

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
February 1, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held February 1, 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, Riley Hunt, Darryl Albritton, and Joy Peterson.

Elected Officials Absent: none

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, Mitchell Worthington – Director of Finance, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, and Tabitha Clark – Communications Manager.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Jim Mehserle and Alexi Grimaldos (JMA Architecture), and Laura Mathis (Middle GA Regional Commission).

Media: none

* Mayor Walker made a recommendation to move agenda item 3b(2) before 3b(1) on the agenda. Council concurred with Mayor Walker’s recommendation.

3. Items of Review /Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker
 - 3a. Office of the Mayor
 1. Discuss council redistricting process. Ms. Mathis discussed the following items: 1) redistricting/reappointment, 2) census geography, 3) One Person, One Vote, 4) Home Rule/Local Act, 5) influencing factors and the 6) the next steps. Ms. Mathis also recommended Council think about the structure of Perry government.

Administration recommended Council authorize hiring Middle Georgia

Regional Commission for the census. Also, Administration recommended Council consider the following items: 1) what size population it thinks is appropriate to represent Perry (council seats), 2) how many representatives for each district, 3) should there be any at-large council seats, and 4) where you reside and what census block that is in and how it may be impacted by changes.

3b. Office of the City Manager

1. New City Hall Project Update. Mr. Mehserle reviewed the proposed floor plans for the new city hall and discussed the next steps: 1) meet to review department spaces with staff, 2) complete HVAC analysis report, 3) budget study, and prepare final report. Administration recommended authorizing Mr. Mehserle to proceed with the next steps. Council concurred with Administration's recommendation of moving forward.

Council Member Albritton asked if Council could take a tour of the building. Mayor Walker directed Mr. Gilmour to arrange a tour of the building.

2. Migration to Office 365. Mr. Smith recommended shifting from GSuites to Office 365 and provided various reasons. Council concurred with Mr. Smith's recommendation to transition from GSuites to Office 365.

3c. Office of the City Attorney

1. Discussion of Alcohol License Hearings. Ms. Newby reviewed the memo dated January 20, 2021 with Council relative to alcohol license application hearings. Ms. Newby voiced her concerns relative to: 1) Council's practice of receiving public opposition to determine if alcohol should be allowed to be sold at a location, and 2) the practice does not comport with the due process required in issuing such licenses. Ms. Newby recommended Council repeal the amended ordinance public hearing requirement for Council to hear public opposition to serve as the basis for denying an alcohol license application for a new location. Council concurred to repeal the ordinance amendment Section 3-11(r). Ms. Newby will draft an ordinance for Council's next meeting. Administration and Ms. Newby will work together to see if there are any viable options.

3d. Perry Police Department

1. Discussion of crime statistics. Chief Lynn presented a PowerPoint covering crime statistics 2016-2020 and answered Council's questions.

3e. Finance Department

1. Discussion of Migration to Incode 10 Financial Software. Mr. Worthington presented for Council's consideration a request to migrate to Incode 10 financial software. Mr. Worthington cited the

migration would allow for multiple improved functionalities that Incode 9 is incapable of providing such as: 1) robust, trackable workflow for all functions; 2) exportable data; 3) web-based accessibility; and personnel suite. Council concurred to proceed with the migration to Incode 10.

3f. Fire and Emergency Services Department

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Chief Parker asked for Council's concurrence to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a ladder truck. The cost of the ladder truck will be \$1.0 million dollars and the matching funds from the City of Perry will be 5% (\$50,000) max for a city of our size if awarded the grant. Administration recommends Council concur if the local match remains around \$50,000. Council concurred with moving forward with the grant application.

4. Council Member Items:

Council Member Bynum-Grace thanked everyone for their help with the banners downtown.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones echoed Council Member Bynum-Grace sentiments.

Council Members King, Peterson, Hunt and Albritton had no reports.

Mr. Gilmour recommended to Council based on the latest trend of COVID cases decreasing to authorize going back to public participation in Council meetings effective February 15, authorize the delayed basketball program to proceed immediately, and to come back at the next Council meeting to determine about spring sports. Council concurred to move forward with Administration's recommendations.

Mr. Newby stated she has not heard back from the Secretary of State Cemetery Board relative to cemetery standards (columbariums). It was the concurrence of Council to place in the columbarium as many remains it can hold providing it meets CDC guidelines. Administration stated the construction standards will come back before Council to establish a resolution.

Mr. Smith had no report.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Worthington, Chief Lynn, Chief Parker, Mr. Swan, Ms. Fitzner, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Warren had no reports.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on February 1, 2021 Mayor Pro Tempore Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.