

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
June 16, 2014

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. Roll: Mayor Faircloth, Mayor Pro Tempore Randall Walker, Council Members Phyllis Bynum-Grace, Riley Hunt, Willie King, William Jackson, and Joe Posey were present.

Staff: Lee Gilmour – City Manager and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk.

Departmental Staff: Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Mary Beth Bass – Economic Development Director, and Mike Beecham – Director of Community Development.

Guests: Ms. Darlene McLendon, Mr. Steve Giles, Ms. Vickie Graham, and Mrs. Terre Walker.

Press: None

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

3a. Presentation of Council’s strategic plan – Ms. Bass.

Ms. Bass presented Mayor and Council with a summary of the strategic plan, which included an introduction of the plan, the data collected to prepare the plan, and the results of the strategic plan work groups’ findings. Ms. Bass advised additional information would be provided on the next steps of the plan. Council concurred to review the plan with the option for the matter to be brought back for questions at a later date.

3b. Discussion of City’s resiliency plan – Chief Gray.

Chief Gray advised as a result of previous weather events and with the recent support of the 116th Mission Support Group – Georgia Air National Guard Robins Air Force Base, a resiliency plan should be created, which when completed would provide guidelines and checklists for what to do after an emergency. Chief Gray advised one of the battalion chief positions could perform a dual role as emergency manager. Currently, Lt. Crumpton has been attending GEMA Emergency Management classes and if approved could begin work on the plan.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker inquired of the emergency generators for the wastewater plants; Chief Gray advised there were still some issues with regard to power being worked out.

Council Member Posey inquired of a disaster scenario and its' coordination; Chief Gray briefly explained the process and coordination.

Council concurred in proceeding with a resiliency plan.

3c. Follow up for police department proposed 5k routes.

Chief Lynn provided a memo on four different routes: 1). Ball Street, 2). Jernigan Street, 3). Evergreen Street, and 4). Hay Road. Discussion of the different routes ensued; Chief Lynn noted Evergreen Street was the preferred route by sponsors, with route 4 being the least sought. It was noted additional alternate routes and staging for noise control could be researched for the Evergreen route.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker noted most every city/county in the state has 5K routes and felt the Evergreen route was the best choice; Council concurred.

3d. Report concerning the City's hotels/motels.

Mr. Gilmour provided data as follow up from last year's fall/winter meeting on improvements of tourism in the city, which noted one area in need of improvement, which are hotels/motels. Five criteria categories were used to analyze/tabulate/score and they were: 1). Law Enforcement, 2). Management Services, 3). Fire Protection, 4). Market Properties, and 5). Aesthetics.

Each hotel/motel/RV park was scored on the five criteria resulting in a total score for each. There was also a mystery shopper done on certain facilities where it was requested to examine each hotel/motel based on curb appeal and their response was provided.

Mr. Gilmour noted information tied back into Ms. Bass's strategic report and the necessity to upgrade/improve facilities; as well should this information be gathered on a yearly basis and shared with the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Council Member King inquired on what the City could do to encourage improvements; Mr. Gilmour recommended possibly performing an inspection once a year and providing the rating to the Convention & Visitors Bureau so it could be given when inquiries are made. Council Member Jackson voiced concern if properties are not up to standard visitors would not come.

Discussion ensued on establishing a process to set standards and what could be done to work with the Conventions & Visitors Bureau, as well as research other cities that may have the same problems. On conclusion it was the concurrence of Council to examine alternate avenues and to address concerns with the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

3e. Update relative to proposed dog park.

Mr. Gilmour advised from previous discussion a dog park was proposed behind Calhoun Park, however in having Chief Lynn survey the area it was noticed on the rear of the property which abuts residential there are numerous dogs, which may agitate those in the proposed park and with that in mind other areas would be researched.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker inquired why the Chamber's site would not be used; Mayor Faircloth stated it was not large enough and was simply a resting area for travelers with dogs. The question arose on why this was being proposed; Mr. Gilmour advised it goes back to the Strategic Plan study and what people are looking for in the city.

Council Member Posey advised the Worrall Foundation in developing their park plans discussed incorporating a dog park in future planning. Mr. Gilmour suggested working with the Worrall Foundation and when their plans are completed bring back at a later date for further discussion; Council concurred.

3f. Update relative to alterations at Creekwood Park Pavilion.

Mr. Gilmour advised it had been discussed in removing the back portion of the pavilion, per the engineering report provided there are some other structural issues and it appears it will be more cost efficient to demolish the current pavilion and construct a new one. Council Member Hunt inquired if there were any safety concerns with its' current condition; Mr. Gilmour advised there was not. Council concurred that an appropriate time in the future to demolish the existing structure and construct a new pavilion.

3g. Request from Perry Rotary Club for installation of certain exercise/recreation equipment at Rotary Centennial Park.

Mr. Gilmour advised Perry Rotary Club is seeking a \$10,000 grant for recreation equipment and would like to place in two areas of Rotary Centennial Park with either exercise equipment along the walking trail, or playground equipment. Concern arose if appropriate for the area; Council Member Jackson favored the walking trail equipment; Mayor Pro Tempore Walker advised to be mindful of the greenspace areas. Council concurred to review again when provided with a proposal on what is being requested.

3h. City GIS update – Mr. Beecham.

Mr. Beecham provided overview of the historical GIS layer and the other layers for the various City maps.

Mrs. Terre Walker on behalf of the Perry Historical Society advised they are currently researching historical items and will be returning payment to the City, as it is being performed as a service to the community.

4. Department Head Items:

Chief Gray requested a proclamation for the Warner Robins Fire Department to thank them for their assistance on the recent Kellwood Drive fire.

Mr. Beecham advised the department's volunteer Mr. Rick Brooks will be relocating to Kentucky on Thursday.

Mr. Gilmour advised the Perry Music Festival has had considerable interest from food vendors and Mr. Lumpkin is requesting the use of the Jaycees building parking lot for their use. Council concurred with the use of the Jaycees building parking lot for vendors during the Perry Music Festival.

Mr. Gilmour advised the Chamber had requested for the Independence Day parade the use of the City's trolley for the World War II veterans if there was no other transportation available; Council concurred to allow for the Chamber to utilize the City's trolley for the event.

Mr. Gilmour advised a change order had been submitted for the LMIG resurfacing project for issues that came forth on South Street and Duncan Avenue that had been unforeseen; funding for additional expense would come from SPLOST. Council concurred to place on the June 17th agenda for approval.

*Council Member Bynum-Grace left at 6:30pm.

Mr. Gilmour provided a copy of the ordinance for the FY 2015 budget for review, noting there had been no changes since their last discussions. It was noted consideration be given for changes with the Convention & Visitors Bureau portion to add \$1,200 to the fairgrounds for assisting with promotion; allocation would be \$100 per month to the Georgia National Fair & Agricenter.

5. Council Member Items:

Council Member Hunt inquired of Mayor Faircloth if he had followed up relative log trucks not using the Ball Street extension; Mayor Faircloth advised he will be doing so.

A letter is being received from ESG Operations regarding the number of fire hydrants to be fixed is still at 95 and it has been that way for some time. Council Member Hunt inquired if anything is being done to correct the issue. Chief Gray advised when ESG Operations took this task on there had been 190 out of service and the 95 remaining are those that need to be lifted, as if the section of pipe underneath was removed and replaced, it would not be cost prohibitive, but the remaining 95 are functional, and will be done when time permits.

Mr. Bill Elliott contacted Council Member Hunt to pass along to Mayor and Council his request for the use of the 20 acres at the old landfill on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive for a solar panel farm and that Mr. Elliot would pay the City \$15,000 annually. Mayor Pro Tempore Walker was concerned with the aesthetics of the solar panels; Mayor Faircloth inquired if allowable by zoning; Mr. Beecham advised it would be,

and Mr. Gilmour noted this same location was a possible site for the animal control facility.

Mayor Faircloth entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session for real estate.

6. Executive Session entered at 6:50 pm: Mayor Pro Tempore Walker moved to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of real estate. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
7. Executive Session adjourned; Council work session meeting reconvened. Mayor Faircloth adjourned the Executive Session held June 16, 2014 and reconvened into the Council's work session meeting.
8. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-24 stating purpose of Executive Session held June 16, 2014 was to discuss real estate. Council Member Jackson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the Executive Session held on June 16, 2014 was to discuss real estate. Council Member Posey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (*Resolution 2014-24 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
9. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the reconvened work session meeting held June 16, 2014. Council Member King motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.; Council Member Hunt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.