

MINUTES
PRE COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
November 19, 2013
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer called to order the pre council meeting held November 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official(s) Absent: None.

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

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

Guests: Mr. Penrose Wolf

Media: Chris Hogan, Houston Home Journal.

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

3a. Discussion of November 19, 2013 regular meeting agenda. Mayor Faircloth reviewed with Council the regular meeting agenda.

8a. Mr. Penrose Wolf of the City of Perry Housing Authority. Mr. Gilmour advised Council Mr. Wolf would be presenting a report. Mr. Walker inquired about the process for a citizen representative's expiring term on the Authority Board. Mr. Gilmour explained that the law requires the Authority to make recommendations to Council and Council then confirms an appointment.

8c. First Reading of an ordinance amending the City of Perry FY 13 Operating Budget. Mr. Gilmour advised Council that after the annual audit is completed, the City is required to amend the operating budget. The second reading will be during the December 3, 2013 meeting.

8d. Award of Bids:

1. Bid No. 2014-04 Frank Satterfield WPCP Improvements Project.

Mr. Gilmour noted that this project was previously approved by Council and will be paid from the water/sewer bond. It was also noted that the bids were all under the budgeted amount.

2. Award for license plate recognition system.

Chief Lynn reviewed the process for determining the best system which was done through field testing several vendors' products as well as obtaining recommendations from other cities and agencies.

8e. Authorize easement and use of a portion of Calhoun Park for utilities for Windstream.

Mr. Gilmour advised the City has a franchise agreement with Windstream and the easement will not infringe on the use of Calhoun Park. In addition, Windstream has offered to relocate a telecommunication line on Commerce Street for a reduced price. Administration recommends approval subject to the City Attorney's review.

4. Other Council Member Items:

Mayor Faircloth asked if any member of Council had any items for discussion.

Council Member Bynum-Grace asked about re-invigorating the Lids for Artists project.

Council Member Jackson expressed appreciation for the new crosswalk on Ragin Drive.

Council Member King was advised that the Westwood Trailer Park project has gone out for bids.

Mayor Pro Tempore Posey inquired how the 1-man garbage trucks are working out. Mr. Gilmour stated there have been a few complaints about debris and clipping low hanging electrical lines, but otherwise it is good.

Council Member Hunt commended the new walkway installation in downtown Perry.

Mr. Gilmour surveyed Council regarding the purchase of a table for the Chamber's State of the community dinner on December 12, 2013 at the Perry Arts Center. The featured speakers will be Mayor Faircloth and Ms. Mary Beth Bass. Mayor Faircloth reminded Council that he had not received responses from everyone for items they would like to see covered during his talk. Based on the consensus, Mr. Gilmour will make the reservation.

Chief Gray, Mr. Beecham, and Chief Lynn did not have any reports.

Ms. Bass advised Council that applications have been submitted for the Christmas parade for both the Buzzard Drop and Council with staging and start area on Kellwood Drive. A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening at 5 pm. An invitation from Ms. Sheila Jones, Perry Chamber of Commerce regarding the Grand Re-Opening of the Artisan Center will be held on December 10, 2013 at 10:00 am.

Ms. King reported the e-billing sign-up incentive for the customer service representatives during the month of October resulted in Bruce Colbert enrolling the most customers with fifteen (15) customers. As of November 19th, a total of 90 customers have signed up. Other items: approximately 6% of the tax has been collected, the new system allows people to review their accounts on-line cutting down on the number of telephone, the draft audit should be received by Thanksgiving, and four (4) bids will be posted in the paper.

Mayor Faircloth reminded Council and staff of the following dates in December:

December 5th – Taste of Perry at the Ag Center

December 6th – CVB hotel/motel consultant meeting

December 6th – City of Perry Christmas Party at the Arts Center

December 7th – Christmas Parade

December 8th – Christmas on the Square

December 10th – Grand Opening of the Artisan Center in the Welcome Center, 10 am

December 31st – 1st Annual Buzzard Drop

Mayor Faircloth also noted that the monthly Walk with Mayor and Council for November and December fall on the Tuesdays before holidays. The consensus of the Council was to cancel the walk until January 28th when District 1 will host. A short discussion was held regarding ways to promote the event and the citizenry's opportunity to speak with any Council Member and/or the Mayor. The information will be published in the FYI Newsletter and other venues. Council Members King and Bynum-Grace will provide the information so that it can be promoted.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Faircloth adjourned the pre council meeting at 5:35p.m.