

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL**  
November 30, 2015  
**5:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., called to order the work session meeting held November 30, 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.

Elected Official Absent: None

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

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Joel Gray – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Brenda King – Department of Administration, Decius Aaron – Director of Public Works and Kevin Dye – Director of Leisure Services.

Guest(s) / Speaker(s):

Media: Jake Jacobs - Houston Home Journal and Laura Corley – Macon Telegraph

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

3a. Discussion of Westwood Trailer Park - Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. Mayor Faircloth stated this item was being postponed to a later time.

3b. Discussion of the amendment to the Perry land Development Ordinance Section 106-Signs. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the progress to date. He addressed modifying Section 106-9 billboards and banners portion with Council providing comments and suggestions. The consensus of Council was to move forward with the revised amendment as presented by the Planning Commission. Mr. Gilmour wanted to clarify the process for applications for approving murals. If an applicant is denied by the Perry Public Arts Commission, they would still be able to appeal to the Planning Commission. Another section of the code also deals with signs and he requested this be moved to Section 106 so all information is in one place. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with clarifying the application/appeal process and move all sign information to one section.

- 3c. Consider proceeding with energy efficiency study. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the presentation of Ms. Williams from Schneider Electric. She suggested the City issue a letter of interest whereby the company would return and conduct a more thorough study of energy use as well as review water and sewer. There is no cost at this point, but once the study is completed, the City would decide whether to continue with the remainder of the process. It was the consensus of Council to authorize proceeding with a letter of interest.
- 3d. Consider adjusting senior fee assistance program income level. Mr. Gilmour stated the current Senior Assistance Program uses information based on HUD data. New information has been received and he asked Council to consider using more current data. This could become effective either the first of the year or as a part of the budget process for FY17. It was the consensus of Council to include this change as part of the upcoming budget process.
- 3e. Quarterly reports:
- Department of Leisure Services – K. Dye. Mr. Dye announced that Courtney Watkins is a new part-time employee; the new cheerleading program was very successful and will be offered again; there were two (2) championship teams: 7-8 football team and a soccer team; the process has begun for the new shelter at Creekwood Park; rentals are about the same as last year; there is a new mowing schedule for lateral parks; survey results will be coming in the near future to help with long term projects; the fishing rodeo will be returning in April; adult sports are in full swing; and they are still receiving comments about the November movie night.
  - Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Chief Gray. The new ISO city-wide rating took effective November 1<sup>st</sup>; there will be more interaction between the Robins and City of Perry using the training facilities at the Air Force Base and at the Guardian Center especially as it relates to planes; the 21 probationary firefighters have completed their initial training and gone through final exams; elevator training for instructors has been completed and staff will be trained in-house; the department is working with Warner Robins for in-house maintenance for air packs; false alarms calls are up mostly in two of the larger apartment complexes; supported pre-disaster meetings with the County and special events support; public education has now reached out to seniors in part because of the ISO review; Fire Marshal plans review has increased; and Zone 3 calls are increasing so long term plans which are part of the long-range strategic plan are in the works for a third fire station.
  - Department of Public Works – D. Aaron. The department has swept 1,288 miles; delivers approximately 60 new toters per month and picks up 33 per month; hosted an on-site training for supervisors for personnel from the City and Peach County in conjunction with the Carl Vinson Government Institute; the Carl Vinson Institute will host future training events in Perry; Christmas decorations are up and working; EPD has been notified that corrections have been made at the landfill; solid waste ordinance changes going into effect January 1, 2016 will go out in a flyer in the bills as well as on the web site; streamlining of processes, including the cemetery, are in the works; and it is hoped a survey will be started for both cemeteries to include all

the spaces in a plot. Mayor and Council commented on items they hope will be included in the cemetery surveys.

- Office of the City Manager – L. Gilmour. Mr. Gilmour noted that contractual costs are up slightly, but will balance out by the end of the fiscal year. Major issues include the latest round of Affordable Care Act provisions including completing reports; all employees are advised they must have coverage and penalties that may be imposed; and completing the report for the strategic plan regarding General Fund revenue tied to services.
- Capital Construction Fund – L. Gilmour. Mr. Gilmour highlighted the status of projects in the completed and in the works including the railroad crossings; advised the City is waiting on the insurance approval for the crossing improvements; and agreed that merchants on Carroll Street will be notified when the railroad crossing project begins; 2012 SPLOST projects has general categories allowing adjustment for income; other funds had little or no activity. Council Member Walker complimented staff on the sidewalk initiative. Mr. Hunt inquired about the Tucker Road sidewalk construction and was advised it will be similar to W.F. Ragin project.

4. Other Business/Supplemental Agenda:

- 4a. Proposed Community-wide Housing Assessment – R. Smith. Mr. Smith representing the Perry Georgia Initiative for Community Housing provided an overview of a possible agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for a community-wide housing assessment. The assessment would look at every property, evaluate it and then digitize the results. This would assist with planning areas as well as provide a tool for developers, residents, potential businesses/industries and applying for grants. The cost would be \$10,000 and paid from the economic development portion of the Hotel/Motel tax. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the agreement.

5. Department Head Items:

Chief Gray, Mr. Aaron and Mr. Dye had no reports

Ms. King reported a new accountant started work today in the Finance and Administration Department.

Mr. Smith a public hearing on the brownfield project will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Council Chambers beginning at 5:30 pm and a two-day charrette seeking public on the form based zoning will also be held in Council Chambers from 8a-7pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Lynn announced the Police Department in cooperation with the Macon-Bibb Sheriff's department sent two officers and a bomb dog to assist with the Donald Trump event in Macon.

6. Council Member Items:

Council Members Walker, Jones, Jackson and King had no reports.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace requested a review of the method used to select the Mayor Pro Tempore and if there is a formal policy in place. Mayor Faircloth advised this position is nominated by Council and then voted on, but there is no formal rotation. The consensus of Council was to continue with the current method; Mayor Faircloth then reminded members that proposals should be submitted for voting in January.

Council Member Hunt expressed concern about the high rate of speed posted on Commerce Street. Chief Lynn will investigate and report back. Mr. Hunt also had a question about the hotel/revenue report submitted by the Convention and Visitors Bureau which noted the revenue is down. There is a discrepancy between the STAR report and what is reported to the City. Mr. Gilmour will research the last audit date for this revenue, but added that it is a complicated comparison.

Mr. Gilmour asked for a sense of when the Christmas lights should be on. The consensus of Council was to start the process at dark the Monday after Thanksgiving and then have it completed before the Christmas parade the first Saturday in December.

Attorney Walker reported he was glad to be back, he is feeling good and appreciated all the cards and calls he received.

7. Executive Session entered at 6:27 p.m.: On a motion by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Jones and carried unanimously, Council went into executive session for personnel, real estate and litigation.
8. Executive Session adjourned; Council's work session reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held November 30, 2015 and reconvened into the council's work session.
9. Adopted Resolution No. 2015-68 stating purpose of the executive session held on November 30, 2015 was for personnel, real estate and litigation. On a motion by Council Member Hunt, seconded by Council Member Jackson and carried unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2015-68 stating the purpose of the executive session held on November 30, 2015 was for personnel, real estate and litigation. (*Resolution 2015-68 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
10. Adjournment: On a motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Bynum-Grace, seconded by Council Member Walker and carried unanimously, the reconvened work session of Council held November 30, 2015 was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.