

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
January 9, 2017
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor James E. Faircloth, Jr., Presiding Officer, called to order the work session of the Perry City Council held January 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Attorney David Walker and Recording Clerk, Nancy Graham

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Steve Lynn – Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, John Schell – Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Smith – Economic Development Director, Ellen Palmer – Digital Communication Manager, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Kevin Dye – Director of Leisure Services and Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Allison Hamsley, Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Cyndi Houser

Press: Ms. Kristin Moriarty- The Houston Home Journal

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

3a. Discussion of a tourism product development resource team – Mr. R. Smith: Mr. Smith addressed Mayor and Council relative to the City of Perry and the Perry Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority partnering with the Georgia Department of Economic Development in completing a Tourism Product Development Resource Team program in 2017. Mr. Smith advised that this will enhance the City of Perry's tourism product with the goal of capturing a larger portion of the lucrative tourism market. Mr. Smith stated that although the program is free to participating communities, there are minimal costs to cover the expenses of the resource team at approximately \$1,200 - \$3,600.

Ms. Hamsley reiterated that the program is an excellent resource.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the program.

- 3b. Discuss donation of a certain portion of a parcel to Houston County Board of Commissioners for street construction – Mr. L. Gilmour: Mr. Gilmour referred Mayor and Council to the memo dated January 6, 2017 and a site map. Mr. Gilmour advised that the Houston County Board of Commissioners has plans to improve/pave Moss Oaks Road and has requested that the City donate a portion of its parcel (40 ft.) for the project.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to donate the portion as long as the City obtains the easements it currently has for the City's utilities.

- 3c. Consider subdividing a parcel in Evergreen Cemetery – Ms. C. Houser: Ms. Houser referred to a map that was provided and a memo dated January 6, 2017 which outlined a request from Ms. Rosemary Hutson and Ms. Janice Bledsoe requesting Council's consideration allowing them to use the property next to where their family members are already buried and for coping to be placed around the plot to so designate. Ms. Houser advised that Ms. Hutson stated that she does not have anything in writing to verify that Ms. Bledsoe is the owner of the plot. The request is for a total of four (4) burial spaces.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to respectfully decline to subdivide a parcel in Evergreen Cemetery.

- 3d. Restrict logging trucks or similar trucks from Tucker Road – Council Member R. Hunt: Council Member Hunt advised Mayor and Council that he has witnessed logging trucks on Tucker Road and noted that the road is not wide enough and that it also puts the safety of children in jeopardy.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to direct Mr. Gilmour to start the process of restricting logging trucks and/or similar trucks from driving on Tucker Road.

4. Council Member Items:

Council Members King, Bynum-Grace, Jackson and Walker had no reports.

Council Member Jones advised of a large pothole on Perimeter Rd. Council Member Jones was advised that Mayor Pro Tempore Jackson had already reported it.

Council Member Hunt advised that Mr. Kersey will continue the process of developing homes on the 34 lots at Stonebridge. Council Member stated that he advised Mr. Kersey that the City's requirements must be met.

Mr. Gilmour provided Mayor and Council with a letter presented to him from Mr. Donald Golder dated August 29, 2006. The letter was sent from Mr. Gilmour on behalf of the City relative to a limited offer of free sewerage connections for customers who were on a septic tank system. Mr. Golder is requesting to take advantage of this offer at this time.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council for Mr. Gilmour to investigate to see if it's feasible. Council also agreed that authorization is subject to the normal restrictions that the City has in place.

Mr. Gilmour advised Mayor and Council of a request from staff relative to 2017 Christmas holiday schedule. It was the consensus of Council that the City of Perry will be closed the Friday prior to Christmas and the following Monday.

Attorney Walker had no report.

5. Department Heads Items:

Ms. King, Mr. Schell, Chief Parker, and Mr. Smith had no reports.

Mr. Dye advised the following:

- Department of Leisure Services has officially started its Basketball season.
- Movie Night at the former courthouse on February 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Schell advised that the fountains will be turned back on this Wednesday.

Chief Lynn advised the following:

- He was asked to report on forfeited funds for HVAC repair. He advised that it is allowable to use for maintenance of law enforcement facilities.
- Concrete was poured today at the Animal Control facility.
- The kick off for Perry Leadership is tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber.

Ms. Palmer advised that she will be recording the work sessions and the city council meetings. They will be posted on the City's website.

Mayor Faircloth advised the following:

- The Georgia Chamber will have their Eggs & Issues Breakfast tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. at the World Congress Center.
- Pre council and council meetings are January 17, 2017/5:00 p.m. &6:00 p.m.
- Mayors Day Conference is January 20 – 23, 2017.
- Received an invitation from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Gamma Sigma Lambda Chapter to attend the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarship award luncheon. It will be held on January 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the New Beginning Center in Warner Robins, Georgia. Mayor Faircloth advised that he will be unable to attend, as he will be marching in Perry, but extended the invitation to anyone who wanted to attend as a representative of the City of Perry.
- Referred to a "Thank You" letter from Mr. Smith to businesses in Perry. Mr. Smith advised that he has received positive feedback.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session meeting held January 9, 2017, Council Member Jones motioned to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.; Council Member Hunt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.