

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
August 2, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on August 2, 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 Riley Hunt.

Elected Officials Absent: Council Member Phyllis Bynum-Grace

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, Assistant City Manager Robert Smith, City Attorney Brooke Newby, and Recording Clerk Christine Sewell

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services 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, Annie Warren – City Clerk, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Sedrick Swan – Leisure Services Director and Holly Wharton – Community Planner

Press: Breanna Sheffield – Houston Home Journal

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Department of Leisure Services

1. RC Track Update: Mr. Swan presented a Power Point providing an update on the Remote Control (RC) Park at Rozar Park. Mr. Swan advised the allocated budget was \$7400 and has covered the truckloads of dirt, barriers, and recycled materials to create, which has been done through a collaboration with various City departments and community stakeholders. This past weekend there was a test of the facility which was well received and looking forward there have already been requests to host tournaments. Council Member Albritton inquired when a tournament would be held. Mr. Swan advised he is currently working on a policy and will bring back to Council for review. Council Member Albritton asked what steps are being done for use without an agreement; Mr. Swan advised it is a public track and people are encouraged to use it, if not a tournament.

3b. Office of the City Manager

1. Waste Management contract amendment: Mr. Gilmour provided the proposed agreement that follows what was previously discussed; totes will be provided to the City, including rates and their purchase of them at \$280,000.00 with no increase to customers. Mr. Gilmour stated totes are being provided in bulk and the City will distribute and pick up totes in lieu of Waste Management. Not in the agreement is the transfer station and its requirements, that will be brought forth separately. Administration recommends concurrence to proceed subject to City Attorney's review; Council concurred.
2. Design change to the proposed South Langston Road extension: Mr. Gilmour requested postponement until tomorrow's meeting as a site map is being created, if not it would be on the next Council agenda. Mayor Walker requested, if at all possible, it be discussed at tomorrow's meeting.
3. Extension of Sam Nunn Boulevard (west) sidewalk improvement project: Mr. Gilmour in follow up request from Council Member Albritton from Mr. McMurrin's project review the question on the sidewalk project west of Sam Nunn Blvd to Heritage Oaks Park; Administration recommended connection to Airport Road and Houston Springs. Mr. Gilmour advised fifteen or so years ago grant money was received to install sidewalks on Sam Nunn Blvd. and Macon Road; there are currently sidewalks on portions of Sam Nunn Blvd. on both sides to I-75 to Mason Terrace and stops. It is proposed to retain the same sidewalk going underneath I-75 crossing over by the interstate exit and continue to Heritage Oaks Park, down to Airport Road Ext. to Houston Springs and to the park and into downtown. There had been thought it could go through Valley Drive and the park but cannot get agreement from property owner to do so. The proposed sidewalk provides access and walkability from the hotels at the I-75 exit and to the park and the overflow parking that will be done, thus the reasoning behind the project design. Council Member Hunt inquired on cost; Mr. Gilmour advised it is unknown at this time. Council Member Peterson asked if golf carts can use the sidewalks; Mr. Gilmour advised, yes, they will be ten-foot-wide multi-use sidewalks, for pedestrians, bikes, and golf carts. Mayor Walker requested the portion servicing the park be done first because of the overflow parking. Mr. Gilmour suggested concurrence to proceed forward with phases and costs; Council concurred to proceed with development of project.
4. Succession request. Mr. Gilmour advised Ms. Val Sanders will be retiring effective January 1, 2022 and would like to be in process of succession plan for cross training, as her position is a high-profile position and need a complete transition; this has been done in the past with other departments. Council concurred to proceed with current succession plan for position.

5. Survey results relative to smoking policy. Mr. Gilmour provided a memo in follow up of comparable cities concerning their smoking policy. All responses have restrictions in City owned buildings and vehicles. Based on the data Administration is recommending the City Attorney prepare a policy for buildings and vehicles. Ms. Newby requested clarification on definition of smoking, would it include all vaping, chewing, and dipping; Council agreed for all forms to be included. Ms. Newby also asked for clarification on vehicles, would it include enclosed tractors, street sweeper, etc.; Council concurred for any type of vehicle the City owned. Council concurred for the City Attorney to prepare a policy as directed.
6. Update relative to COVID-19. Mr. Gilmour provided the recent COVID-19 status report updates as a point of discussion noting cases and hospital admissions are increasing; there are no deaths but is asking Council if there is any direction it would like to provide on how to address. Does not recommend mandatory vaccination of employees, but should masks be worn in buildings or enclosed areas, testing of non-vaccinated persons. Mr. Gilmour noted the Delta variant from his understanding is highly transmitted and feels it may be advantageous to require all employees to wear a mask per CDC guidelines if they interact with the general public. Mayor Walker inquired if any employee has requested to return to masks; Mr. Gilmour advised none to his knowledge, but the concern is with the growing numbers and what we can do to bring down those numbers. Council Member King felt the recreation department should use due to their interaction with children, and that population under 12 not being able to be vaccinated. Mayor Walker advised he along with the County Chairman and city mayors will be meeting with the health department Wednesday afternoon to discuss this. Council Member Albritton asked if Council could give the Mayor latitude to decide after the Wednesday meeting. Mayor Walker noted the customer service policy in place previously could be reinstated and apply to Leisure Services as well; Mayor Pro Temp Jones agreed. Mr. Swan advised they have barriers in place at the counters, but if one on one meetings, can wear a mask. Council concurred to move forward with Customer Service & Leisure Services being required to wear masks when interacting with the public. Mayor Walker and Council agreed for the sanitation stations and social distancing postings be put back in place.
7. Review options for extension of Jernigan Street. Mr. Gilmour advised project is in the very early stages and provided a proposal to extend Jernigan Street to Charles Avenue with parallel parking, which is the suggested recommendation and from previous discussions and expansions happening there will be a need for more parking. Mr. Gilmour stressed this project is quite a few years out but would like to get a plan started and in place for when the time comes to proceed. Mayor Walker advised with the discussions on downtown living and Andrew Heights a part of that, a plan needs to be put in place for the future.

Council concurred for Administration to start the process for design.

8. Future users proposal. Mr. Gilmour advised there is an increased trend with electric powered vehicles, and he is proposing we contact the power providers to partner with them in installing vehicle charging stations. The trial site would be Heritage Oaks Park; the City would contribute 10% of the installation cost with the provider paying the balance and all future maintenance/replacement costs. There could possibly be other locations, such as the downtown or other parks. Council concurred to move forward, and Administration will bring back a proposal.
9. Consider compensation adjustment for municipal court judges. Mr. Gilmour advised due to caseloads and delays as a result of COVID 19 the Municipal Court arraignment dates are doubling from two per month to four; this plus the added workload for court dates warrants an increase in compensation as provided. Council Member Hunt inquired what other cities Perry size charge; Mr. Gilmour from previous research are part time judges and higher pay scale. Mayor Walker felt we need to have a competitive pay scale. Council concurred to move forward with compensation increase as presented.

4. Council Member Items: None

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Smith in follow up to the Strategic Plan Retreat this past Saturday, he thanked everyone for their participation; good input and discussions was had. If there were any additional input/thoughts to please forward to him. Mayor Walker thanked everyone for the hard work done beforehand and it was an engaging discussion.

Ms. Newby advised she had been contacted by the City Attorney from Warner Robins with regard to an appointment for the Animal Control Board. The current Perry appointee Mr. Davis Cosey is not available and there is an emergency meeting tomorrow morning, and an appointee is needed and until one is found Mr. Smith has been recommended. Mayor Walker noted it would be an interim representation and will find a local citizen to appoint.

Mr. Swan advised he was contacted by the local NAACP chapter to host a COVID vigil at Heritage Oaks Park and he is bringing before Council as policy does not allow for groups to host events at the park, it is normally Rozar Park. Mayor Walker inquired of Mr. Gilmour if this would be permissible or set a precedent; Mr. Gilmour advised it should not as we do every couple of years for a Chamber event. Mr. Swan advised he will gather additional information on the Sept. 25th event and bring back.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held August 2, 2021; Council Member Albritton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.