

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL**  
August 31, 2015  
**5:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order: Mayor Pro Tempore, Phyllis Bynum-Grace, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held August 31, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace, Council Members Randall Walker, Willie King, Riley Hunt, and Robert Jones.

Elected Official(s) Absent: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. and William Jackson

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Assistant City Attorney Matthew Hulbert, Annie Warren – City Clerk and Recording Clerk, Cyndi Houser

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Michael Beecham – Director of Community Development, Decius Aaron - Director of Public Works, Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Kevin Dye – Leisure Services Director and Robert Smith – Economic Development Director

Guests/Speakers: Mr. Ron Nolan, First Christian Church.

Press: Jake Jacobs - Houston Home Journal; Reporter – WGXA TV and Laura Corley – Macon Telegraph

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Pro Tempore Phyllis Bynum-Grace

Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace deviated from the agenda asking Ms. Warren to give her presentation. Ms. Warren advised Council an e-mail had been received from “Cry Out America” promoting a national day of prayer for the country on September 11, 2015 at the old courthouse and asking for support from Mayor/Council in the form of emails or announcements to employees and social media. It was the consensus of Council this was not a City function.

3a. Discussion of the 2015 ad valorem tax digest. Mr. Gilmour provided highlights of the 2015 tax digest showing that even though the City lost money from the shift by the State to a mandated title tag tax and negative property reassessments there was a gain from new growth. Administration recommended leaving the millage rate the same as last year, and authorizing three (3) new full time police officers and four (4) part time officers. Council Member Walker suggested hiring two full time officers which would allow the Police Department to hire up to five (5) part time officers for a total of six (6) part time officers. Council Member Hunt requested Administration re-check the figure for outfitting an officer.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace asked for public comments. Rev Ron Nolen, First Christian Church, Perry, spoke on behalf of his congregation about the dramatic rise in the Fire Protection Fee, how it was affecting their budget and ability to offer programs in the community.

- 3b. Consider City's participation in the Perry Leadership Institute. Mr. Gilmour advised that Council has authorized one or more people to participate in the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Institute for several years. Administration recommended Mr. Aaron and Mr. Dye. It was the consensus to authorize Mr. Aaron and Mr. Dye to apply for the PLI, if they are interested.
- 3c. Contractual services review: Perry Police Department. Chief Lynn reviewed the list of services contracted by the Police Department and their performances. He noted that most are sole source vendors, some are a part of the overall City contracts, one is shared with the state and one software contract will be replaced soon.
- 3d. Discussion of solid waste ordinance amendment – Mr. Aaron. Mr. Aaron stated the solid waste ordinance amendment should bring the City in line with more recent developments in the solid waste industry. He noted the amendment should help eliminate or greatly reduce citizen dumping on vacant lots, require commercial dumpsters to be identified, residential totters cleaned regularly, and residents will be notified they must file a police report if they claim their totter has been stolen. Mr. Gilmour provided a review of portions of the amendment which recommended that fees be charged for certain types of pickups. Once the ordinance is approved, a mass mailing will go out to customers in the regular billing, be placed on the web site and posted in customer service. Based on the discussion, it was the consensus of Council to table the second reading until the suggested language changes are final.
- 3e. Update of General Courtney Hodges Boulevard CID project – Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith presented highlights of the informational hearing held August 24<sup>th</sup> for the proposed General Courtney Hodges Boulevard CID project. Over twenty (20) business/property owners attended with lively participation. Different types of projects were discussed, how they could be funded, would the City assist in any way, would a Community Improvement District be viable, who would benefit the most and could outside funding be a possibility. Possible collaborative projects will be discussed at the next work session. The property owners would be provided a list of projects the City is willing to collaborate on.
- 3f. Discussion of the GDOT Gateway Grant – Mr. Beecham. Mr. Beecham advised that Georgia Department of Transportation had contacted Community Development about a previously submitted Gateway grant application. The \$50,000 grant that was approved last year has been funded for this year to improve landscaping around Exit 136. He reviewed the previous landscape proposal and noted the City could scale back the plans without penalty. Matching funds would come from the general capital construction fund. Concerns were also expressed about how to assure that trees/plants are watered; Administration directed Mr. Beecham to contact GDOT relative to options for irrigating the interstate landscaping. Council consensus was to proceed with the project after the memorandum of understanding has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

3g. Declare fencing of the former Rozar Park tennis courts as surplus. Mr. Gilmour stated the fencing from the former Rozar Park tennis courts was retained when the courts were removed. Public Works and Leisure Services were contacted and have no need for any of it. In order to dispose of it, the Council must declare the fencing surplus. Consensus of Council was to declare the item surplus and allow the bid process to begin.

4. Department Head Items:

Administration and Fire and Emergency Services performed a periodic review of the fire fee data and made the following recommendations. 1) Remove churches, temples, etc. from the significant or maximum risk category. Actual fees are still based on square footage of heated and cooled space. 2) Change residential master meter to different categories. This will equalize fee charges to apartment complexes with different numbers of units. 3) Drop the significant and maximum risk factor for residential. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the recommended changes in the fee schedule.

Chief Gray and Mr. Gilmour presented a proposal for purchasing a surplus vehicle from the Georgia Forestry Commission for Fire and Emergency Services for a minimal amount. This vehicle would be used instead of a pumper or someone's car when no EMS or ambulance service is available for a life and death medical call. It would also allow a smaller vehicle to be used for any medical emergency not needing a larger piece of equipment. This vehicle will not be considered an ambulance. It was the consensus of Council to authorize proceeding with the purchase, if it is available.

Mr. Dye noted that a cheerleading group has been formed for the first time in four (4) years.

Mr. Aaron provided a copy of the flyer that will be provided to customers regarding the rollout of the "bagging" initiative offering citizens credit for bagging certain types of lawn debris.

Mr. Smith relayed that the Petco Grant prepared by Ms. Cathy Shaw had been submitted well ahead of the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The I-75 Initiative meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Smith will attend these meetings until a representative is appointed. Council recommended appointing Mr. Smith.

Chief Gray thanked Council for their continued support.

Ms. King, Chief Lynn and Mr. Beecham had no reports.

Mr. Hulbert – No report

Ms. Warren advised Council Members up for re-election that the qualifying period has begun and will end at 4:30 pm on September 4, 2015. The filing fee is \$198.00.

5. Council Members Items:

Council Members Walker and King – No report

Council Member Hunt noted there are several potholes on Commerce Street.

Council Member Jones noted there are also several potholes on Park Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace passed out Music Festival Program books.

6. Adjournment: On a motion by Council Member Walker, seconded by Council Member King and carried unanimously, the work session meeting of Council held August 31, 2015 was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.