

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
May 3, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held May 3, 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, *Phyllis Bynum-Grace and Randall Walker.

*Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace left at 6:50 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: 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, Harold Deal – Assistant City Engineer and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Penrose Wolf, Mr. Larry Walker III, Mr. Jaudon Thompson, Mr. Vernon Lane, Mr. Anthony Martin and Mr. Davis Cosey.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.
 - 3a. Review Georgia Clean Diesel Corridor Resolution. Mayor Faircloth reviewed with Council a letter from the City of Macon Mayor requesting the City of Perry to adopt a resolution that states our commitment to improve air quality in Middle Georgia, and to bring all Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC) members into attainment for air quality and NOx levels. All Council members concurred to adopt the resolution where economically feasible. Council Member Riley Hunt asked that the City Attorney also review the resolution.
 - 3b. Discuss methodologies relative to costing building permits. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the requested information relative to building permits compared to the surrounding communities. The

surrounding communities use a sliding scale whereas the City could use a straight inspection charge. The options are: (1.) to keep building valuation schedule the same, (2.) adopt a sliding scale similar to Houston County and Warner Robins and (3.) establish rates based on actual costs. Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace asked for comparison for a sliding scale similar the surrounding communities. All members concurred.

- 3c. Review responses for the City standard line insurance coverage. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the responses for the City standard line insurance coverage. The Administration recommendation is to stay with GIRMA. Mr. Larry Walker, III thanked Council for the opportunity to bid. Council Member Riley Hunt asked if the Walker Agency could match GIRMA's quote. Mr. Walker stated that he could not. Mr. Walker and City Manager Lee Gilmour answered Council's questions relative to the difference in the two quotes. City Manager Lee Gilmour asked if Council concurred to continue coverage with GIRMA. All members concurred. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that this coverage would be renewed every three to four years.

- 3d. Review status of Commerce Street Parking Improvements Phase II. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the status of the Commerce Street Parking Improvements Phase II project. The Administrative recommendation is to authorize proceeding with paying the two outstanding invoices with the remaining balance; the funding is from the Downtown Restricted Account. The two invoices are from Pavecraft, Inc. and Heart of Georgia Landscaping. Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace asked for copies of the invoices. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised he would forward the information to Council. All members concurred to pay the two outstanding invoices. Mr. Kim Mullins stated there is a \$60,000.00 difference in the remaining balance of the account. Mayor Faircloth asked City Manager Lee Gilmour to look into the difference.

- 3e. Review FY'11 Operating Budget. Mayor Faircloth stated at this time each department head would come before Council to review their budget requests.

Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Kilgore – reviewed his recommended budget with Council. The major request was that the all the programs and support staff and the closing of the J. Worrall Community Center not be cut based on the recommendation of the minimal budget. The citizen and youth of our community need parks and recreation, it works hand and hand with the police department to keep our youth off the streets and out of trouble. Mayor Faircloth stated the budget is a working document and that there are two budgets, a minimal and a basic, the minimal is a scenario of what it would take for the \$750,000.00 shortfall in the predicted FY 11 operating budget. The basic budget

restores all the programs and support staff, but would increase the millage rate. Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace stated that Council is going to do what they can to save the programs, and what is in the best interest of all. Council Member Joe Posey stated the programs are extremely important and we are in extraordinary times and we are going to have to tighten our belts.

Mr. Jaudon Thompson, Mr. Vernon Lane and Mr. Anthony Martin – spoke to Council requesting that Council not cut funding to the programs and support staff for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor Faircloth thanked them for their support and concern.

Director of Community Development Mike Beecham – reviewed with Council his request for the budget. The request included hiring for the vacant Code Enforcement Officer; Mr. Beecham stated at this time his department is handling the code enforcement but the position would need to be filled in the future when the economy turns around. Mr. Beecham requested for the reclassification of his secretary's position to administrative secretary and that would be a \$4,100.00 increase. The employee currently in this position has done an excellent job and he would urge Council to approve the position reclassification. Mr. Beecham requested an increase in the training education to continue for the building inspectors to keep their certification current.

Director of Administration Brenda King – reviewed with Council her request for the budget. The major request is for the replacement of the AS400 computer system, which is over 10 years old. The system houses our Windows 2000 domain controller which controls our network; we no longer have software support on either and it's imperative that they be upgraded and replaced. The cost for the replacement is \$60,000.00. Mayor Faircloth asked if the City would purchase another AS400. Ms. King stated that she has a meeting with Harris Computers on Thursday, and will get options. Mayor Faircloth encouraged looking at option for allowing customers to pay their utility bills online.

Mr. Harold Deal – Assistant Engineer – stated due to Director of Public Works Ronnie Jones' illness he was here for the Public Works Department requests. The requests included not reducing personal in Streets-DDA and mosquito spraying services based on the minimal budgets.

Director of Public Safety George Potter – requests the funding of police academies, school crossing guards, animal control and its facility and no layoffs based on the minimal proposed budget. Also in the budget request is the replacement of vehicles through the lease/purchase program, additional positions in various departments, upgrades for the video storage system and archiving and funding for the Public Safety training facility on Toomer Road, with an emphasis on the firing range.

Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray – Fire Division – requests the reinstatement of the fire fighter position that was cut due to layoffs and not cancelling the fire education program. The \$4.8 million capital expense request includes the support staff/personnel and equipment for Fire Station #2.

Council Member Randall Walker asked about the surrounding municipalities' millage rate. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated Perry has a higher millage rate, but each entity had their own conditions.

Council Member Riley Hunt asked City Manager Lee Gilmour to run the numbers for Health Insurance at 75% - 25%, look at the retirement plan, pay cut at 5% for department heads, employees 2 ½ %, 5% pay cut on a volunteer basis for Mayor/Council and freeze all salaries to see what the millage rate would be. Council Member Joe Posey stated he would like to see some figures on the possibility of furloughing. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King stated Council should consider what is best for the citizens, and to maintain what we have and look at the big picture, maintain standards and not take away. Mayor Faircloth stated he knows everyone is working diligently to do what is in the best interest of the citizens and the City employees.

City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the questions that were asked at the April 27th budget review meeting.

Mayor Faircloth stated both Mayor and Council welcome any ideas and suggestions from the public. The next public meeting to discuss the FY 11 Operating Budget will be on Monday, May 10th at 5:00 p.m.

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 7:25 p.m.