

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
September 20, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held September 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
2. Roll:
Elected Officials Present: Mayor Randall Walker; Mayor Pro Tempore Robert Jones, Council Members Phyllis Bynum-Grace, Willie King, *Darryl Albritton, and Joy Peterson.

* Council Member Albritton arrived at 5:21 p.m.

Elected Officials Absent: Council Member Hunt

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, City Attorney Brooke Newby, Assistant City Manager Robert Smith, and Recording Clerk Annie Warren

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Chief Lee Parker - Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, Anya Turpin – Special Events Manager, Chad McMurrian – Engineering Services Manager, Holly Wharton – Community Planner, Matt White – Senior Personnel Technician, Karen Bycenski – Personnel Manager, Jazmin Thomas – Downtown Manager, and Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Burke Murph – GWES, LLC, Trish Cossart, Bill Loudermilk, Andrew Presswood, and Jim Lay – Perry Main Street Advisory Board, Sergeant Ike Wilcox, Captain Heath Dykes, and Sergeant Brian Mixon.

Media: Ashton Akins – Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker
 - 3a. Employee Hearing:
 1. Input from city employees relative to proposed paid time off policy – Mayor R. Walker.

Mr. White reviewed the PTO Proposal and answered questions from members of Council.

Mayor Walker asked if there were any employees present who wanted to address Mayor and Council relative to the PTO Proposal.

Sergeant Ike Wilcox stated he not opposed to the PTO Proposal but did have some concerns relative to restrictions of the leave. Sergeant Wilcox asked for additional clarification of catastrophic sick leave.

Captain Heath Dykes stated he is not against the PTO Proposal but is against some of the proposed restrictions. Captain Dykes asked Council to raise the cap for sick leave and discussed using the remaining money and the City match at 4% to be placed in a 401k.

Sergeant Brian Mixon stated the greatest asset the city has is its staff and stated the city's current leave program is good but with change comes apprehension of the unknown. Sergeant Mixon suggested coming up with creative ways for those who have 1000 hours of sick leave and using catastrophic sick leave for COVID-19 required leave instead of personal leave.

3b. Strategic Planning Session presentation.

1. Special Events.

Ms. Turpin presented to Mayor and Council the strategic plan for the Special Events Department. Ms. Turpin outlined the mission of the Special Events Department and discussed quality vs. quantity, timelines vs. deadlines and diversity and inclusion. Ms. Turpin discussed future areas of growth, adapting events to function, planning to reduce time, workforce energy and expenses and venue requests.

3c. Office of the City Manager

1. Consider proposal from Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department for shift from part-time to full-time positions. Administration stated this is a request from the Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department. Administration recommended Council concur to make this change. Council concurred with Administration's recommendation to hire three additional full-time firefighters and close out the eighteen part-time positions.

2. Main Street Advisory Board request for additional monies for the Façade Grant. Ms. Cossart presented a PowerPoint of the Façade Grant program and requested an additional \$10,000 in funding for the Façade Grant program. Mr. Loudermilk strongly asked Council to consider this request for funding.

3d. Department of Economic Development

1. Electric vehicle charging station. Ms. Hardin presented the Electric Vehicle Make Ready Infrastructure Program to Mayor and Council. Council concurred to revisit this item in six months.

3e. Department of Community Development

1. Consider proposal for sewer main concept. Mr. Murph reviewed the engineering and planning concept for the new wastewater treatment in the eastern portion of the city. Council concurred to move forward with the study (2021 Perry Sewer Master Plan) and bring back before Council.
2. Modify the Perry Service Area. Ms. Wharton presented the proposed boundary adjustment to the southern service area. The current boundary ends at Fire Tower Road, the proposed boundary would end at Flat Creek and follow Larry Walker Parkway to US 341. The goals of the proposed changes will control future growth to the South and align with Perry water and sewer planning initiative. Council concurred with the proposed boundary adjustment to the southern service area.

4. Council Member Items.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones and Council Members Bynum-Grace, Albritton, and Peterson had no reports.

Council Member King reported the manhole cover needs to be replaced on Gordon Street.

Mr. Gilmour reported on the lighting for Hendrix Bridge. The City has been advised that GDOT does not like the city lighting option. Administration recommended Council back out of the agreement with GDOT. Council concurred with Administration's recommendation.

Mr. Gilmour advised Council that he was contacted by an individual about the cost for an irrigation meter. Mr. Gilmour stated all charges for water connections are based on three factors, 1)cost of the meter, 2)prorated amount of EGS crew, and 3)proration out of Debt Service cost for the new water treatment plant.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Newby had no reports.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Wood reported the Carl Vinson Institute will be on site to October 12 to host Planning and Zoning Training 101.

Chief Parker thanked Mayor and Council for adding the three positions

Ms. Hardin reminded everyone of the Restaurant Career Fair on September 22.

Mayor Walker entertained a motion to enter executive session for real estate acquisition.

6. Executive Session entered at 7:05 p.m.: Council Member Albritton moved to adjourn the work session 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 7:47 p.m.; Council work session reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held September 20, 2021 and reconvened into the council work session.
8. Adopted Resolution No. 2021-43 stating the purpose of the executive session held on August 16, 2021, was to discuss real estate acquisition. Council Member Peterson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the executive session held on September 20, 2021, was to discuss real estate acquisition; Mayor Pro Tempore Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. No action was taken. (*Resolution No. 2021-43 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
9. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held September 20, 2021, Council Member Bynum-Grace motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Council Member Albritton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.