

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
August 5, 2008
5:00 P.M

1. Call to Order: Council Member Joe Kusar, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held August 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Council Member Joe Kusar, Presiding Officer.
Council Members Council Member James Moore, Willie King, and Riley Hunt.

Elected Official Absent: Mayor James Worrall and Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Staff Absent: City Manager Lee Gilmour.

Departmental Staffing: Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development, George Potter – Director of Public Safety, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Dianne Abney – Secretary Public Works and Annie Warren-Riley - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Walton Wood and Mrs. Becky Wood.

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

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Council Member Joe Kusar.

- 3a. Discuss establishing demolition permit time limitations. Mr. Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development reviewed with Council the memo from Code Enforcement Officer Rick Hickman. Demolition permits are currently treated like building permits, they are good for six months, however, if the owner does a little work the six months is on-going and we feel this is problem. We would like to get a time limit on demolition permits. Council Member Riley Hunt stated the recommendation of ninety (90) days is too long and it should be forty-five (45) days. Mr. Beecham advised Council that private contractors are given thirty (30) days to complete their work. Council Member James Moore questioned if there is a reason for ninety (90) days, Mr. Beecham answered “no” that he was trying to give the homeowners a break. Mr. Beecham stated another item relative to the demolition permit was the request for a fence around demolition sites. Council Member Riley Hunt questioned if the owner cannot keep up the property then how can he afford a fence? Mr. Beecham advised that it did not have to be a full blown fence but a barrier to keep people out. Council Member Willie

King asked that the ninety (90) days be considered because the owner may be out of town. Council agreed that discretion should be given to the Code Enforcement Officer, but the norm will be forty-five days. Mr. Beecham advised the demolition permit time limitation will require an ordinance and he will bring it Council at the next meeting.

- 3b. Consider amending disability retirement program. Council postponed discussion until the Mayor and City Manager are available.
- 3c. Review 2008 Perry Housing assessment report. Mr. Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development reviewed with Council the findings of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center relative to the Windshield Survey. The following areas had houses that were ruled as sub-standard or non-standard:

- Charles Drive
- Creekwood Drive
- Georgia Avenue
- Five Points
- Main Street
- Sand Hill
- Old Field Lane
- Tucker Road
- New Hope

The RDC recommendation was to concentrate on the Five Points area first for housing rehabilitation and revitalization, then Sand Hill, Old Field Lane and New Hope. Council Member Joe Kusar stated that Council will wait on City Manager Lee Gilmour relative to applying for grants.

4. Other items as needed:

Council Member Joe Kusar noticed the fees for the Farmers Market merchants are higher than for the transient merchants. He thinks that we need to do something to bring the fees in line to encourage the transient merchants to participate at the Farmers Market. Council Member Joe Kusar asked Mr. Beecham to research and follow up with Council his findings and recommendations.

Council Member James Moore asked Public Safety Director George Potter for an update relative to the weekend shooting. Mr. Potter gave a briefing to Council and advised that four (4) members went to counseling this morning.

Public Safety Director George Potter gave Council an update on the gas leak that occurred on Monday. Council Member Riley Hunt asked Mr. Potter if the City is going to send the builder a bill for the costs to the City relative to the leak. Mr. Potter stated he would need to discuss this with City Manager Lee Gilmour.

Council Member Riley Hunt asked Director of Public Works, Ronnie Jones about the status of the meter reading system. Mr. Jones advised that it is 80% complete. Council Member Riley Hunt questioned Mr. Jones about the billing cycle. Mr. Jones advised Council Member Riley Hunt that the upcoming billing cycle should go out on time.

Council Member James Moore questioned Director of Public Works, Ronnie Jones about the frequency of mosquito spraying. Mr. Jones advised that we are currently spraying three to four times a week.

Council Member James Moore asked the Woods's if we had addressed their concerns from the last meeting. Mr. Woods advised that when it rains (Big Indian Creek) the run-off is going under the bales; the dirt is falling into the stream. Mr. Woods provided Council with pictures. This will be looked into and brought back to Council.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Joe Kusar adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.