

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
June 7, 2010
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the special called meeting held June 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King. Council Members Joe Posey, William Jackson, Phyllis Bynum-Grace and Randall Walker.

Elected Official Absent: Council Member Riley Hunt.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

City Departmental Staffing: George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Deputy Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department, Ronnie Jones – Director of Public Works, Steve Howard – Chief Building Official and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Bill Court and Mr. and Mrs. Walton Wood.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal and Thomas Day – Macon Telegraph.

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

- 3a. Review FY'11 Operating Budget. Mayor Faircloth opened the floor for discussion. Deputy Chief Joel Gray – Fire Department reviewed with Council the proposed funding to reinstate the firefighter position. The proposal is (1.) delay hiring of the position until September 15th, (2.) delay of hiring of the replacement of the retiring law enforcement officer by four (4) months and (3.) implement suggested cuts. Council Member Randall Walker asked if Deputy Chief Gray was comfortable with the time frame. Deputy Chief Gray stated that he was. Mayor Faircloth asked what the consensus of Council. All members concurred with proposal and stated it was a good compromise. Mayor Faircloth stated that with this added to the budget the millage rate would be .6 mills. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked if the City would still have wiggle room. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City would have about the same wiggle room. Mayor Faircloth commended the departments, staff, and Lee Gilmour for working so diligently on the budget. Council Member Randall Walker asked if the City would have to have three (3) public hearings for the

budget. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City would have two (2) public hearings for the budget. To increase the millage rate, the City has to hold three (3) public hearings, but the City does not have to have these public hearings until after the tax digest comes out in mid September to early October.

3b. Discuss stormwater utility district. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the proposal to establish a stormwater utility district. Currently 35 detention/retention ponds of 53 are City maintained and there are 123 commercial ponds and 20 industrial ponds that need monitoring. By establishing a stormwater utility district the City would be able to use the funds to monitor upkeep and make any repairs needed to the stormwater utilities. The estimated cost for a single family detached home is \$3.75/month. This is something for Council to review over the next couple of months and discuss how to proceed.

3c. Discuss offer of assistance at Evergreen Cemetery. City Manager Lee Gilmour reviewed with Council the request from Peach State Paranormal Investigations to volunteer to clean up some of the white crosses at Evergreen Cemetery and would like to hold training at the cemetery for new members of their group. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated if Council concurs to allow the group to help clean up the crosses the clean up would have to be coordinated with the City's staff and would be supervised. On the request to hold training at the cemetery, Council would want more information before giving the okay. There may be an issue due to the graves being private property. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked if the group volunteers, would the City staff supervising them have to be paid overtime. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the volunteers would have to come during the City's normal business hours. Council Member Joe Posey asked how many times if any this group has been to the cemetery. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated twice, each time they have to check in with the police department. Council determined not to proceed at this time in response to their request to hold training sessions or volunteer to help clean up portions of the cemetery.

4. Other items as needed:

Council Member William Jackson asked about the City's grass mowing policy, if there was any way to speed up the process for the City to intervene in cutting a resident's grass if they do not after notice is given. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated to speed up the process the City can do a general announcement like Public Safety does for towing vehicles and have the vendors on rotation, in place of the bid process. The City would still get their money the same way, either by putting a lien on the property or adding the charge to their utility bill. Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King asked if the City would be able to turn off a customer's utility services for non-payment for cutting their grass. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the City would be able to cut off their services for

nonpayment. Council Member William Jackson asked relative to the mowing policy what the property owner actually has to cut. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that they have to cut anything in public view. Council Member William Jackson stated that it has been an ongoing issue with 701 Evergreen with their backyard pool. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that would fall under public health enforcement. Mayor Faircloth asked if these changes would have to be voted on. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated the changes would not have to be voted on, as long as Council concurs to the changes. All members concurred to the changes.

Council Member Joe Posey asked if the Wal-Mart parking lot was private and if the City can do anything about the signs. Director of Public Safety George Potter stated the parking lot is private and the City can't enforce the sign ordinance on private property.

Mayor Faircloth asked about the status of the roof at the Perry Arts Center. Chief Building Inspector Steve Howard stated he has sent out a letter to enforce the penalty due to the contractor not finishing the job within the time frame outlined in the contract. Mr. Howard has spoken with the superintendent and was told the job should be finished by June 15th; there were problems with materials not being delivered to the site. Once the roof is complete the manufacturer will inspect and warrantee the work. Mayor Faircloth asked if the building was still being built to specs. Mr. Howard stated it is.

Mayor Faircloth stated the gas survey was sent out to elected officials would like Council to turn their survey in to Ms. Annie Warren.

Director of Public Works Ronnie Jones stated a memo has been sent to Mayor/Council advising the tour of the wastewater facilities has been scheduled for Thursday, June 17th.

Director of Public Safety George Potter wanted to advise Mayor/Council that sections of Sandefur Road will be closed June 14 -18 for storm water repairs.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.