

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL  
October 16, 2007

1. Call to Order: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held October 2, 2007 at 5:04 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James Worrall, Presiding, Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar, Council Member Bobby Glover, Council Member James Moore and Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Elected Official Absent: Council Member Brian Bowen.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development, \*George Potter, Director of Public Safety and Recording Secretary Annie Warren.

Press: Mr. Jake Jacobs, Houston Daily Journal.

3. Items of Review/Discussion:

Mayor Worrall shared with the Public Works Oversight Committee a postcard from Angela Jacobs re the GMA door prize of a weekend stay in Perry.

- 3a. Meeting with DDA. Two items from the last Council Meeting were tabled and recommendation from Council was to have representatives from Downtown Development Authority to come to the Council's work session. Downtown Development Authority representatives in attendance were Mr. Kim Mullis and Mr. William Jackson. DDA made a recommendation for the Gazebo to be moved and placed on the site where the Elwood Waites Insurance building is located. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar reminded the Council that Paradise Development Group owns the property, which is now private property. Kim Mullins advised the Council that DDA was split on the location of where the Gazebo should be moved, and decided to leave the location up to Council. Council Member James Moore stated that he had heard there were restrictions on where the Gazebo could be moved. Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development advised the Council that DDA will be discussing the architectural design of Walgreens with Paradise Development Group at their meeting on Tuesday if DDA wants to discuss this further. Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace stated that she would like to see the Gazebo on City property. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar made the suggestion of moving the Gazebo to property on Big Indian Creek. The Council made the recommendation to

move the Gazebo to the site DDA chooses, and move it in good condition. Mayor Worrall stated Gary Hamlin may know about restrictions on the Gazebo and he would double check the minutes to see if there are any restrictions regarding the Gazebo.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar asked DDA representatives if they have the different kinds of architectural renderings that Walgreen's is currently using in different cities. William Jackson stated that he has taken some pictures of a Walgreen in Hilton Head. Kim Mullins asked if it would be possible if the City could designate representatives to get with DDA before the next meeting to discuss some of the issues to be on the same page before the next meeting. Kim Mullins stated that he has architectural pictures of various buildings. Mike Beechman, Director of Community Development stated he would surf the web for pictures of Walgreens'.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar asked about the architectural plan of the street survey. Kim Mullins stated that we have the basic conceptual plan. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar questioned have we approved the conceptual plan. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated that we have not approved Carroll Street. Kim Mullins stated that DDA would like to ask Council if Rick Saunders could bring us up to date on DOT approval of Courtney Hodges median and lightening. Mr. Mullins also asked the Council for permission for Mr. Saunders to ask DOT about the trees and landscaping. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised that Mr. Saunders had been given approval for the lightening. There isn't any money for the landscaping. The Council had approved money from the SPLOST 06 for the landscaping but current funding priorities for the SPLOST 06 are the manhole rehab and Ryding lift station so we do not have money available. City Manager Lee Gilmour made the recommendation to the Council to concur into proceeding with the landscaping down the median, separately from the grant. The Council concurred.

Second item, DDA is requesting \$3,675.00 for landscaping. Kim Mullins stated that they would like to see if the City could eventually hire a person, ie. county extension person who knows how to handle plants. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar stated that landscaping has the biggest impact, and inquired of we could do like we do with Christmas donations and ask for donations for landscaping. Council Member Bobby Glover asked if we could get some of the schools (horticultural) to do this. William Jackson stated that they had tried in the past, but the scheduling did not work. Kim Mullins stated that a person from the University of Georgia came out couple of years ago and showed them how to prune. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar asked about a professional landscaper. Council Member James Moore stated that you would need an arborist and landscaper. Mike Beechman, Director of Community Development stated that we have a tree fund, but there's no money in it. Council Member Bobby Glover

inquired how much money we are spending on this now. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated \$25,000 to \$27,000. Council Member Bobby Glover how much would this take us to. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated roughly \$30,000, and there was discussion in the Public Works Oversight meeting where the City takes over the Garden Park. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar asked what way the recommendation went. Chairperson Riley Hunt stated the City would take over. City Manager Lee Gilmour advised the Council that they may want to defer this until the regular meeting tonight. Council Member James Moore asked if we no longer have a Beautification Commission. City Manger Lee Gilmour stated there were problems with getting a quorum for the meetings. Chairperson Riley Hunt asked if we can get the volunteer committee re-activated. City Manager Lee Gilmour stated yes, and will have Ronnie Jones, Director of Public Works look into it (Landscape Advisory Committee). Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Kusar suggest that the advisory committee help identify and locate a part-time arborist. Council Member James Moore asked if the meeting times were a problem in the past. Chairperson Riley Hunt stated that there would be regularly scheduled meeting times.

Kim Mullis stated that during the Fair, people could not get to the hotel (New Perry Hotel) because the streets were blocked at night. He would like to see signage showing the Georgia National Fair this way. People at the hotel had to go around to Swift Street to get to the Fair. It hurt hotel a lot because the Fair is the only time the hotel fills up. George Potter, Director of Public Safety stated that DOT sets up the route. Council Member Bobby Glover stated that he would feel more comfortable if our Chief was handling this. Kim Mullis advised the Committee that the hotel is transiting into an event location. They will have a full line catering service.

- 3b. Discuss land use option in downtown. City Manager presented to the Council information from Jefferson about storefront churches and if the Council wanted the Planning Commission to proceed with something like this or not. 1. There are a number of existing churches in the downtown. 2. If you want to proceed, you cannot distinguish between the storefront church and regular downtown church. 3. If you take this approach, if an existing church wanted to expand, or have more than fifty (50) percent damage, you cannot rebuild, if you take the Land Use Prohibition. The Council did not want to proceed with this.
4. Other items as needed:
5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor James Worrall adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.