

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL  
May 3, 2021  
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on May 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: Council Member Riley Hunt.

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

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Annie Warren – City Clerk, Matt White – Personnel Technician, Karen Bycenski – Personnel Manager, Jazmine Thomas – Downtown Manager, and Holly Wharton – Community Planner.

Press: Brianna Sheffield – Houston Home Journal  
Cheri Adams – Houston Home Journal

Guest (s): Middle Georgia Regional Commission – Laura Mathis, Executive Director, Susan Landfried, and Caitlin Mee, Government Services Specialists.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Department of Community Development.

1. Presentation of the Comprehensive Plan update: Ms. Holly Wharton presented to Mayor and Council from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Ms. Laura Mathis, Ms. Susan Landfried, and Ms. Caitlin Mee. Ms. Wharton along with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff presented to Mayor and Council the Joint Comprehensive Plan. This plan is for the City of Perry, Houston County, the City of Centerville, and the City of Warner Robins. The plan is due on February 22, 2022,

and will allow local governments to apply for CDBG's, GEFA loans, One Georgia funding, LWCF programs, and other programs. The Middle Regional Commission will be deploying online and paper survey's for Perry residents and will begin to identify and attend community events for public engagement. The next public hearing will be on May 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the Houston County Annex building, everyone is welcome to attend. Mayor and Council thanked them for their presentation and look forward to working with them on the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

3b. Office of the City Manager.

1. Presentation of GMA's "Starts with Me!" campaign: Mr. White presented to Mayor and Council the GMA's "Starts with Me!" campaign. Due to cities across Georgia struggling to address growing talent acquisition and retention challenges in a highly competitive job market, this campaign can be used to attract more talent and change how we advertise our jobs. This program is free to the city and will increase interest in careers with the city, increase and diversify our applicant pools, and reward and inspire our current employees by featuring them in campaign content. Council concurred to proceed with moving forward with utilizing the GMA's "Starts with Me!" campaign.
2. Discuss parklets survey. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the parklets survey. The survey showed that 70% of the downtown business on Carroll Street did not want parking spaces taken up and liked the idea of tables and chairs being downtown. Mr. Gilmour stated if Council concurred with the Administration's recommendation based on the majority of businesses on Carroll Street, the parklets will be set up in non-parking spaces and remove the planters from downtown, due to the planters being struck by vehicles. Council concurred to proceed with recommendations.
3. Discuss marketplace short-term rentals process. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Council the marketplace for the short-term rental process. Mr. Gilmour discussed with Council the proposed information that will be brought back to Council to review. The State of Georgia, effective July 1, 2021, will begin collecting a \$5.00/night tax on short-term rentals (i.e. Airbnb type). Mr. Gilmour stated that he will put together a proposal that would outline the following: Should the City collect the accommodation excise tax from these types of rentals, should the City develop certain zoning to be used for all or some of these rentals, should the City require public notice, should the City set up some type of monitoring fo sites and what legal restrictions. Council concurred to proceed to put together a proposal.

4. Council Member Items:

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

Mr. Gilmour, Ms. Newby, and Mr. Smith had no reports.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Ms. King, Mr. Wood, Chief Lynn, Chief Parker, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Swan, Mrs. Fitzner, Ms. Thomas, and Ms. Wharton had no reports.

Ms. Warren stated she has received several Statement of Interest forms and 11 calls from citizens that would like to volunteer.

Council Member King asked Mrs. Fitzner about the Spring Cleanup week. Mrs. Fitzner stated that it was going very well.

Mayor Walker

- Pre-Council May 4, 2021, at 5:00 pm
- Council Meeting May 4, 2021, at 6:00 pm

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on May 3, 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.