

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
June 15, 2020
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held June 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Randall Walker, Mayor Pro-Tempore Willie King and Council Members Robert Jones, Joy Peterson, Darryl Albritton and Riley Hunt.

Elected Officials Absent: Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Assistant City Manager Robert Smith, Brooke Newby and Recording Clerk Gail Price.

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Sedrick Swan – Leisure Services Director, Tabitha Clark – Communications Manager, Haley Bryant – Main Street Coordinator, and Maria Herrera – Executive Secretary.

Guest(s): Ms. Ellen Palmer – Perry Chamber

Press: Lauren Harris – Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Appearance(s):

1. Discussion relative to 203 South Street. Mr. Ayers requested the City continue to let ALON use the building at 203 South Street. Mayor Walker stated that the City does not own the building and he should contact Houston County Land Bank.

3b. Finance Department

1. Capitalization Policy Revision: Mr. Worthington presented a PowerPoint of the policy revision. This item will be added to Council's June 16 agenda.

3c. Office of the City Manager

1. Loaves and Fishes support request: Mr. Smith reported the City provides two to three men, a dump truck and trailer to assist in getting food from Macon to feed people in Perry. Due to COVID-19 the City had to discontinue services. Recently, the City received a request from Loaves and Fishes to pursue providing assistance. The City has been advised that continuing to provide assistance with no formal agreement would violate the State Gratuity Clause. Council tabled this item.
2. Consider development requirements relative to major commercial intersections: Mr. Gilmour requested that this be pulled until the next work session.
3. Suggested City green areas policy: Administration discussed the City's green areas. Administration recommends Council adopt the recommendations concerning City green areas. A resolution will be presented for consideration at the June 16 meeting.

Downtown COVID-19 Response: Ms. Bryant presented a PowerPoint on Tactical Urbanism. The plan is to define strategic locations for parklets and additional seating for the community and visitors. Ms. Bryant discussed the benefits of parklets: 1) support local business and economy, 2) increase walkability, 3) foster neighborhood interaction, 4) increase available "Green Space" within our downtown, and 5) plan for the future and reimagine the potential of city streets. Council concurred to move forward with parklets in the downtown area.

3d. Department of Community Development

1. Discussion of Sadie Heights greenspace donation: Mr. Wood presented a request for donation of property. Council had some questions relative to uses of the property during the last discussion. The remaining question is the location of the pump station. Council Member Peterson asked if the redraft of the proposal address all the concerns Council had. Mr. Gilmour stated that the site plan met the criteria that Council discussed. Mr. Gilmour recommended to Council if it is in favor to pass a resolution at its June 16 meeting.

3e. Department of Leisure Services

1. Leadership Perry Class Project at Creekwood Park: Mr. Swan presented a PowerPoint of the Creekwood Traffic Park project. Council concurred with moving forward with the concept of Mr. Swan's presentation.

3f. Perry Police Department

1. Clarify definition of donation relative to Animal Control: Chief Lynn clarified the definition of donation relative to Animal Control. Chief Lynn stated the stipulations for the City to accept the animal were if the citizen was in the military, nursing facility, deceased or sick, mentally ill and

financial. Administration recommended that the animal will not be accepted unless it meets the criteria. Council concurred with Administration's recommendation.

2. Discussion of the neighborhood watch program: Chief Lynn explained the neighborhood watch process. Chief Lynn stated that neighborhood watch program was the oldest crime prevention program. Mayor Walker asked if there are any other programs like this. Chief Lynn stated he was not aware of any other programs.

4. Council Members Items:

Council Member Hunt

- Asked Mr. Wood to check on car sitting in the front yard at 180 Tucker Road.
- Welcome Park has weeds growing in shrubbery.

Council Member Peterson – Request from residents in Stonebridge for traffic device and appreciates what Mr. Wood is doing.

Council Member Albritton – Inquired about the status of Rozar Park. Mr. Gilmour responded City of Perry facilities will be opening July 1, 2020 this includes playgrounds, restrooms, and renting the Perry Art Center.

Council Member Jones –

- Received called about trash pickup next to dumpster downtown. Mr. Gilmour stated a plan is being finalized for Council's approval.
- Thanked the Perry Police Department for time during a ride-a-long.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Wood – stated that the Code Enforcement Officer was out early this morning digging through trash to see who it belonged to. The business owners were not aware that their employees were putting trash in the dumpster.

Chief Parker – Offered Council Member Jones a ride-a-long with the Fire Department.

Chief Lynn –

- Thanked Council Member Jones for the shoutout and expended the offer to everyone.
- Attended the Houston Chapter NAACP March on June 13, 2020.

Ms. Palmer – Invited everyone to the Drive In Fireworks show July 25, 2020.

6. Executive Session entered at 6:31 pm: Mayor Pro-Tempore King moved to adjourn the work session and entered into an executive session for the purpose of real estate acquisition. Council Member Albritton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Executive Session adjourned 6:40 p.m.: Council's work session reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held June 15, 2020 and reconvened into the Council's work session.
8. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-30 stating purpose of Executive Session held June 15, 2020 was for real estate acquisition. Council Member Peterson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of executive session held on June 15, 2020 was to discuss real estate acquisition. Council Member Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. No action was taken. (*Resolution 2020-30 had been entered in the City's official book of record*).
9. Council continued its work session by discussing the Mims claim. No action was taken.
10. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the reconvened work session held June 15, 2020 Council Member Albritton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.