

MINUTES

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

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

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer. Council Members Brian Bowen, Joe Kusar, Willie King, Riley Hunt and James Moore.

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

Staff: City Manager, Lee Gilmour. City Departmental Staffing: Brenda King - Director of Administration, Mike Beecham - Director of Community Development and Annie Warren - Recording Secretary.

Guests: Mr. Walton Wood, Mrs. Becky Wood, Mr. David Wittenberg, Mrs. Kim Wittenberg, Mr. Larry Walker III (DDA), Ms. Terre Moody Walker (DDA), Ms. Pearlie Dixon (DDA), Mr. Davis Cosey (DDA), Mr. William Jackson(DDA), Mr. Kim Mullins (DDA), Mr. Carl Lumpkin (DDA), Ms. Tish Chase – Downtown Development Authority Manager, Dianne Abney – Public Works Secretary and Annie Warren Recording Secretary..

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

3. Items of Review/Discussion: City Manager Lee Gilmour.
 - 3a. Update on DDA Downtown improvements project. Mr. Larry Walker III, Chairman of DDA presented to Council an update of the concept plan for the Commerce Street project. Mr. Walker provided a powerpoint presentation of the Commerce Street Corridor reflecting the sidewalk changes DDA would like to implement in Phase 1 of the downtown area. Mr. Walker advised Council the total cost of the project is \$160,000; DDA has \$83,000 in funds to use for surveys, engineering, etc. but need \$67,000 from the City in order to complete this phase. It is DDA's intention to use Saunders' Engineering Consultants, Inc. for the project. Council Member Joe Kusar questioned if the brick areas really needed to be brick; can you get the same effect with stained asphalt and stretch the money. DDA

Director Kim Mullins stated that DDA will look at options and select the best one for the project. Chairman Larry Walker advised that part of the process involves acquiring property and hopes Council will not delay them in proceeding with the project. Council Member James Moore had no problem with authorizing \$67,000. City Manager Lee Gilmour recommendation to the Council for DDA to proceed with the public property, sidewalks, and portion of the brick sidewalk. This design work has to be coordinated with the TE Grant the City is going to receive. Council concurred with the Manager's recommendation.

- 3b. Update relative to delinquent property tax process. City Manager Lee Gilmour provided information to the Council from the Administrative and Finance Oversight Committee relative to the delinquent property taxes. The current property tax liability for this year is \$582,506.32 compared to last year at this time \$534,755.61. The City collects an average of 99.21% of the property tax, we are positive we will get that short fall. There are currently 1,175 separate tax accounts outstanding ranging from \$8.50 to \$18,425.40. The procedure for collecting delinquent property taxes was outlined for Council review. Mr. Kusar was concerned about cash flow to the City. City Manager Lee Gilmour reminded Council that in December he gave Council a map of the foreclosures in Perry. Council Member James Moore noted that several of the delinquent accounts are developers. The Manager assured Council that the City will get its money. With the foreclosures there has been no impact on our digest; prior to Administration had checked with tax commissioners office and they did not show indication that the value has not been affected by the foreclosures. Council Member Joe Kusar questioned about the write off Kmart property taxes. The Manager reminded Council that Kmart was personal property not real estate.
4. Other items as needed: None.
5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.