

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
November 16, 2015
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Pro-Tempore Phyllis Bynum- Grace called to order the work session meeting held November 16, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

*arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Elected Official Absent: none

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Assistant City Attorney Matthew Hulbert and Recording Clerk Nancy Graham

City Departmental Staffing: Major Bill Phelps – Police Department, Chief Gray – Fire and Emergency Services, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Decius Aaron – Public Works Director, Kevin Dye – Director of Leisure Services and Robert Smith – Economic Development Director.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Ms. Christie Williams, Mr. Carl Lumpkin, Ms. Darlene McLendon, Ms. Natalie Ferguson, Ms. Catherine Edgemon, Ms. Terre Walker, Deputy Chief David Stanton and Ms. Jesse Wilhite.

Press: Jake Jacobs – Houston Home Journal

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

3a. Discuss open records request: Mr. Gilmour reminded Council of the request at the last meeting from Ms. Wilhite requesting that the fee(s) be waived that are associated with an open records request. Mr. Gilmour referred Council to a letter from Attorney Hulbert as well as Ms. Wilhite's email.

Mayor Faircloth asked Ms. Wilhite if she wished to speak, she stated she did not. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council not to grant Ms. Wilhite's request for a fee waiver associated with an open records request.

Mayor Faircloth granted permission to Ms. Ferguson to speak to Council. Ms. Ferguson presented to Council her concerns relative to the foster children in Houston County not having the basic necessities (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, hair brush, etc.) available to them when they are removed from their homes. Ms. Ferguson stated that she wanted to bring awareness of this issue and to request a donation(s) from anyone that wanted to give to the Christmas Party on December 5, 2015 held at the foster care facility. Mayor Faircloth thanked Ms. Ferguson. Mayor Faircloth stated the City does not make donations of any kind and encouraged those present to pass the word and give individually, if they deemed appropriate.

- 3b. Discuss establishing a moratorium for six (6) months for sign variances. Mr. Gilmour referred to the memo requesting that Council consider enacting a six (6) month moratorium for sign variances until they have time to review and amend the sign ordinance. He also noted should the process to review the proposed sign ordinance amendment move faster than six (6) months, the moratorium could be revoked.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to enact a six (6) month moratorium for sign variances. Mayor Faircloth instructed that this item to be placed on the agenda of tomorrow's meeting.

- 3c. Discussion of the amendment to the Perry Land Development Ordinance Section 106-Signs: Mr. Gilmour referred Mayor and Council to his memo outlining a list of proposed language changes to the sign ordinance amendment that was recommended from the Planning Commission. Mr. Gilmour highlighted the following relative to the sign ordinance (1) a recommendation to add a section describing the process for allowing/permitting billboards and (2) Section 106.17 Murals, added to determine approval by the Perry Public Arts Commission.

After a discussion, Mayor Faircloth reminded Council that this item is submitted for them to consider and whatever decision is made, it should be reflective of the sign ordinance. Mayor Faircloth instructed Council to be prepared to discuss this item at the next meeting.

Mr. Gilmour recommended that when Council meet again that they are prepared to discuss Section 106.9 Prohibited Signs as it relates to streamers, pennants, strings, balloon, air and gas filled devices, feathers and small individual flags.

- 3d. Discussion of technical systems upgrade: Ms. Christie Williams, representative from Schneider Electric presented to Mayor and Council a proposal to upgrade the City's utility/telecommunication systems. After the presentation, there was a brief questions and comments session.

It was the consensus of Council to think about the proposal and not to make a decision at this time.

- 3e. Consider relocating the Perry Music Festival to Heritage Park: Mr. Carl Lumpkin requested that Council consider relocating the Perry Music Festival to Heritage Park for safety and parking reasons.

Following a discussion, Mayor Faircloth instructed Mr. Gilmour to provide an estimate of the “basics” for Mayor and Council to review.

Council Member Jones left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

- 3f. Discuss establishing a moratorium of removal of historical buildings pending establishing historic district/commission: Mr. Gilmour referred Council to the memo relative to an ordinance model outlining the process of a historic district.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to impose a moratorium on the removal of historic buildings.

Mayor Faircloth requested that this item be placed on the tomorrow’s agenda for an official vote.

- 3g. Consider proposal from TSW for Heritage Park concept design: Mr. Gilmour referred Mayor and Council to the memo outlining the proposed design agreement with TSW for Heritage Park.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to proceed with TSW for the Heritage Park design.

Mayor Faircloth requested that this item be placed on tomorrow’s agenda.

- 3h. Consider dedicated downtown parking for buses: Ms. Edgemon requested from Mayor and Council their consideration of dedicated parking in downtown Perry for tour buses. Ms. Edgemon proposed that the parallel parking spaces on Main Street, directly behind the former court house would be used for the buses to drop off and pick up passengers. If several buses would be downtown simultaneously or if the tour buses routinely visit downtown in the future, the buses would park in the parking lot of the former Jaycees building until it is time to pick up the passengers.

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to proceed with dedicated downtown parking for tour buses.

- 3i. Review of proposed safety and loss prevention manual. Deputy Chief Stanton presented to Mayor and Council a proposed safety and loss prevention manual that was prepared by the City of Perry Safety Committee. The revised manual reflects changes in current industry practices and the recommendations from the City’s insurer.

Mayor Faircloth requested that this item be placed on tomorrow’s agenda as a resolution.

- 3j. Presentation “Movies in the Park”. Mr. Dye presented to Mayor and Council a slide show highlighting the success of “Movies in the Park” that was held at Rozar Park. Mr. Dye stated affordable concessions were provided and hundreds were in attendance. He also noted that the staff is still receiving positive feedback.

4. Department Head Items:

Chief Gray, Mr. Dye, Major Phelps, and Ms. King had no reports.

Mr. Aaron advised that the fall cleanup started this week and will be completed on Friday.

Mr. Smith advised that the first informational session regarding form based code initiative is November 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Perry Arts Center.

Mr. Smith advised that there will be a public hearing regarding the brownfield project on December 2, 2015.

5. Council Member Items:

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

Mr. King reported that there was media coverage relative to Westwood Trailer Court.

Mr. Gilmour advised that he received a request from the Perry Chamber of Commerce for Council's consideration relative to placing Perry Proud decals on city vehicles. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to decline the offer from the Perry Chamber of Commerce to place Perry Proud decals on city owned vehicles.

Mr. Hulbert had no report.

Mr. Gilmour requested that Council enter into Executive Session for the purpose of real estate acquisition.

Mayor Faircloth entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of real estate acquisition.

6. Executive Session entered at 6:45 pm: Council Member Hunt moved to adjourn the work session meeting and enter into executive session for the purpose of real estate acquisition. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Executive Session adjourned at 7:35 p.m.: Council's work session reconvened. Council adjourned the Executive Session held November 16, 2015 and reconvened into the Council's work session meeting.

8. Adopted Resolution No. 2015-64 stating purpose of Executive Session held November 16, 2015 was for real estate acquisition. Council Member Jackson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the executive session held on November 16, 2015 was to discuss real estate acquisition. Council Member Walker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *(Resolution 2015-64 has been entered in the City's official book of record).*

9. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the reconvened work session meeting held on November 16, 2015, Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.; Council Member Hunt seconded and it carried unanimously.