

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
August 18, 2009
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held August 18, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: Council Member James Moore.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

City Departmental Staffing: Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Rick Kilgore – Director of Parks and Recreation and Joni Ary - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mrs. Becky Wood, Mr. Jimmy Faircloth – Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, Mr. Randall Walker, William Jackson – DDA, Mr. Chuck Ramsdale – DDA, Mr. Carl Lumpkin – DDA, Mr. Kim Mullins – DDA, Mrs. Penrose Wolfe, Mr. Warren Johnson, Chief Jimmy Williams – Emergency Management Director and Assistant Chief Kevin Noles – Emergency Management Services.

Press: Charlotte Perkins – Houston Home Journal.

3. Presentation:

- 3a. Presentation: Chief Jimmy Williams - All hazard warning system. Chief Jimmy Williams – Emergency Management Director reviewed with Council the early warning system. The different ways to warn the citizens will be through the outdoor siren and telephone call notification. The first phase would be a telephone notification system which will be a program called “Code Red” that will automatically contact citizens in the affected area of a storm when NOAA issues a warning. Everyone is automatically

enrolled in the program, there will be a website citizens can go to and register emergency contact phone numbers. Chief Williams stated that on the website citizens can also opt out of receiving the telephone notification. Council Member Joe Kusar asked how the phone numbers are obtained. Chief Williams stated that the numbers will come from the utilities services and telephone listing. Chief Williams stated that the system should be operational by January 2010. Council Member Charles Lewis asked if you can check the website to see what phone numbers are listed for yourself. Chief Williams stated that you would be able to check the numbers on the website. Chief Williams stated that everything will be controlled by the 911 center. Council Member Joe Kusar asked about the protocol for emergencies, will the information be forwarded to other agencies. Chief Williams stated that they will be working with all agencies to set up protocols. The second phase would be the outdoor warning system (siren). The City of Perry will have about 11 sites for the warning system including the 4 existing outdoor warning systems the City already has. Chief Williams stated that the sirens would have the ability to be set off at different times or all at the same time. The procedures to set off the outdoor warning system will be determined by State and Federal guidelines. Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace asked how they will notify citizens. Chief Williams stated that they will be using the newspaper, schools and churches. Chief Williams stated that there will be some testing of the system in August and September. Council Member Willie King asked about the telephone notification system, if the system will know if it's talking to a live human being or a recording. Chief Williams stated that the system will know if it's talking to a live human being and will leave a call back number for the citizen to call and find out of the warning. City Manager Lee Gilmour thanked Chief Williams for updating Council about the progress of the early warning system.

- 3b. Mr. Warren Johnson relative to location of political signs. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that Mr. Warren Johnson has come to Council with questions relative to the location of political signs. Mr. Johnson stated that he wanted clarification on where political signs can be located on personal property. Mr. Johnson stated that per City ordinance and state guidelines signs can be placed in people's yards, but not in the right-of-way, if that's true, then people are in non compliance in his neighborhood. Director of Community Development Mike Beecham stated that in practice the City does not heavily regulate the placement of these signs in residential areas, due to it being hard to determine the exact location of the right-of-way on many of the older streets. The only exception is a political sign which is a traffic hazard, regardless of the location of the sign, the sign is immediately removed upon discovery.

Not on Agenda:

William Jackson – DDA representative came before Council with concern relative to the balance of the Downtown restricted funds account that was given to the DDA from the City. The account showed the local match for the Commerce Street lighting project is projected to come from the Downtown restricted account. After further discussion, it was decided that the DDA board should have been notified of the impending local match for the Commerce Street lighting project coming the Downtown restricted funds account. City Manager to examine options and report back.

4. Old Business: Mayor James Worrall.

4a. Review issues relative to transient business license. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt stated that a transient business license cost \$125.00 for six months and a \$45.00 fee from the Health Department to operate for 14 days. There was an issue with a licensed business that sells food and a transient business license vendor selling food. The concern with the licensed business was that they pay property taxes and considered the transient business an unfair competition. The transient vendor was selling barbeque sandwiches in conjunction with the promotion of a satellite business. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that transient merchants are limited to where they can sell; which is on Sam Nunn Boulevard and General Courtney Hodges Boulevard. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt stated that he would like to decrease the number of days a transient business license and increase the fees for a transient business license. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that the alternative options would be to limit the amount of days a transient business is good for, increase the fees for the business license or just eliminate the transient business license. Mayor Pro-Tempore Riley Hunt asked City Manager Lee Gilmour to look at the impact if the transient business license was eliminated and report back to Council. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that he would put together the information and report back to Council.

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

5a. Consider GMA “Hometown Connection” program. City Manager Lee Gilmour provided to Council a request from GMA to conduct a “Hometown Connection” program for the City. The program would include inviting the local legislative representatives to city hall and involve the operations staff to educate our local state legislative on how the City operates. In the past the City of Perry has taken the local legislative representatives out to dinner. The recommendation from the Administration if Council concurs is to not participate in the “Hometown Connection” program and continue to take the local legislative representatives to dinner. Council concurred.

- 5b. Review of procedure process for City in the event of Flu-Pandemic. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised Council that the City Department heads are preparing the procedures process for the City in the event of a Flu-Pandemic to review with Council.
- 5c. Consideration of qualifications for professional insurance broker relative to the workers compensation program. City Manager Lee Gilmour asked Council how they would like to proceed with seeking proposals for Workers Compensation renewal. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated one of the concerns that have come up is that there are only a few companies that provide this type of service. Since there are only a few companies, there are two processes we can take. 1). Take general requests for proposals. 2). Request proposals from various agents. Council selects an agent and the agent goes out shopping. Recommendation from City Manager Lee Gilmour is that the City goes with the latter. Council concurred.
6. Other items as needed: None.
7. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.