

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
March 14, 2016
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr. called to order the work session meeting held March 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: None

*Council Member King left the meeting at 5:50 pm.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, City Attorney Matthew Hulbert and Recording Clerk Cyndi Houser

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

Guest(s) / Speaker(s): Jim Mehserle – JMA Architecture, Pastor Emmanuel Richardson, Jeff Witmer and Raychel Witmer – Rolling Thunder Georgia Chapter 3, and Darlene McLendon – Perry Chamber of Commerce.

Media: Brittany Collins – WGXA, and Jake Jacobs - Houston Home Journal

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

3a. Ms. Rita Stearns-Tinney and Mr. Buster Hickam requesting permission to place a POW-MIA chair at city hall. Mr. Jeff Witmer representing Rolling Thunder Georgia Chapter 3 explained the mission of the Rolling Thunder group. He then asked if Council would consider the free of charge installation at City Hall of a permanently empty chair in honor of all the POWs and those still considered MIA. Mayor and Council advised that due to current space constraints it wouldn't be feasible at this time. Council Member King suggested a temporary plaque be placed at City Hall noting that the Council had accepted the chair, but a permanent location was under consideration. It was the consensus of Council to re-visit this request in the future.

3b. Presentation from JMA for the concept plan at the Perry Arts Center. Mr. Mehserle provided a concept plan for the proposed renovations at the Perry Arts Center which

included restrooms, expanding the current community room and upgrading the windows. Mr. Gilmour explained that these items would be done in phases if the Council approved moving forward. After a question and answer discussion, it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the proposed renovations and doing it in three (3) phases with the monies coming from SPLOST and the Hotel/Motel tax.

- 3c. Update of the strategic partners review. Mr. Gilmour reviewed a memo with suggestions for changes to the strategic plan based on a two (2) year history. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the recommended changes of the strategic plan.
- 3d. Review banner requirements for City partners. Mr. Gilmour noted there had been a complaint about the Peaches to Beaches banner sponsored by the Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The sign ordinance allows an exemption for our community partners to hang banners. It was the recommendation of Administration to continue to allow the exemption, but they must also follow the requirements of a banner (i.e. a top rail to hold a banner). After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that community partners are exempt, but they will be required to follow the parameters of the sign ordinance when hanging a banner.
- 3e. Request from Pastor Emmanuel Richardson for use of city building located at 108 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (former Mt. Galilee Primitive Baptist Church). Pastor Richardson gave a brief history of his congregation noting they can no longer use their current location. The congregation was seeking permission to use the former Mt. Galilee Primitive Baptist Church, but they were advised the building does not meet code and the City is not able to bring it up to code because of the costs; therefore, the request could not be honored. Council Member Bynum-Grace provided a possible alternate location to Pastor Richardson.
- 3f. Review processing priorities for striping of city streets. Mr. Aaron provided a list of arterial and collector streets that would be considered for striping. He noted that many of the residential streets are narrow and striping would cause more harm than good and therefore staff was recommending only center and edge striping for arterial and collector streets. It was the consensus of Council to initiate a policy for street striping.
- 3g. Response back from Major Phelps relative to Mr. Jimmy McCloud's concerns. Major Phelps contacted Mr. and Mrs. McCloud concerning speeding vehicles on their street and children playing basketball in the street. Based on his investigation, Major Phelps recommended the following: post a 15 mph speed limit sign because of the street shape; place "Dead End" or "No Through Street" and "Children at Play" signs at both ends of the circle. In addition, the police department will monitor to assure that basketball goals are not placed in the street. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the recommendations.
- 3h. Consider proceeding with development of landscaping plan for General Courtney Hodges Boulevard per adopted master plan and strategic plan. Administration recommended Council authorize obtaining quotes for a landscaping plan from a professional firm for the public properties along Courtney Hodges. If authorized, the

next step would be a proposal with a cost estimate. It was the consensus to move forward.

- 3i. Consider provision of recommended vendor for water/sewer customer lines. Mr. Gilmour explained that utility customers call to advise they have been contacted by companies offering insurance for their water/sewer lines on the customer side of the meter. The City has not endorsed any company in the past; however, the National League of Cities submitted a proposal from one such provider. After a short discussion, it was the consensus of Council to not enter into this agreement.
- 3j. Consider possible criteria for proclamations and recognitions. Administration recommended adopting a policy regarding requests for proclamations and recognitions from Mayor/Council. Mr. Gilmour will prepare a general policy for Council review.
- 3k. Discuss branding initiative – Mr. R. Smith. A slide presentation based on the work of the Branding Committee provided an overview of the phases required to produce a new logo for the City. Mr. Smith explained that Chandler Thinks talked with people inside and outside of the City to determine Perry's strengths and weaknesses; brainstormed with the residents, committee members, merchants, etc. come up with a logo which represented all the aspects discussed. The final phase will be the community engagement phase with the Branding Committee leading the way. After a short discussion, it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the initiative.
- 3l. Discussion of Council's April 4th & 5th meetings. Mayor Faircloth advised that both he and Mayor Pro Tempore Walker would be out of town for the next regularly scheduled meetings on April 4th and April 5th. It was the consensus of Council to move the work session to March 28th and the pre-council and council meetings to March 29th. A notice will be published.

4. Council Member Items:

No reports from Council, Mr. Gilmour or Attorney Hulbert

Mayor Faircloth advised that several merchants were unhappy with the closure of Main Street for various events, particularly with Peaches to Beaches; Mayor Faircloth asked if there was a way to not close Main Street for events.

Ms. McLendon, Perry Chamber of Commerce, requested permission to place bows on the welcome sign in the triangle area in honor of the Dogwood Festival. It was the consensus to allow the bows for 30 days.

5. Department Head Items:

No report from Chief Gray

Mr. Aaron reported Public Works was very busy on Friday and Saturday and they will be recommending some changes for next year's Peaches to the Beaches event.

Mr. Dye noted the basketball season ended with three champion teams from Perry; baseball practice and soccer registration have started; and the signage for Calhoun Park is in place. The Department is planning two big events: Movie in the Park for Friday, April 22nd and a fishing rodeo at one of the ponds in Rozar Park on Saturday, April 23rd. The fishing rodeo is being done in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. Final details will be given soon.

Mr. Smith noted the RAS public hearing will be at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 17th in Council Chambers and the joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Council with TSW will also be on Thursday at 6 pm in Council Chambers.

Chief Lynn announced that the RV donated by a citizen last December is almost completed as a mobile command post. The retro-fit was paid from confiscated drug assets. It will be available to use during the Dogwood Festival on April 8th & 9th.

Ms. King thanked Mayor and Council for their cooperation in transitioning to laptop/tablets. Administrative training will begin on Thursday, March 17th. Mayor, Council, Mr. Gilmour and the City Attorneys will follow soon after.

Mayor Faircloth announced several upcoming events:

- Council was reminded of registration day for the GMA tomorrow.
- The CASA golf tournament will be March 30th at Southern Landings in Warner Robins and benefits the kids of CASA in Houston County.
- An invitation has been issued by Houston County Development Authority for an Industry Appreciation Reception to be held on April 21st at the *Go Fish* Center from 5:30 – 7 pm.
- The Golden Eagle presentation dinner honoring Ross Tolleson will be held on April 21st beginning at 6:30 pm.
- FVSU will be hosting their annual Ham and Eggs Legislative Issues breakfast on Tuesday, April 5th beginning at 8 am.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session meeting held March 14, 2016, Council Member Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.