

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
July 14, 2014

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

Elected Officials Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Randall Walker

Staff: Lee Gilmour – City Manager and Cyndi Houser – Recording Clerk

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

Guests: Mr. Penrose Wolf and Mr. Steve Collins

Press: Mr. Don Moncrief – Houston Home Journal

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

3a. Discussion of stormwater plan

Mr. Beecham presented Mayor and Council with a summary outline of the best management practices plan. Mr. Beecham has been working on this plan for some time and when completed, it will be submitted to the Georgia EPD by the September 3, 2014 deadline. He then highlighted several areas noting the City is already doing the required remedies and/or inventories, but currently does not have a written plan; and, some items will go into effect January 2015 while others do not have to be completed until 2017 or 2018. Mr. Beecham answered Council questions regarding the City's financial consequences for carrying out the plan and the process for imposing penalties for non-compliant customers.

3b. Report back on alcohol authorizations

Mr. Gilmour referred Council to a memo prepared by Ms. Christine Sewell summarizing serving of alcoholic beverages in various cities throughout Georgia. A short discussion followed. The administration recommended Council allow alcoholic beverages in the park pavilions on a case-by-case basis per a set of general guidelines. Council concurred and requested that Mr. Gilmour prepare a set of general guidelines to be considered by Council at its next meeting.

3c. Discussion of provision of city stage for music event

Mr. Steve Collins submitted a request for the use of a city stage for another venue during the Perry Music Festival on September 20, 2014. The venue would be located in the parking lot at the corner of Macon Road and Swift Streets and feature Christian music bands and vocalists. The request was also submitted to Main Street Program Inc. and they did not have an opinion either for or against the request. Council inquired of Mr. Collins regarding arrangements for parking, restrooms, food and drink and he advised that several churches and Christian organizations would be providing the food, assisting with parking and stage set up. Council agreed to provide a stage for this venue with the understanding the stage would be set up on Friday and taken down on Monday by City staff. Mr. Collins stated he and the property owner were agreeable to these conditions and also hoped this would become an annual event in conjunction with the Perry Music Festival.

3d. Discussion of land bank authorities

Ms. Bass provided an overview of land bank authorities and how it could be used as a tool for neighborhood redevelopment and revitalization. She explained the City of Perry could create its own authority or could cooperate with Houston County and/or the City of Warner Robins to create a land bank authority (LBA) through adoption of a local ordinance or resolution. The governmental entity determines who is on the board. The LBA helps address persistent and critical challenges to facilitate the return of dilapidated, abandoned, and tax delinquent properties to a productive use. Ms. Bass also reviewed the process for land acquisition and how it may be disposed of. Consensus of Council was this would be something to look at in the future as the City did not meet some of the suggested criteria.

Mr. Penrose Wolf spoke in favor of this type of authority to assist Perry in planning for its future.

4. Department Head Items:

Chief Gray confirmed that the Warner Robins Fire Department would be at the regular meeting to accept their proclamation thanking them for their assistance on the recent Kellwood Drive fire. He also gave a brief overview of the many calls fire and emergency services department had responded to during the past four days and advised Council the new engine is about 6 weeks out.

Ms. Bass reminded Council the National Barrel Horse Association International Youth Competition will begin activities on Thursday at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and asked for volunteers for several of their activities.

Mr. Gilmour requested feedback from Council on the suggested changes for the Economic Development Director job description. Council concurred with the suggested changes.

5. Council Member Items:

Council Member Posey asked Mr. Gilmour about the water report, the status of the City-owned property that was for sale and the status of the Jaycees building improvements. Mr. Gilmour stated increasing costs are mandated by regulation even though consumption is down; the Deanview property has been sold; and he is awaiting a cost estimate of the improvements. Based on the estimate, funding options will be reviewed.

Council Member Hunt inquired about the status of the log trucks using certain streets in the City. Chief Lynn is reviewing all streets for practical routes; GA-DOT has also been contacted; and when the survey is completed, there will be a meeting with the lumber company.

Mayor Faircloth advised Council he had placed two items of interest in their City mailboxes.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session meeting held July 14, 2014, Council Member King motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.; Council Member Posey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.