

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL**  
March 3, 2014

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held March 03, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: none

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour and Recording Clerk, Christine Sewell

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mary Beth Bass – Economic Development Director, Michael Beecham – Director of Community Development, and Steve Howard – Chief Building Inspector.

Guests: Mr. Frank Shelton, Mr. Joe Brownlee, Ms. Vickie Graham, and Ms. Lille Battle. ESG Operations, Inc. – Ryan Bode, Chad McMurrian and Jared Noble. Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) – Rusty Hough and Rodney Deal.

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

3a.

Mr. Frank Shelton – spoke to Council in regards to the maintenance of the City's water tanks. Mr. Shelton provided a history of his experience in the business of water tank maintenance and provided data for Council's review. Mr. Shelton also provided information on a schedule of tank maintenance which should include exterior and interior maintenance over the course of (15) years. Mr. Shelton advised caution should be exercised when selecting a vendor to ensure what was being paid for was being done for maintenance.

\*\* Item moved on agenda

- 3h. Update relative to residential plumbing permitting per contractor concerns

Mr. Beecham summarized for Council letter received from City Attorney David Walker, which states a homeowner can perform work on their own property without a licensed contractor pulling the permit. Mr. Beecham advised Community Development does check license holders and confirms authorized signers. Mayor Faircloth was asked how the matter was brought forth and advised he was

approached by a local plumbing contractor with his concerns. Mr. Steve Howard reiterated the department is following State law, as well if when on site for an inspection and its' determined the homeowner did not perform the work and evidence suggests it was done by an unlicensed contractor, the job will not be approved. Mr. Howard advised the State is tightening up loopholes with these issues and complaints can be registered through the Secretary of State's office.

\*\* Item not on agenda – update on Crossroads Motel

Mr. Howard advised all City utilities and electrical service would be disconnected this evening at 6pm at the Crossroads Motel and a meeting is scheduled with the owners for March 4<sup>th</sup> to perform a full inspection of the property. Council Member Hunt inquired if all residents were vacated and if not what is the next step; Chief Gray advised that as of 4pm none had been and if still on site the Police Department would handle eviction. Council Member Posey inquired of Chief Gray the concerns on the property. Chief Gray advised from preliminary inspection as access has not been given for the rooms, but likely a complete overhaul of the electrical, there are no fire separation walls and some structural damage. Chief Gray advised also the owner would have to determine the use of the property as either a motel or apartments and code would dictate requirements. Council Member Posey inquired when the last time inspected; Chief Gray advised current inspection was the result of a complaint. Council Member Hunt voiced concerned with the City's reputation as a destination stop for visitors and the deterioration of some hotels/motels should be addressed.

3b. Discussion of Perry Music Festival / New Year's Eve Buzzard Drop

Mr. Gilmour provided financial information on the 2013 festival costs and is asking Council's approval on paying licenses fees which are currently due for the 2014 event and approval for the New Year's Eve Buzzard Drop. It was also noted in previous discussions to consult with the Main Street Board seeking their group as a sponsor; they have declined, but will sponsor the New Year's Eve event. Council Member Hunt and Mayor Pro Tempore Walker voiced concern in supporting the music festival with taxpayer's dollars. Mayor Pro Tempore Walker suggested reviewing the overall event and its' original intended purpose, which was to bring visitors to the downtown, as it has not been successful in doing so. Council Member Hunt, King and Jackson recommended seeking sponsors and researching other avenues of revenue funding.

Mr. Gilmour advised relative to sponsors it has been the City's position not to solicit businesses the Chamber of Commerce uses for their festivals (Dogwood and Independence Day), which limits the resources of sponsors. Furthermore, increased costs are associated with paying headliners to provide a more attractive event for the community. Discussion ensued on perhaps holding the event at one location, possibly at Rotary Centennial Park, as the event is successful each year at this location. Mayor Faircloth was of the opinion the event is successful and its' purpose is to bring the community together, which it does and would like to have it again, but under cost restrictions. Council Member Posey felt there was not a lot of enthusiasm for the music festival, however the New Year's Eve event was well received and

should continue.

Mr. Gilmour inquired of Council his original request for authorization to proceed with payment for license fees in the amount of \$500.00; it was the decision of the Council to not pay any license fees until it was confirmed the event would be held. Mayor Faircloth advised a planning meeting would be held at which time all costs would be reviewed and brought back to Council for review. Council concurred with support of the New Year's Eve Buzzard Drop.

3c. Consider waiving fees for Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia

Mr. Gilmour advised the request was being brought to Council as it did not meet the standard guidelines for his approval; to the best of his knowledge the troop is not in Perry. Council concurred with waiving the fee and the request of a portable bathroom facility being provided would not be done by the City as there are restrooms on site.

3d. Follow up relative video monitoring systems in city parks

Mr. Gilmour provided an update of the review of security cameras in certain City parks, along with comments from Chief Lynn, which at this time was recommended no action be taken; Council concurred.

3e. Consider policy relative to posting of honorarium signage

Mr. Gilmour provided, as a result of Council's recent honoring of Westfield Schools' 2013 state football championship, guidelines to determine if signage should be approved, the following was suggested as a starting point for consideration: 1). Must be an institution, not individual, that is physically located in the corporate limits of the City; 2). Should have at least five participants in the program of which at least two physically reside in the corporate limits of the City; 3). Participants shall not be older than twenty one years of age, 4). Signage will remain in place for no more than five years; 5). Council reserves the right to adjust these guidelines as it deems in the best interest of the City.

Council Member Posey was concerned with how to regulate as there were many groups, etc. in the City; Mayor Pro Tempore Walker suggested regulating the same as the Lids for Artists program. It was suggested location be part of criteria. Mayor Faircloth asked to strike out the requirement that at least two participants reside in the corporate limits of the City. Council concurred with the guidelines presented with noted changes.

3f. Consider options relative City's natural gas peak demand product supply

Mr. Gilmour provided a matrix of the City's natural gas consumption and existing pricing; Mr. Rusty Hough and Mr. Rodney Deal with MGAG presented information and recommendation of the City's participation for additional capacity to cover consumption in 2015. The purpose of the presentation and discussion was the City's growth over time has exceeded the contract and with peaking service ceasing the

question before Council is for approval or denial for expansion of the contract. After thoroughly discussing and exploring alternate options and costs, Council Member Hunt motioned to agree with the approval of an additional 500 dekatherm volume for a total of a 1,000; Council Member Jackson seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

3g. Consider re-establishing basketball courts at Calhoun Park

Mr. Gilmour advised a request had been received to reestablish the basketball courts, which had been closed for many years; currently the surface is in place, but there are no goals and in consulting with the Recreation Department staff it was the recommendation of Administration to deny the request; Council concurred.

3i. Consider establishing Easter Eggstravaganza program for Department of Recreation

Mr. Gilmour provided estimated cost of \$3,000 for an Easter event at Rozar Park; it was noted the budget currently had \$1,000 in the restricted account, with the remainder being covered by current budget funds. Mayor Pro Tempore Walker advised there is an annual event at Creekwood Park and feels this might be in competition with the proposed event; Council Member Jackson felt request should be in the long range budget plan process. Council concurred to deny the request.

3j. Consider storm water fee waiver request from the Airport Authority

Mayor Faircloth advised of the email received from the Airport Authority for a waiver of the stormwater fees and was presenting to Council for comment. Mr. Gilmour advised fees had been reviewed and already reduced and under the guidelines does not qualify for exemption. Concern was voiced if waived other entities, such as the Board of Education and Houston County would make similar requests. Council concurred to deny the request for reduction of stormwater fees for the Airport Authority.

4. Department Head Items:

Ms. Bass provided update on recent GICH & Main Street conferences attended by City staff and partners; reminder of Industry tour at Hye Precision Products on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. King advised through Incode software automated phone notification has commenced for utility customers and has received positive feedback.

Chief Gray advised an injunction had been ordered on Crossroads Motel with a hearing scheduled for Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am.

Mr. Beecham asked Council for consideration of setting up a joint meeting with Council and the Perry Planning Commission.

Mr. Gilmour advised he had spoken with the County and the trees marked for removal on Ball Street are part of the standard criteria for construction and all were recommended for removal. It was noted the Tree Board had been contacted with mixed responses. Mr. Gilmour recommended at completion of project new replacement trees be planted with funds from the tree account with new trees being heartier species for the area. Council concurred with Administration. Mayor Pro Tempore Walker noted on inspecting the trees for removal, all but one are severely diseased and warrant removal.

Mr. Gilmour advised Rick Saunders the City's consulting engineer advised per State law businesses with four or less employees are exempt from having Worker's Compensation insurance. Mr. Gilmour noted it is City policy for vendors doing business with the City to hold the necessary insurance requirements, which includes Worker's Compensation. Council concurred to adhere to City regulations.

5. Council Member Items:

Council Member Hunt inquired when the matter on the water tank maintenance would be brought back forth; Mayor Faircloth advised the March 17<sup>th</sup> work session.

Council Member Posey inquired timeline for budget process; Mr. Gilmour advised City departments' information had been received and outside agencies were due at the end of the month, therefore the process should commence the first part of April. Mayor Faircloth stated with the recent wave of activity the fire department has experienced it was time to address the staffing additions.

6. Adjourn.: There being no further business Mayor Faircloth adjourned the City Council work session held March 03, 2104 at 7:50pm.