

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
March 15, 2021
5:03 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on March 15, at 5:03 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Assistant City Manager Robert Smith, City Attorney Brooke Newby, and Recording Clerk Maria Herrera.

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Anya Turpin – Special Events Coordinator, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, and Annie Warren – City Clerk.

Press: Amira Bevill – Houston Home Journal
Cheri Adams – Houston Home Journal

Guest (s)/ Speaker (s): Mr. Miller Edwards, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Department of Administration.

1. Presentation of the 2020 Audit Report: Mr. Edwards stated that the City of Perry 2020 audit was overall very good, and it was a very clean report. Audit report is as follows: \$134 million in assets / infrastructure, \$13 million cash investments, equity \$ 94 million, \$ 39.5 million in revenue and \$38.5 in expenses. Retirement plan is very good and general fund is in good shape.

Mayor Walker thanked everyone for their hard work.

3b. Office of City Manager.

1. Presentation of the police recruitment video: Ms. Clark presented a police recruitment video to assist Chief Lynn with promoting use of the City's website and social media. A video with Officer Brenna Banks and K-9 Nova was put on social media and received 800 post engagements and viewed over 2,300 times. This video is part of *Join their team* program.

Chief Lynn addressed Mayor and Council that the Perry Police Department is accepting applications as well as encouraging officers to reach out to colleges in an effort to work with the students and participate in job fairs.

2. Presentation of Food Truck Friday survey: Ms. Turpin presented to Mayor and Council a survey regarding Food Truck Friday event. The survey was done with the community to obtain feedback. Two hundred people responded to the survey. The survey was well received by the community.

Mayor Walker inquired if the 48% number would increase because of the International Festival to be scheduled in November.

Ms. Turpin responded that she had more positive responses for March than November. She is hoping that by putting the International Festival the first week of November the community and participants will keep it on the radar before the holidays.

Mayor Walker thanked Ms. Turpin for all of her hard and successful work effort.

Council Member Hunt express his concerns relative to the Health Department maintaining the food trucks clean along with the places where the trucks are planning on parking for business.

3. Debt service process: Mr. Gilmour requested Mayor and Council to consider two (2) areas to obtain money for capital projects. The first one is water and sewage. Mr. Gilmour asked Ms. King to provide all the details. Ms. King stated there are three options: (1) A 20-year service schedule through, GEFA, (2) a 20-year debt service schedule through the Perry Public Facilities, and (3) a 30-year debt service schedule through the Perry Public Facilities Authority.

Administration recommended going with option number three which is 30-year debt schedule through the Perry Public Facilities Authority. Administration also recommended to approve funding from the Perry Public Facilities in the amount of \$ 800,000 to construct the Langston Road Stormwater Detention Facility. The pay back would be over a 20-year period.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones had some questions regarding the impact it would have on existing paying customers with this option.

Mr. Gilmour responded that it would be probably what the citizens are paying as of now, but if they have an increase, it will be very low and spread over a 30-year period.

Mayor Walker asked if option three did not have a significant increase on the annual debt service in comparison to today.

Mr. Gilmour responded that Ms. King mentioned the overall debt and option number three is best.

Mayor Walker stated that the plan was to build the wastewater treatment plant in the next 5 years.

Council Members concurred to move forward with the debt service process and the project financing as presented.

4. Discussion of new job classifications: Mr. Gilmour stated this is a request by Chief Parker as part of making some adjustments in the existing positions at the Fire Department and Emergency Services, this will not require the hiring any new employees. The adjustments are requested as follows: (1) The three Fire Battalion positions will be shifted to Deputy Fire Chief, Training Chief, and Prevention Chief; (2) Battalion Chief positions will be eliminated. The Administration has no objections to the change.

Council Members concurred to moved forward with the new job classifications as presented.

Mr. Gilmour stated that a resolution authorizing establishment of these positions will be presented at the Council meeting on March 16, 2021.

4. Council Member Items:

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

Council Member Hunt was very thankful to the road division for fixing the potholes on Tucker Road.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Smith gave an update on the property next door (Old Stanley Building). The bid is out for the demolition of the property.

Chief Parker stated that an email was received from the Guardian Centers inquiring if the City will donate any furniture.

Mayor Walker asked Ms. Newby if this can be legally done. Ms. Newby responded that if the City put it out in the trash, then it will be accessible to anyone.

Ms. King, Mr. Wood, Chief Lynn, Ms. Clark, Ms. Fitzner, Ms. Hardin, and Ms. Turpin had no reports.

Mr. Worthington provided Mayor and Council with a breakdown regarding the third stimulus check.

Mr. Swan invited everyone to the Special Needs Egg Hunt event on April 3 starting at 10:00am, \$ 500 donation was given for this event. Registration for T-Ball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball were all completed.

Ms. Warren mentioned to Mayor and Council about GMA hosting their annual convention in Savannah on August 6-10.

Mayor Walker

- Pre-Council March 16, 2021, at 5:00 pm
- Council Meeting March 16, 2021, at 6:00 pm

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on March 15, 2021, Mayor Pro-Tempore Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.