

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL**

October 6, 2014

5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Pro Tempore Randall Walker, Presiding Officer called to order the work session meeting held October 6, 2014 at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

\* Arrived at 6:31p.m.

Elected Official Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour and Recording Clerk, Annie Warren

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Decius Aaron – Director of Public Works and Michael Beecham – Director of Community Development

City Support Staff: Karen Bycenski – Personnel Analyst

Guests: Randy Briskin, Ashely Kelmer, Bob Carnot, Jeff Abbott, Weeks Evan and Davis Cosey

Press: Mr. Don Moncrief, Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Pro Tempore Randall Walker

- 3a. Presentation – Mr. Randy Briskin of ICMA-RC. Mr. Briskin presented an overview of the ROTH IRA and answered Council questions. Council concurred to place this item on Council's October 7, 2014 agenda.

- 3b. Consider land donation request from Houston County Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Beecham advised Council of a land donation request from Houston County Habitat for Humanity. Jeff Abbott, Ashley Kelmer, Bob Carnot of Houston County Habitat for Humanity and Weeks Evan's of Parrish Construction provided insight to Council relative their respective areas of expertise with Houston County Habitat for Humanity. Council concurred to revisit this request at the October 20, 2014 work session.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker deviated from the agenda and moved item 3k up on the agenda.

- 3k. Consider shifting all adoption processes to FOPAS. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the current process the City has with FOPAS and suggested the City enter into an agreement with FOPAS outlining each party's conditions and responsibilities; have FOPAS collect the donation fees and adoption fees directly; FOPAS directly hires the veterinarian of its choice and the City is no longer responsible for the billing or monies. Mr. Cosey provided his input and shared his concerns. Mr. Cosey and Chief Lynn agreed to work together to bring back to Council a proposal/contract.
- 3c. Request for city assistance – Mr. Jimmy Simpson. Mr. Beecham advised Council of Mr. Simpson's request to have the City install landscaping lighting in front of his business. Council concurred not to pay for installing landscaping lighting in front of Mr. Simpson business. Mr. Beecham will follow up with Mr. Simpson.
- 3d. Consider rental request for use of the city's trolley for a wedding. Council concurred the trolley is not available for rental at this time.
- 3e. Consider letter of support request from the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. Chief Lynn presented a brief overview of the organization "Coalition Against Bigger Trucks" to Council. Council reviewed the request for a letter of support and concurred not to take any action.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker turned the meeting over to Mayor Faircloth at 6:31p.m.

- 3f. Consider design criteria for alternate transportation route. Council discussed the alternate transportation routes and concurred to follow the recommendation of Administration to establish a Council committee to look at design criteria for alternate transportation routes. Mayor Pro Tempore Walker, and Council Members Jackson and Bynum-Grace will serve on the committee.
- 3g. Consider height restriction in downtown core. Administration expressed his concern relative item 2a under Section 2.09 – Architectural Standards in the Perry Land Development Ordinance which states "Height. The height of the proposed building shall be visually compatible with adjacent buildings." Administration recommended establishing a process to establish a maximum height of 37 feet from sidewalk to top of structure; variances can be granted for decorative, unique features. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the recommendation of Administration.
- 3h. Consider waiver of sewerage system connecting to a portion of Valley Drive. Mr. Beecham reviewed Mr. Howard's memo outlining the Bay Creek Plantation sewer service. Mr. Howard recommended allowing the use of septic tanks for lots 1-6 and allowing connection to City sewerage for lots 7-9. It was the consensus of Council to allow lots 1-6 accessibility to septic tanks.

- 3i. Consider request for additional sidewalks on Macon Road. Mr. Gilmour reviewed Mr. McDowell's request to for the City to install sidewalk improvements so he can walk to work in a safe manner. Administration advised Council the funding is not available at this time and recommended including the request in the City's long term improvements program. Council concurred with the recommendation of Administration to include the request in the City's long term improvements.
- 3j. Consider requiring substance testing for all workers' compensation claims. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the City's policy for substance testing of employees involved in vehicle accidents while on city time. Administration recommended Council establish a policy requiring substance testing for any accident. Consensus of Council to proceed with the recommendation of Administration to establish a policy requiring substance testing for all workers' compensation accidents.
- 3l. Consider installation of fire alarm system in city hall and the public safety building. After considerable discussion, Council concurred to rebid for fire and security alarms for the city hall and public safety buildings.
- 3m. Consider adjusting recreation indigent support program. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the memo dated August 22, 2014 relative adjusting recreation indigent support. Administration recommended to Council to approved the following indigent policy: 1) City indigent assistance is only available to City residents, 2) Qualifying for City indigent assistance will be based on the federal poverty, 3) Indigent assistance shall be a 25% reduction in the regular program fee, 4) Indigent assistance shall be provided only for City sponsored recreation activities and 5) Participants eligible for the City indigent assistance program shall not be eligible for any other City funded assistance. Council concurred to proceed with the above recommended policy for indigent support.
- 3n. Discussion concerning the use of the Blight Tax Ordinance. Mr. Gilmour reminded Council of the recent articles in the Macon Telegraph concerning blight and the difficulty addressing it. Mr. Gilmour referred Council's attention to a memo from Mary Beth Bass and a copy of the model blight ordinance for review. Administration recommends Council adopt a blight ordinance to correct residential and commercial blight. It is the consensus of Council to proceed with adoption of a blight ordinance based on the second model described in the July 21, 2014 memo from Mary Beth Bass.
- 3o. Consider establishing planning/data collection districts. Mr. Gilmour recommended to Council to approve a designated data reporting district map of the city to effectively gauge the success of the adopted strategic plan. Council concurred to proceed with establishing planning/data collection of districts.
- 3p. Consider response to market survey RFP. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the responses to the market survey RFP and recommended retaining the firm of

WFN Consulting, LLC. The consensus of Council was to proceed with the firm of WFN Consulting, LLC to conduct a housing and retail market survey of the city.

- 3q. Consider amendment process for downtown district Certificate of Appropriateness process. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the current process for obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness. Administration recommended the Certificate of Appropriateness process be amended to have the Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Department of Economic Development with appeal to the Perry Planning Commission. The Main Street Design Committee would provide advice to the Department. Council concurred amending the Certificate of Appropriateness process.

4. Department Head Items:

Chief Gray and Mr. Beecham had no reports.

Ms. King reported on the activities of the Department of Administration.

Mr. Aaron reported on the activities of the Public Works Department.

Chief Lynn reported there were eighteen participants in the fire support training.

5. Council Member Items:

Council Members Bynum-Grace, Hunt and Jackson had no reports.

Council Member King expressed his concern of trash left on the football field after football games at Creekwood Park and asked for a status update on the sidewalks project.

Mr. Gilmour requested Council authorize a public hearing relative the Goodroe property and the Jaycees' building.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker reminded everyone of the Walk with Mayor and Council on October 28, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Highlands Ranch Subdivision.

Mayor Faircloth entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of personnel.

6. Executive Session entered at 8:04 p.m.: On a motion by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Hunt and carried unanimously, Council went into executive session for the purpose of personnel.
7. Executive Session adjourned at 8:25 p.m.; Council's regular meeting reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held October 6, 2014 at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened into Council's regular meeting.

Adopted Resolution No. 2014-41 stating the purpose of the executive session held on October 6, 2014 was for the purpose of personnel. On a motion by Council Member Bynum-Grace, seconded by Council Member Jackson and carried unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2014-41 stating the purpose of the executive session held on

October 6, 2014 was for a personnel matter. (*Resolution 2014-41 has been entered in the City's official book of record*)

8. Adjournment: On a motion by Council Member Hunt, seconded by Council Member Jackson and carried unanimously, the reconvened meeting of Council held October 6, 2014 was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.