

## MINUTES

### *PERRY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING*

September 20, 2011

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer, called the regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. held on September 20, 2011.
2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lee Gilmour, City Manager  
Ronnie T. Jones, Public Works Director  
Captain William Phelps, Public Safety  
Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray, Public Safety

City Attorney: Mr. John Walker

Guests: Reverend Mike Talley, Chaplain for Fire Department  
Mr. and Mrs. David Gaines  
Ms. Vickie Graham

Press/Media: Ms. Jessica Clark, Houston Home Journal  
Ms. Christina Wright, Macon Telegraph  
Mr. Mike Baker, ComSouth
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Reverend Mike Talley gave the invocation and Council Member Hunt led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
4. Presentations/Special Recognitions:

Mayor Faircloth announced a proclamation declaring September 2011 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Perry and whereas the Joanna McAfee Childhood Cancer Foundation, Inc. was formed in Warner Robins in 2006 to memorialize Joanna McAfee. The proclamation will be delivered to the Joanna McAfee Childhood Cancer Foundation.

Mayor Faircloth and Mr. Gilmour, City Manager, presented a *Commitment to Excellence Award* to Mr. Gaines for going beyond his normal daily job functions. Mr. Gaines observed and reported suspicious behavior of individuals, which led to their capture and arrest for thievery.
5. Citizens with Input: None.
6. Consent Agenda Items: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.:
  - 6a. Council Consideration: Minutes for September 1, 2011 work session, September 6, 2011 pre-council and September 6, 2011 regular meeting were considered for approval. Council Member Posey motioned to approve the minutes. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
7. Old Business: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.:
  - 7a. Alcohol License for Second Reading and Adoption:

1. **Second Reading:** Application for 2011 Alcohol License (Beer and Wine on Premises) for *The Perfect Pear* located at 922 Carroll Street. License will be in the name, *The Perfect Pear Catering, Inc.* and the manager's name is Megan Wilson-Brent.

Council approved application for 2011 alcohol license (beer/wine on premises) for *The Perfect Pear* located at 922 Carroll Street. Mayor Faircloth gave the second reading of application for 2011 alcohol license (beer/wine on premises). The manager, Ms. Megan Wilson-Brent attended the Council meeting. The license will be in the manager's name, Megan Wilson-Brent. Council Member Bynum-Grace motioned to approve the application. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Any Other Old Business Matters:

- 8a. Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. – None.
- 8b. Others – None.

9. New Business: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.:

9a. Matters Referred from September 19, 2011 Work Session/September 20, 2011 Pre-Council Meeting:

1. Authorize Placement of Bench/Statute of Kody Lucas at the entrance of J.E. Worrall Community Center: The City Manager stated that Ms. Ellie Williams is requesting authorization from the City to install a bench and a statute of Kody Lucas. Per Ms. Williams' letter, she will be responsible for raising all necessary funds with no cost to the City. The City Manager recommended authorization. Council Member King motioned to approve the request. Council Member Posey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member Hunt requested to see the design before placement.
2. Authorize Establishing and Funding of Part-Time Traffic Control Guard for Matt Arthur Elementary School: The City Manager stated that hiring a part-time traffic control guard for Matt Arthur Elementary School would free a certified police officer to perform emergency services and other 911 calls. The City Manager recommended authorization. In answer to Mayor Faircloth's question, the City Manager stated that the traffic control guard would be trained and certified by the City's Department of Public Safety. Council Member King motioned to authorize hiring a part-time traffic control guard for Matt Arthur Elementary School. Mayor Pro-Tempore Walker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. Authorized Amending Contract with ESG Operations, Inc., to Incorporate Management and Operation of City's Natural Gas System per ESG Operations, Inc., August 16, 2011 Proposal: The City Manager stated that a proposal from ESG Operations to amend their current contract to include management and operation of the City's natural gas system was presented to Council at the work session held on September 19, 2011. A number of advantages were cited with the primary ones being, having one entity responsible for after hour calls for utilities, reduce the City's future personnel cost and expenses, and relieve the City of training, certification, and regulation mandates required by the federal government and the Georgia Public Service Commission. The City Manager recommended approval to amend the current contract with ESG Operations, Inc. The City Manager stated that ESG will hire the four (4) employees currently employed with the City's gas department. Mayor Pro-Tempore Walker motioned to approve amending the contract with ESG Operations, Inc., to incorporate management and operation of the City's natural gas system. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion. In further discussion, Mayor Faircloth inquired concerning a difference in cost that the City currently incurs versus ESG. The City Manager stated there is a slight increase in what the City currently pays, however, it is more than compensated by future cost savings and does not affect the City's rates.

Mayor Faircloth stated that the City would retain the authority to control the rate setting as it is. The City Manager stated that the billing and assets will remain with the City and for some reason if a problem develops between the City and ESG the contract would be cancelled and the City would resume gas operations. The funding of the difference in cost will come from the gas fund that will adequately cover costs. Motions made carried unanimously.

4. Authorize Establishing and Funding of Economic Development Coordinator Position: The City Manager referred to the discussion in the work session held Monday, September 19, 2011, the need for establishing a position to coordinate the various economic development activities of the City and work with other agencies to sell the benefits of the City. A list of responsibilities and qualifications was provided to Council in the work session held on Monday, September 19, 2011. The City Manager recommended authorization to proceed. The City Manager confirmed that funding for this position will come from the Hotel/Motel Tax fund. Council Member Posey motioned to authorize establishing and funding of the economic development coordinator position. Mayor Pro-Tempore Walker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9b. Resolutions for Consideration:

1. Adopted Resolution No. 2011-41 updating a five-year plan of the Short Term Work Program (STWP), component of the community's Joint Comprehensive Plan. The City Manager stated that per State requirement, every five (5) years, the City is obligated to review and update the Short Term Work Program. Council has reviewed and approved the updated program, which has been submitted to the Middle GA Regional Commission as required. The review process has found the program satisfactory for proceeding, now the Council needs to pass a resolution, officially adopting the program and then forward documentation to GA Department of Community Affairs. Council Member Jackson motioned to adopt the resolution updating the Short Term Work Program. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (*Resolution 2011-41 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
2. Adopted Resolution No. 2011-42 authorizing execution of necessary documents for Georgia Municipal Association Lease Purchase Program. Ms. King reported that the amount of the lease for the 2012 capital projects is \$530,200.00. Ms. King stated that execution of the necessary documents provides funding for the capital projects. Ms. King requested authorization to enter into the lease for three (3) years. Council Member King motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing execution of necessary documents for Georgia Municipal Association Lease Purchase Program. Council Member Hunt seconded that motion and it carried unanimously. (*Resolution 2011-42 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).

9c. Award of Bids:

1. Awarded Bid for Electrical Service Upgrade at the Houston County General Government Building: The City Manager recommended awarding bid to the vendor for the low qualified bid with standard copper wire installation. For the Perry Music Festival and other future events an upgrade for the existing electrical services at the old courthouse grounds is necessary. The funding for this project is monies appropriated for the music festival in the Hotel/Motel Tax fund. Council Member King motioned to award the bid as submitted by Wedincamp Electric for \$5,400.00. Council Member Bynum-Grace seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Awarded Bid for Lighted Message Board Sign: Mr. Jones provided bids from two (2) companies to purchase a lighted message board sign. Mr. Jones issued a memo to the City Manager on September 12, 2011 with the company names and their bids. *American Signal Company* made a bid of \$13,849.44 and *QPR ShopWorx* for \$13,680.00. Mr.

Jones recommended to award bid to the *American Signal Company* because company is local and will make service calls; the company located in Atlanta manufactures signs and parts; and the company will provide training at the time of delivery. The *QPR ShopWorx* company is a distributor only and does not provide service, training, parts or manufacture the signs. Council Member Hunt motioned to award the bid to *American Signal Company* for \$13,849.44. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. For further discussion, Mr. Jones stated that the sign will be used by the police department and water/sewer department thus the reason that 50% funding will come from the Confiscated Asset funds by Public Safety and 50% from the Water/Sewer fund by Public Works.

- 9d. Authorized Blocking of Certain Streets for the Perry Music Festival. The City Manager presented a map showing certain streets for blocking local traffic for the Perry Music Festival. Portion of MLK Drive from Larry Walker Parkway to Cathy Street will be restricted to local traffic only; also on MLK from Cathy Street to General Courtney Hodges Blvd. will be blocked for use to service Rotary Centennial Park and the stage. In the downtown area, the City Manager recommended blocking Jernigan Street between Carroll and Main Street; Carroll Street between Jernigan and Ball Street. Jernigan Street is proposed for blocking to provide an area for a food vendor that has purchased a license to serve food in that area and to provide a service route for the stage. Carroll Street is proposed for blocking the front of stage. In addition, the City Manager recommended blocking Washington Street between Carroll and Commerce Street to facilitate flow of traffic and provide a drop-off point at the Commerce Street parking lot that will be used for a kids village/playground; block Carroll Street between Washington and Macon Road for the Welcome Park stage; block Macon Road between Commerce and Main Street to provide service access for the Welcome Park stage and to block traffic. Carroll Alley makes a walking connection to First Baptist Church stage. Streets are proposed to be blocked starting late Friday, October 28, 2011 before the festival or first thing Saturday morning, October 29, 2011 pending recommendation from Public Safety. Streets will be opened once the stages are closed. Council Member King motioned to authorize blocking streets as recommended by the City Manager for the Perry Music Festival. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
10. Department Head Items: Mayor Faircloth opened discussion for department head items.
- Captain William Phelps, Public Safety – No items for discussion.
- Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray, Public Safety – No items for discussion.
- Ronnie Jones, Public Works Director – No items for discussion.
- Brenda King, Director of Administration – No items for discussion.
- Lee Gilmour, City Manager – No items for discussion.
- Mr. John Walker, City Attorney – No items for discussion.
11. Council Member and General Public Items:
- Council Member King – No report.
- Council Member Jackson – No report.
- Council Member Hunt – No report.
- Mayor Pro-Tempore Walker – No report.
- Council Member Posey – No report.

Council Member Bynum-Grace – No report.

Mr. Mike Baker, Perry Chamber of Commerce announced that the Chamber has scheduled two (2) informational forums. One forum is to discuss the upcoming educational SPLOST on Tuesday, September 27, 2011; second forum is to discuss the two (2) alcohol referendums that will be on the ballot in November, on Monday, October 24, 2011. Both informational forums will be held at the Board of Education building. Mr. Baker advised that for the scheduled times and other information, please contact the Chamber of Commerce.

12. Mayor Items: Mayor Faircloth announced the invitation to *Walk with Mayor and Council* on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., beginning at Reverend Willie King's church on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
13. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before City Council, meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.