

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
May 17, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting of Perry City Council held on May 17, 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, Riley Hunt, and Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Elected Officials Absent: None.

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

*Assistant City Manager Robert Smith left the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, 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, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Kirk Crumpton - Assistant Fire Chief, Bill Phelps – Major Police Department, Heath Dykes – CID Captain Police Department, and James Buck – Captain Support Services Police Department.

Press: Brianna Sheffield – Houston Home Journal

Guest (s): None.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker.

3a. FY 2022 Operating Budget.

1. Perry Police Department. Chief Lynn reviewed with Mayor and Council the Police department fiscal year 2022 budget presentation. Chief Lynn stated that the goal of the police department is to maintain the level of service that the community has come to expect. Despite budget restraints, we strive to acquire new technology and equipment that helps keep the community safe.

Chief Lynn reviewed the following items not recommended in the budget for consideration to be included.

- Logistics Technician – manages the equipment for 50-plus employees, orders and maintains uniforms, controls, and maintains firearm and ammunition, radar certification. This position is currently part-time and is requesting to add a full-time position to handle the workload.
- FLOCK Camera System – Requesting starting with a single five (5) camera system with an initial cost of \$13,750.00 with an annual ongoing cost of \$12,500.00. This camera system would help investigations, solve crimes, and serve as a force extender. The camera system would take a picture of vehicle license plates and would be accessible to officers 24/7.
- Non-Lethal Weapon BOLA Wrap – This equipment would give officers an alternative to deadly force. The BOLA Wrap provides an alternative in certain situations where tasers or OC spray did not work. The cost is \$4378.80 for four (4) devices with holsters or seven (7) devices with holsters at \$7,662.90.
- Bicycle Team – Due to event venues growing in Perry, the bicycle team is adaptable to pedestrian-friendly events. It provides flexibility and faster response time than an officer on foot. The estimated costs to start a bicycle team is \$20,000.00.
- Archer Barriers – a flexible tool that provides reliable cost-effective event security that can be linked together or used separately. Cost to get started \$8,000.00 for eight (8) barriers.

Council Member Peterson asked if the police department had an adequate amount of tasers. Chief Lynn stated they do. Council Member Peterson asked how the bola wrap and tasers differ. Captain Buck stated that the bola wrap gives more distance when deploying than a taser. Council Member Peterson and Mayor Pro Tempore Jones asked about the bicycle team. Chief Lynn stated that depending on how many officers are interested in the bicycle team, they would have to be trained and see if they meet the physical capabilities to be on the bicycle team. Council Member Bynum-Grace stated that the City once had a bicycle team and believes it would be useful.

Department of Leisure Services. Mr. Swan stated that the goal of Leisure Services is to enhance our existing facilities for the citizens of Perry to enjoy. Mr. Swan reviewed with Mayor and Council for consideration the following items to be added to the FY 2022 budget.

- Toddler playground equipment- Mr. Swan stated he is requesting a toddler ADA swing for Creekwood Park at an estimated cost of \$4,280.00.
- Scoreboard Replacement – Mr. Swan request the scoreboards at Rozar Park (2), Worrall Gym (2), and Creekwood Park (2) be replaced for an estimated cost of \$19,500.00.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones asked if the scoreboards were unrepairable. Mr. Swan stated that they are. Council Member Albritton asked about sponsorships for the scoreboards. Mr. Swan stated he reached out to Coke and we did not meet the specifications for the sponsorship. Council Member Peterson stated that ADA equipment is needed, but we also need ADA equipment for all ages not just toddlers, and that once the scoreboards are replaced, the City could host travel ball that could bring revenue into the city.

2. Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department. Chief Parker stated that his department is pleased with the City Manager's recommendations for the FY 2022 budget. The Fire and Emergency Services Department has been restructured with the creation of the Assistant Fire Chief, Training Chief, and Fire Prevention Chief positions. Chief Parker reviewed the emergency response trends over the last five (5) years showing that fire responses have dropped by 31%, medical responses have increased by 16.4%, other responses have increased by 17%, and false alarms have increased by 34.8% since 2016. Chief Parker stated that one of the items that was not approved in the budget is a all-terrain vehicle that could be utilized in the City parks with an estimated cost of \$25,000.00. A grant will hopefully purchase the rescue tools that would be battery operated instead of hydraulic. Chief Parker reviewed the fire apparatus replacement plan and stated four (4) of the apparatus is approaching the replacement plan schedule; also need to start looking at a new fire station in the East area of Perry.

Council Member Peterson how much is spent on first aid supplies. Chief Parker stated the City has an agreement that any items used by Fire and Emergency are replaced by Houston Healthcare. Council Member Peterson agreed the all-terrain vehicle would be beneficial at Heritage Park in getting someone who may be injured to aid, and the battery-operated rescue tools would be a big advantage.

3. Department of Community Development. Mr. Wood stated that he agreed with the recommended FY 2022 budget that maintains the current operation. Some of the items approved in the FY 2022 budget are: 1) transition to the 2021 Energov upgrade, 2) complete the strategic plan and 3) ensure the City of Perry's specific goals and objectives are incorporated and implemented. Mr. Wood stated items not recommended but will be needed in the future as the City continues to grow are having the Land Management Ordinance in digital formatting, creating a combination inspector position that would do both building inspections and code enforcement, adding an Engineering Inspector, and adding an Administrative Assistant.
4. Department of Public Works. Ms. Fitzner reviewed with Mayor and Council the continued growth of the city and its impact on several divisions in public works. In preparing for the growth in the City of Perry, the following are requested to be considered.

- Renovation of public works facility – renovation of the pole barns, adding roof structure to vehicle maintenance.
- Satellite public works facility proximity to East Perry service area for solid waste roll-offs, stormwater, streets staging, and storage.
- Personnel – additional full-time personnel in litter control, additional solid waste crew for East Perry service area, and additional Streets and Stormwater personnel/equipment in response to City growth and infrastructure acceptance.

Council Member Peterson asked how many square miles the litter control personnel covers. Ms. Fitzner stated they have one employee that picks up 28 square miles for the City.

5. City Manager summary of recommended budget. Mr. Gilmour passed out a summary of the recommended FY 2022 Operating Budget. Mr. Gilmour stated the property tax millage rate will not increase. The City will increase the defined contribution retirement rate for its employees from 3.00% to 4.00%. Residential fee rates for fire protection, solid waste collection, and stormwater will not increase, commercial rates may be increased for fire protection services depending on final review. No new positions are recommended. Mr. Gilmour stated that once the new tax digest is provided, any not recommended request will be reviewed again.

4. Council Member Items:

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones and Council Members King and Albritton had no reports.

Council Member Bynum-Grace stated that on June 19, 2021, the pharmacist from Five Points Pharmacy will be at the Perry Events Center for the Vaccination clinic.

Council Member Hunt stated that on June 12th and July 10th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Perry Events Center the second shot of vaccine will be available. This event request is from the Perry Vaccination Committee and is requesting the City to get the information out to all Perry residents and provide the location, tables, and chairs for the event.

Council Member Peterson recommended having followed up on all granted special exceptions to ensure the requestor is following the rules. Community Development should keep listing all approved special exceptions. Mayor Pro Tempore Jones stated he shares his concern relative to special exception requests.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Gilmour and Ms. Newby had no reports.

Ms. Newby passed out to Mayor and Council the calendar for the strategic plan from Mr. Robert Smith that had to leave.

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

Mrs. Clark stated that at Food Truck Friday held Friday, May 14th the Regional Commission was at the event and received feedback from the survey. Ms. Clark stated that the Food Truck Friday was a great event and has not received any negative feedback.

Mrs. Hardin stated that on Friday, May 14th the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the start of the new building called The Commodore Building. The building will be located at 904 Commerce Street and will have a restaurant at the bottom and three loft apartments at the top.

Mayor Walker

- Pre-Council May 18, 2021, at 5:00 pm
- Council Meeting May 18, 2021, at 6:00 pm
- Called Special Budget Meeting May 25, 2021, at 5:00 pm

Mayor Walker stated that in District 2 there will be two new voting locations- Mossy Creek Middle School and Veterans High School, notices will be sent to residents.

Mayor Walker stated at the Council Meeting tomorrow night he will be discussing a request for half of the special purpose local option sales tax referendum for leisure services going toward a natatorium.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on May 17, 2021, Council Member Hunt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.