

MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
April 19, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held April 19, 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, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, and Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Crystal Sparks

Media: Amira Bevill and Brianna Sheffield – Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review /Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker
 - 3a. Department of Public Works
 1. Stormwater Culvert Restoration Projects. Ms. Fitzner presented for Council consideration a proposal to repair three stormwater culverts based on location and condition. The first stormwater culvert is located on Valley Drive near Big Indian Paintball and Mobley Furniture and the repair cost is \$11,475.00. The second location, Houston Lake Road/King Chapel Road contains two sections requiring repairs, the costs are estimated \$24,000.00 and \$15,000.00 each. Staff recommends using Utility Asset Management, Inc. and the total requested is \$50,475.00. Council Member Hunt inquired about bidding out this project. After discussion with Administration, Council concurred to go out to bid

for this project.

3b. Finance Department

1. Discussion of establishing policy for the release of utility account small balances. Mr. Worthington explained the definition of “small balance” to Mayor and Council and recommended establishing a policy for small balance utility accounts. After discussion, Council concurred with staff’s recommendation to establish a policy for small balance utility accounts.

3c. Department of Leisure Services

1. Citizen Contact Program. Mr. Swan presented for Mayor and Council consideration a proposal for a “Citizen Contact Program”. Mr. Swan provided an outline of the program and answered questions from Council. Council concurred to move forward with the program.

3d. Office of the City Manager

1. Selection of pedestrian lighting design for Hampton Court. Ms. Hardin provided a follow up relative to the pedestrian lighting design for Hampton Court. Ms. Hardin presented two designs for Council’s consideration. The two designs were the Constitution and the Mirada. Council concurred 5-1 (Council Member Hunt preferred the Mirada design) to move forward with the Constitution design.
2. Use of Federal monies. Mr. Gilmour announced the City will be receiving a certain amount of money under the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Worthington provided a chart reflecting the unreimbursed COVID related expenses by fund. Administration recommended Council use the monies to 1) reimburse the funds listed on the chart for COVID-19 costs through June 1, 2021, and 2) use any remaining monies for Water/Sewer projects. If the City does not have any construction costs and as long the regulations allow, then the City will use that money to reduce some of the debt services costs for projects that have already been done. Council concurred with Administration’s recommendation.
3. Review of traffic counts in downtown district. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the memo dated April 14, 2021 relative to the traffic counts in the downtown district. Administration recommended removal of the traffic control devices at the intersection of Main Street/Jernigan and Carroll Street/Jernigan Street and replace with stop signs on Jernigan Street only – both directions. Council concurred with Administration’s recommendation.

4. Council Member Items:

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

Council Member Hunt asked if the City has a policy relative to lawn care services parking in the street while they mow? Chief Lynn will research this and follow up with Council Member Hunt.

Council Member Peterson had concerns about trash and overgrown foliage along the fence line on the back of the Comfort Inn. Administration stated the City cannot do anything about that because it is private property, but he will research it for Council Member Peterson.

Council Member King stated the Georgia Power light is out in front of 605 Marsha Drive.

Mr. Gilmour discussed the East Perry area; infrastructure improvements and that the City does not have a stated policy (water and sewer) relative to annexation. Administration proposed to Council that the City does not accept an annexation that does not have a sewer service plan. Originally when Council discussed upcoming development the regulatory board (EPD) allowed pump and haul, but it no longer allows pump and haul. The Environmental Protection Division currently allows the following options: 1) Permit process and dispose of waste effluent in a prepared ground or field system (land application system); 2) development can have a portable packaged treatment facility; and 3) development can make a connection to the City sewer. The downfall of these options is it can be very expensive. Administration asked Council to consider the proposal that the City does not accept an annexation unless the developer have a sewer service plan. Council will consider the proposal.

Ms. Crystal Sparks inquired why the price of groceries has increased and where does the tax money go.

Ms. Newby discussed decorum at public hearings.

- questions or comments relative to the public hearing should be addressed to the chairman or the Mayor
- do not just give an answer or response if you do not know the answer
- reclude yourself from voting if you have any financial conflict of interest
- when voting, do not allow the number of people present for a matter influence how you vote
- when the hearing is going on, focus on the issue of hearing and focus on the factors and criteria

Mr. Smith had no report.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Ms. King, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Wood, Chief Parker, Mr. Swan, Ms. Hardin and Ms. Warren had no reports.

Chief Lynn provided an update relative to the use of tasers in the Perry Police Department.

Council Member Hunt asked Chief Lynn to research the Byrna gun.

Ms. Clark advised information racks were installed at the Worrall Center and at the Perry Events Center.

Ms. Fitzner reminded everyone of the Spring Clean-up event, April 26 -30.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on April 19, 2021 Mayor Pro Tempore Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.