

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL

June 06, 2011

5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. called to order the pre-council meeting held June 06, 2011 at 5:00pm.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. and Mayor Pro-Tempore Randall Walker. Council Members Phyllis Bynum-Grace, Riley Hunt, Willie King (arrived at 5:08pm), and Joe Posey.

Elected Officials Absent: Council Member William Jackson.

Departmental Staffing: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray – Fire Division, Brenda King – Director of Administration (arrived at 5:48pm), Capt. Bill Phelps – Public Safety, and Christine Sewell, Recording Secretary.

Guests: Ms. Vickie Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Walton Wood and Mr. Penrose Wolfe.

Press: Ms. Jessica Clark – Houston Home Journal

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

- 3a. Review request for installation of street light at intersection of Langston Road and Macon Road (US 41 N).

Mr. Gilmour provided a site map of the area and reminded council the matter had been originally brought forth by Mr. Armistead of Notting Hill subdivision. The request was for the installation of a street light at the intersection that was not in the city limits nor was occupied, which is against city policy. Mr. Armistead was asked to speak with the county, who advised they would not install the light. It was the recommendation of Mr. Gilmour that council adhere to city policy and not install the light. Councilmember Hunt inquired on the cost of the light and Mr. Gilmour advised it was approximately \$350, plus an estimated \$17 per month in operating costs. After a brief discussion, it was noted that the subdivision could request the light be installed by Georgia Power with the costs being incurred by the subdivision.

On conclusion of discussion, council concurred to deny the request and that Mr. Gilmour advise Mr. Armistead of the option with the power company.

- 3b. Review landscaping plan Lee Street/Baird Drive

Mr. Gilmour reviewed with council the estimate from Heart of Georgia Landscaping for the landscape design at Lee Street/Baird Drive, which was \$8,885.00. After brief discussion, it was the recommendation of council to maintain the information on file and wait to hear back from the neighborhood before proceeding further.

3c. Follow up relative Perry Open Market

Mr. Gilmour provided follow up from the May 02nd work session and addressed the questions brought forth:

- Site is 150' x 150' most of which is rough paved surface
- Site would need to be surveyed and marked at an estimated cost of \$600
- Site would be mowed by City staff
- An identification sign with hours and day(s) of operation installed at an estimated cost of \$800
- Totters placed and picked up for day(s) of operation
- Site cleaned up on first work day after event; possibly by trustees
- Portable restrooms not recommended
- Assess usage and maintenance costs after three and six months

It was the recommendation of Mr. Gilmour to place the matter on hold until further notice, as well it was not recommended to proceed in the summer months due to the extreme heat.

Councilmember Bynum-Grace agreed an area like this is needed, but not until funding is available. Councilmember Posey also felt the information should be retained until funding was available and consideration should perhaps be given to charging a nominal fee for usage.

On conclusion of discussion the council concurred to hold off on the matter until further notice.

4. Other items as needed

Mr. Gilmour advised council that with the current dry conditions the well water levels have dropped ten feet and as a preventive measure the city will cease with hydrant flushing and the levels will continue to be monitored with another update provided in July.

Councilmember Walker inquired if there are water restrictions in place; Mr. Gilmour advised there were and the City follows the EPD guidelines, as well a notice has been sent to utility customers, which should be received this week reminding them of the restrictions.

Mr. Gilmour provided to council in preparation of the public hearing on June 7th the proposed FY 12 operating budget information.

Councilmember King inquired of the status of the Ball Street extension project; Mr. Gilmour advised that negotiations were still on going with the railroad and it was now with their legal department for review. Mayor Faircloth inquired on the status of the bridge work and Mr.

Gilmour advised it was approximately half completed.

Councilmember Walker advised he had been contacted by Mr. Myers regarding a presentation to council on a plastic shredding machine. Mr. Myers would like to provide the service of collecting plastics and cardboard to the City at no charge. Per Mayor Faircloth, the presentation will be done at the next council work session.

Councilmember Posey inquired of the status of the city's website and when it would be brought online; Mr. Gilmour advised he had met and reviewed content with all departments and it should be live after the 4th of July holiday. Councilmember Walker asked if any outside assistance was needed; Mr. Gilmour advised it was not as the City has worked with RDC and staff to complete.

Councilmember Posey inquired of the various recreation department programs (soccer, football, etc.) and if they were all self-sufficient; Mr. Gilmour advised they were and the fees charged were based on the cost of the programs, the number of participants, as well, there was a subsidiary for indigent and as an example if a coach's child was a participant in a program, the fee was waived. Councilmember Posey also questioned if there were a number of children participating in the programs who did not live in Perry. Mr. Gilmour advised there are and would provide the data.

Councilmember Posey inquired of the \$38,000.00 allotted for the maintenance of the flowers around the city and was soliciting council for their opinions. Mr. Gilmour advised the allotment was for the downtown area hanging baskets, beds and generally all the areas where the flowers are with the exception of Welcome Park.

Councilmember Walker felt this is a necessary expense as it is part of the economic development package for the city and is beneficial. Councilmember King feels it is an issue of quality of life and should be continued as an image of the city and to attract residents.

Councilmember Posey asked if the city in the past had tried to maintain the flowers; Mr. Gilmour advised they had, but on the recommendation of the DDA, it was outsourced.

Mayor Faircloth asked if council had anything further they would like to discuss; Councilmember's Bynum-Grace and Hunt did not; Councilmember King asked for an update on Westwood Trailer Park; Mr. Gilmour advised nothing has changed on Westwood or the other park; the park owners and court had been notified of this. Mayor Faircloth advised he had spoken to one of the owners of the trailer parks who advised progress has been made and he was asked to contact Community Development Director Mike Beecham to schedule a site visit.

Mayor Faircloth advised he recently attended a luncheon on base by invite from General Gourley, Commander of the Air Force Reserve, along with the surrounding city mayors and had been enlightened on the duties of the reserves; Mayor Faircloth also relayed General Gourley's appreciation of support from the city and council.

Deputy Fire Chief Joel Gray advised council of an incident involving a group of North Georgia

high school students traveling by bus to an AG Camp in Tifton and they had broken down on Exit 34. The driver of the bus phoned dispatch after being stranded for an hour asking for water for the students; a unit was sent and it was decided that with the extreme heat and the possibility that assistance for repairs or a replacement bus may be awhile, efforts made resulting in the students being taken to Rozar Park, a meal was provided by the Ladies Auxiliary and the bus was transported to a secure location. Mayor Faircloth advised Chief Gray he had already received a call from Union County thanking everyone involved and how appreciative they were of everyone's efforts; as well, Mayor Faircloth commended city staff for a job well done.

Capt. Phelps relayed that Chief Potter is doing well and should be back next week.

Ms. Brenda King advised she had placed in council's boxes a copy of the notice received for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010.

Ms. Vickie Graham thanked council and Mr. Gilmour for accelerating the tax sale process, as it has resulted in less than \$81,000 left to be collected.

5. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before Council; Mayor Faircloth adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.