

CITY OF PERRY

MINUTES

PERRY CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

1. Call to Order: On February 6, 2012, Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., called the work session meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lee Gilmour, City Manager
George Potter, Director of Public Safety
Captain Bill Phelps
Captain Heath Dykes
Lt. James Buck
Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray
Brenda King, Director of Administration
Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development
Mr. Harold Deal, Assistant Engineer
Rick Kilgore, Recreation Director
Dianne Abney, Recording Secretary

Guests: Mr. Bob Lawson, Chairman, Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority
Ms. Sheila Jones, Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority
Mr. Kirt Ervin, Utility Service Company, Inc.
Ms. Terre Walker
Mr. Penrose Wolf
Ms. Vickie Graham

Press: Ms. Jessica Clark, Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr.

3a. George Potter, Director of Public Safety, Reviewed Violations at 1210 Oldfield Lane (not listed on agenda): Chief Potter reviewed criminal violations, along with a multitude of safety and fire code violations at 1210 Oldfield Lane. The owner of the property located at 1210 Oldfield Lane is Grover Jackson, Jr. The owner has created and operates an illegal "shot house." On January 1, 2012, police responded to the area because of a fight involving several people. A "party" was being held at the residence, which was shut down by police to avoid further incidents. In addition, the "party" was in violation of the block party city ordinance. On January 29, 2012, a search warrant was served and resulted in the owner's arrest as well as another subject for illegal liquor sales and maintaining a disorderly house. This building was created in violation of numerous city and zoning ordinances and without permits. This structure continues to promote illegal activity and threatens the safety of the neighbors, public safety personnel, and patrons of the "shot" house. Chief Potter emphasized that departments must work together in order to avoid such illegal activity. In addition, Chief Potter stated that a former prosecutor has volunteered to work "pro-bono," free of charge to the City to put Mr. Jackson in jail thereby putting Mr. Jackson out of business.

Chief Potter went on to review an arrest made on February 3, 2012 at 1021 King Blvd., due to drug charges.

- 3b. PACVBA Update – Ms. Sheila Jones (shown as item 3a. on agenda): Ms. Jones reviewed and updated the Mayor and City Council on three (3) projects with one (1) being the *Go Fish Education Center*. The Perry Area Convention Visitor's Bureau (PACVB) has contracted with the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in implementing a temporary part-time position whose primary responsibility is to market and promote the *Go Fish Education Center*. The agreement is effective November 21, 2011 and will cease on June 30, 2012. In December 2011, Ms. Nancy McEver was hired as the Marketing Coordinator under Ms. Jones' supervision. Ms. Jones reviewed Ms. McEver's accomplishments from December 5, 2011 to date. Since opening in October 2010, the *Go Fish Education Center* has had 19,858 visitors. The O'Neil Outside Show on the Outdoor Channel has featured the *Go Fish Education Center* and will air again the week of April 30th. The *Go Fish Education Center* will have a statewide media announcement on Friday, February 10, 2012, that the *Center* is participating in the *Library Loan Program* through the *PINE* system where you can check out a "pass" from any library in the State of Georgia and attend the *Center* six (6) times on the "pass."

The second project is the New Mobile Audio Tour of Historic Sites. Signs were delivered and picked up by City staff to hang on the bottom of the existing historic signs. The signs have a phone number listed to call from a cell phone and hear the description of the site along with historic photos available via smart phone QR code scan.

The third project is the Tourist Assistance Portals. Two (2) interactive information kiosks have been installed at the *Georgia National Fairgrounds Association (GNFA)*, one on the north side of Clock tower and one at the Corral Offices. The PACVB and GNFA will be holding advertising information sessions in early March.

- 3c. Mr. Kirt Ervin, Utility Services Company, Inc. Discussion of License Agreement (shown as item 3b. on agenda): Mr. Ervin with Utility Services Company, Inc. stated that the license agreement to locate an "Ice Pigging" demonstration site on City owned property located at 2005 Sam Nunn Blvd. has been reviewed by the City Attorney. Mr. Deal stated that the agreement was accepted by the City Attorney.
- 3d. Update on WVO Program (shown as item 3c. on agenda): The City Manager reviewed a memo dated January 31, 2012 from Mr. Bob Taylor, the Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor for the City of Perry relative to status of the Waste Vegetable Oil program. The vegetable oil is used in some of the City's equipment. However, due to the lack of sources, the waste vegetable oil reserves are nearly depleted with only 200 gallons remaining. The City Manager asked the Council about contacting the local schools for vegetable oil. Council Member Walker suggested contacting local businesses as well. After discussion, Council concurred to proceed.
- 3e. Security for James E. Worrall Community Center (shown as item 3d. on agenda): The City Manager reviewed a memo dated January 20, 2012 from Mr. Rick Kilgore, the Recreation Director for the City of Perry relative to the installation of panic buttons and cameras for security reasons. The City Manager stated that after discussing this with the Public Safety personnel, a suggestion was made relative to installing a safety, plexi-glass window across the counter. The City Manager recommended that plexi-glass not be installed at this time, as it would set an unfriendly tone. The clerk at the Center is usually not alone. The City Manager recommended installing cameras and panic buttons. In the interest of deterring people from negative behavior, the Mayor suggested the installation of a monitor facing towards the front door so when people enter the building they can see their self on the monitor. After further discussion, Council concurred to proceed.
- 3f. Review Proposal Relative Manhole Decorating (shown as item 3e. on agenda): The City Manager stated that at the pre-council meeting held on January 3, 2012, Council concurred to proceed with the development of guidelines for the individual painting of City manhole covers. The City

Manager presented and reviewed the guidelines. Each artist's concept and lid location must have prior approval from Council. Mayor Pro-Tempore Jackson recommended adding the type of paint to be used in the guidelines. Council Member Walker inquired about the liability. Council

Member Walker recommended clarification concerning the liability in that when the artist obtains the lid to paint, the liability falls on the artist. When the City takes back possession of the painted lid, the liability then falls back on the City. Council Member Bynum-Grace expressed interest in artists painting manhole lids and suggested that communities become involved in working with the artist in each community. The City Manager recommended that Council determine if the artist's concept is appropriate for the community. After further discussion, Council concurred to proceed as discussed.

- 3g. Proposed Placement of ING Signs (shown as item 3f. on agenda): The City Manager presented a cost estimate from Mr. Jones, Public Works Director, to install the "ING" signs for "100 Best Communities", coming in and around the Perry area. The cost estimate for the construction of 10 signs, 36" in diameter on .080 aluminum single side is \$2,900.00. The estimate does not include posts or installation. Council Member Walker stated that the "100 Best Communities" was awarded to Houston County. After further discussion, Council concurred for the Mayor to discuss "ING" sign installation with Houston County including Centerville and Warner Robins.
- 3h. Kings Chapel Sidewalk and Footbridge Proposal (referred from January 3, 2012 pre-council meeting), (shown as item 3g. on agenda): The City Manager stated that at the pre-council meeting on January 3, 2012, a proposal was submitted for Council's consideration to install a footbridge for the safety of children's school crossing to Morningside Elementary at the intersection of Kings Chapel and Morningside. The City Manager requested status of the proposal. Council Member Walker stated that after reviewing the children crossing, doing nothing is not acceptable as this poses an unsafe situation. The children cross either alone or with their parents in the morning. In the afternoon, the school provides someone to assist the children crossing. Council Member Walker stated that building the footbridge would not deviate children from walking the same route as now. Council Member Walker recommended placing the speed limit radar sign at the location, painting the crosswalk, placing additional signage, and contact the school for the option of placing someone or a school crossing guard at that location in the mornings. After further discussion, Council concurred to proceed as Council Member Walker outlined.
- 3i. Consider Adding Additional Billing Cycle (shown as item 3h. on agenda): The City Manager reviewed a map reflecting proposed cycles. The City Manager asked Council to consider setting up four (4) cycles for each week in a month to avoid huge crowds coming into the office to pay their bill. A pre-notice will be sent to customers advising the change. After further discussion, Council concurred to proceed. The City Manager informed the Council that current bills which reflect a due date of the first of each month has been moved back to the fourth of each month due to citizens on social security, fixed incomes. Council concurred.
- There was some discussion concerning customer service. Council Member Bynum-Grace stated that there is always room for improvement, however, customer service is providing a more customer friendly atmosphere.
- 3j. Land Use Comp Plan (shown as item 3i. on agenda): Mr. Beecham, Community Development Director, reviewed the Character Area Map from the 2007 Comprehensive Long Range Plans.
- 3k. Review of SPLOST Process (shown as item 3j. on agenda): The City Manager presented and reviewed the what, why's, and how's of SPLOST. The City Manager reviewed why SPLOST is necessary, should be renewed, and where the monies are spent. The SPLOST referendum will be on the ballot March 6, 2012.
- 3l. Consider Experience Works Proposal (shown as item 3k. on agenda): The City Manager presented and reviewed a proposal from "Experience Works," a federally funded program for senior citizens to obtain job skills and enter into the work force. The City of Perry is not required

to pay any monies associated with this program, only provide supervision, and work space. The participants will abide by the City's policies and work ethics. The City Manager recommended, subject to the City attorney's approval, that Council authorize to enter into this agreement for assistance. The City Manager stated that the City has no obligation to retain the citizen for their services. After further discussion, Council concurred to proceed subject to the City Manager contacting other municipalities for reference.

4. Other Items as Needed:

Mayor Faircloth announced the groundbreaking of the Guardian Center will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Council Members are welcome to attend.

Council Member Walker – none.

Council Member Posey – inquired about Kings Circle drainage issue...the City Manager stated issue was resolved.

Council Member Hunt – inquired about a SPLOST class and was instructed that SPLOST is properly divided based on population. Council Member Bynum-Grace attended the class and will provide the information to Council at their next retreat.

Council Member King – the front door to Perry City Hall, facing Washington Street, was left unlocked and someone came in, wandered around building upstairs to several employees affright. Mayor Pro-Tempore Jackson stated a panic-bar is required by the State Fire Marshall on all exterior doors going outside. The Mayor stated that installing panic-bars on that front door can serve as the answer.

Council Member King inquired about the sidewalk on Creekwood. The City Manager stated, Creekwood sidewalk is on the list for completion.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Jackson – none.

Council Member Bynum-Grace – inquired about certain alcoholic beverage license fees. The City Manager stated these fees would be adjusted.

Ms. Brenda King, Director of Administration – informed Council that the on-line payment solution is moving forward and hoping to go live March 1, 2012.

Mr. Rick Kilgore, Recreation Director – thanked Council for security measures at the Jim Worrall Community Center.

Mr. Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development – none.

Mr. Lee Gilmour, City Manager – received notice from GMA relative to district office recommendations; any Council Members interested in serving on one of the boards, please contact the City Manager or the Mayor.

5. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before Council at the Work Session Meeting held on Monday, February 6, 2012, Mayor Faircloth adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.