

MINUTES
PRE COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
September 2, 2014
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer, called to order the pre council meeting held September 2, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official(s) Absent: None

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

Departmental Staffing: Michael Beecham – Director of Community Development, Captain Heath Dykes – Perry Police Department, Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, and Brenda King – Director of Administration.

Guests/Visitors: Catherine Edgemon – Main Street Coordinator, Annie Warren – Administrative Services Coordinator and Nancy Graham - Recreation Department

Media: Don Moncrief – Houston Home Journal

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

3a. Discussion of September 2, 2014 regular meeting agenda. Mayor Faircloth reviewed with Council the regular meeting agenda.

6. Appearance(s): Mr. Gilmour advised Mr. Todd Surbert would not be able to appear to discuss his denial of a refund fee because he was unable to get off work.

9b. (1). Alcohol License for First Reading and Introduction. Mr. Gilmour explained this license was being submitted for approval because it is a new location.

9c. (2) First Reading of an ordinance amending the Perry Code by adding definitions. Mr. Gilmour stated this is a text change per State guidelines for the business side of licensing.

9d. (3) Award of Bids. Consider proposal for design build services improvements at the Perry Arts Center. Mr. Gilmour advised Administration will be recommending rejection of the two proposals received. There was a great disparity in the prices received. Administration is further requesting authorization to hire an architect to develop standards and specs and re-let the bids for the Arts Center improvements. This will be paid from SPLOST funds.

9e. Consider authorization to go to bid for installation of security fencing at Evergreen Cemetery. Due to recent vandalism and theft at the Cemetery, Administration is requesting authorization to go to bid on the installation of security fencing for Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Gilmour explained the security fencing was a suggestion of the GMCA Cemetery Association. The bid will only be for three sides as the fourth side is bounded by the Tolleson Cemetery.

9f. Main Street Buzzard Drop Mr. Hunt inquired how much the event would cost this year and was advised the event has been turned over to Main Street and they have been given a flat allocation of \$5,000 which comes from the tourism fund. Mr. Hunt also expressed concern about alcohol and youth being present.

- 3b. Discuss request for a crosswalk at Longbridge Way/Macon Road from Mr. Marc McDowell. Mr. McDowell is legally blind and needs to cross over Macon Road to use the sidewalk on the opposite side in order to get to work. Mr. Gilmour advised Mr. McDowell that the DOT has control of this area and provided him with the contact numbers. DOT advised Mr. McDowell that a traffic light or crosswalk could not be installed unless the speed limit was lowered. Historically requests to the DOT to reduce the speed limit have been rejected. A discussion about possible solutions ensued. It was then requested that a traffic count be conducted through the police department and another request to reduce the speed limit be submitted to the DOT.
- 3c. Review of job description for Director of Leisure Services. Mr. Gilmour explained this is a follow up on a recommendation from the adopted Strategic Plan to revise the Director of Recreation job description. The job description has been reviewed and revised with suggestions from Mayor/Council and is now titled Director of Leisure Services. Items discussed included maintenance and budget concerns, shifting of maintenance personnel, salary range and education requirements. Council concurred with the description and authorized Administration to proceed with posting the position.
- 3d. Consider request from Guardian Centers for support. Guardian Centers is allowing a private, non-profit to hold an event at their location on September 13, 2014. They requested assistance from the City in the form of three (3) uniformed officers at no charge to the event. The Guardian Centers are also asking the County to do this. After a lengthy discussion, Council concurred to continue with their policy of not providing off-duty police officers at no charge for non-City-affiliated or City-sponsored events. Council felt by providing police officers this would set a dangerous precedent. Other items: Captain Dykes will contact Sheriff Talton to obtain his opinion; Mr. Gilmour will meet with Chief Lynn; and a meeting will be scheduled with Guardian Centers regarding their assistance expectations.
- 3e. Consider requests for employees' Christmas social. Ms. Warren and Ms. Graham presented several requests on behalf of the Christmas Social Committee and the costs associated with these requests. The Council felt the cost of a band was too high compared to a DJ; the venue should be kept at the Arts Center and did not approve soliciting merchants for door prizes. Soliciting does not portray a good image for the City. The possible 50/50 raffle would require obtaining a permit from the Sheriff's office. If the committee proceeds with this suggestion, Council suggested naming the charity or charities that would receive the

other portion in order to increase sales. Council concurred to continue with either the Option 2 menu or last year's menu from the same caterer.

4. Council Member Items.

Mayor Faircloth asked if any Council members had any items for discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Walker, Council Members Bynum-Grace and Jackson had no reports.

Council Member King received several calls about a minor serving/selling beer at a convenience store located near Greater Union Church. The police department will talk to the owners about this situation. Council Member King also mentioned receiving calls about the lack of a good sit-down restaurant.

Council Member Hunt reminded Council he was still concerned about truck traffic; and, noted he observed 5 violations in 5 minutes driving down Tucker Road.

5. Department Head Items.

Mayor Faircloth asked Department Head items be reported at the regular meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Faircloth adjourned the September 2, 2014 pre council meeting at 6:02 pm.