
- Fee schedule to be adjusted by 2.9%.
- No new positions are being recommended except for one part-time position in for Animal Control for increase activity and issue relative to supervision.

- Proposal property tax millage reduction between two (2) and nine (9) percent depending on digest growth.
- Hotel/Motel Tax Special Revenue – All groups except Downtown Development Authority remained the same from last year. It may be time for DDA to have its own special tax district.
- Gas System Revenue Fund – Recommend a decrease.
- Solid Waste System Revenue Fund – Recommend an increase.
- Council Member Kusar questioned the City Manager about the total cost of offering age 55 retirement to all departments combined. The City Manager advised \$35,000 - \$40,000.
- An increase in the water and sewage rates will be made to reflect the actual cost associated with intended use.
 - ◆ Water from \$4.00 to \$3.00
 - ◆ Sewer from \$0 to \$ 3.00

As a result, the water and sewer rates were adjusted as follows:

Water	Sewer
200 or less .2540/unit	.2440/unit
201 or more .1692/unit	.1706/unit

- A decrease in the gas rate will be made to reflect the actual cost associated with use.
 - ◆ Base Charge from \$4.00 to \$3.00
 - ◆ Consumption from .3523 ccf to .2854 ccf
- Council Member Kusar asked the City Manager how much do we have in reserves, the City Manager advised \$230,000.
- Mayor James Worrall questioned who funds the senior center, the City Manager stated RDC.
- Council Member Kusar questioned the overtime hours of Public Safety. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council Member Kusar that there are two (2) parts relative to the overtime. First, we had a policy in which employees are to get a week off, and second training that had to be done. The main reasons for overtime are absences, vacancies, training and other.
- Council Member King questioned about a possible 401(k). City Manager Lee Gilmour will research and follow up with Council.
- Council agreed to meet again for a budget work session on June 10, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.