

MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
May 13, 2013
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the budget hearing of the Perry City Council held May 13, 2013 at 5:05 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: None.

City Attorney: David Walker arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour and Cyndi Houser, Recording Secretary

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Joel Gray – Perry Fire and Emergency Services, Rick Kilgore – Director of Recreation, Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development, Mary Beth Bass – Director of Economic Development and Brenda King, Director of Administration

Guests: None.

Press: Christina Wright, Macon Telegraph and Jessica Clark, Houston Home Journal.

3. Consideration of Wastewater Services Agreement with Georgia National Fairgrounds.

Mr. Gilmour reviewed a proposed agreement between the City and the Fairgrounds which would allow City staff to monitor incoming wastewater from the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds incoming wastewater stream can vary greatly from month to month depending on events taking place. This has placed a strain on the City system and if the City staff is able to monitor on a daily basis, preventive measures can be taken to keep the system from being “slugged” and thus causing the system to go out of compliance. This is a one-year contract and will assist the Fairgrounds by keeping them out of the wastewater stream business. Administrative costs would be offset by waiving the wastewater charges and avoid construction of a pre-treatment facility.

Mayor Faircloth entertained a motion to sign an agreement with Georgia National Fairgrounds to provide wastewater services. Council Member Bynum-Grace moved to accept the agreement; Council Member King seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Department Presentations:

Department of Community Development. Director Mike Beecham noted there were no major issues with the recommended budget. The department is currently working on getting all GIS information on two (2) desktops and then training will be conducted for Mr. Beecham and Mr. Deal. This information will be shared on the new server. Mr. Beecham is also looking for at least two more volunteer code enforcement people. Council suggested inquiring within Neighborhood Watch groups.

Department of Economic Development. Director Mary Beth Bass concurred with the recommendations prepared by the City Manager. Ms. Bass highlighted the recommendation to change the part-time technician position to full-time which would fund a Main Street Coordinator/Manager position. This is one of the guidelines from Main Street and the position would also assist the director with projects for Downtown Development Authority and Perry Downtown Merchants Association. Ms. Bass requested Council approve Phase 2 of a redevelopment plan. Mayor Pro Tempore Posey asked where the funds would come from for Coordinator/Manager position. Mr. Gilmour explained there are three (3) possible sources: 1) hotel/motel tax, 2) general funds, or 3) wait and see where the hotel/motel tax ends up. Administration recommended item 3.

Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department. Chief Joel Gray will use interim staffing until a funding source is found for the additional 18 positions required for the department. The department is working with 911 to assign addresses to certain grids as well as testing to assure these are correct. There may be an increase in the 911 costs and Mr. Gilmour stated that Mayor and Council will be informed of the reason when an explanation is received. In response to a question regarding staff being certified as either an EMT or a paramedic, Chief Gray noted only about four (4) of his staff are not certified as either. The firemen obtain these certifications on their own time and two more have applied for paramedic training. Chief Gray noted equipment has been upgraded so there are no major expenditures expected for this area.

Department of Recreation. Director Rick Kilgore stated the Recreation Department has tried to be a good steward of the money for this department. He noted many of the programs are self-sustaining. The part-time maintenance position has been shifted to facilities maintenance. Mr. Kilgore also noted he may need to come back to Council to request an additional \$2,000 for more helmets because it appears that children's heads are increasing in size and there are currently not enough larger helmets in inventory.

Council Member and General Public Items.

Mayor Pro Tempore Posey asked Mayor and fellow council members to recall a discussion regarding heavy trucks using regular city streets rather than the bypass. He asked the Council to consider posting signs with weight and size limits. The issue was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Executive Session entered at 6:20 p.m. Council Member Walker moved to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters. Mayor Pro Tempore Posey seconded and it carried unanimously.

5. Executive Session adjourned; Council budget hearing reconvened. Council adjourned the Executive Session held May 13, 2013 and reconvened into the Council budget hearing.
6. Adopted Resolution No. 2013-20 stated purpose of Executive Session held on May 13, 2013 was to discuss personnel matters. Council Member Jackson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the Executive Session held on May 13, 2013 was to discuss personnel matters. Council Member Bynum-Grace seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (*Resolution 2013-20 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
7. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council in the reconvened meeting held May 13, 2013, Council Member King motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.