

MINUTES
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL

August 31, 2021

5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the strategic planning session held August 31, 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, Holly Wharton – Community Planner, Captain Heath Dykes – Perry Police Department, Lt. James Buck – Perry Police Department, Assistant Fire Chief Kirk Crumpton - Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department, Fire Marshall Darryl Kitchens- Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department, Senior Fire Training Chief Charles Mundy – Perry Fire and Emergency Services Department, and Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator.

Guest(s)/Speaker(s): Laura Mathis and Joe Black - Middle Georgia Regional Commission, and Travis Falcione – ESG Operations, Inc.

Media: none

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker
 - 3a. Strategic Planning Process

Ms. Laura Mathis stated this is evening two of the strategic planning process and each presenter will have 15 minutes to make their presentation.

1. Community Development. Mr. Wood presented to Mayor and Council the strategic plan for the Department of Community Development. Mr. Wood outlined the mission, goals, and action items for the department. Mr. Wood discussed the expected development trends through 2026, projected development areas and the various functions within the department. The action items include adding a new Community Planner, Code Compliance Specialist, Building Inspector, Administrative Assistant, Stormwater inspector, two Utility construction inspectors, and a new GIS Analyst position.
2. Economic Development. Ms. Hardin presented to Mayor and Council the strategic planning assessment for the Economic Development Department. Ms. Hardin's areas of discussion were additional growth on Commercial Corridors off 1-75, redevelopment, continuing workforce development efforts, entrepreneurship, business recruitment, and continued business retention and expansion. Future needs of the department are: continued technology investment on sites and buildings database for marketing properties and providing data for projects, maintaining commercial realtor, developer and property owner relationships and marketing to them, administrative support, consider developing incentive policy for vacant blighted commercial properties beyond state Opportunity Zone, and explore other incentive opportunities once Rural Zone ends.
3. Downtown. Mr. Smith presented to Mayor and Council the 5-year snapshot for the Downtown Perry. The areas of focus for downtown were development, beautification efforts, technology, connectivity, and parking.
4. Leisure Services. Mr. Swan presented to Mayor and Council the strategic plan update for the Department of Leisure Services. Mr. Swan outlined the goals, main areas of focus and action items for the department. The goals of the department included developing and implementing new and diverse recreation activities/services to the public, provide toddler-oriented offerings at park sites, provide exercise options at parks sites, target recruitment and retention of minority-owned businesses, recognize and celebrate the diversity that exists in Perry, outreach to minority communities and community events and outreach through civic groups, churches, etc. The focus areas were equity/diversity/inclusion, infrastructure/service provisions, and community engagement/excellence/communities. The future needs of the department included a Special Programs Coordinator, two additional Athletic Maintenance Personnel, and seasonal employees.
5. Utilities. Mr. Falcione presented to Mayor and Council the strategic initiative for water, wastewater and natural gas. Mr. Falcione outlined the principal goals, strategic focus areas, and future action items. The goals included reliable and uninterrupted water, sewer and gas service; highest quality/safe/exceeding regulatory guidelines; responsive to

community needs and growth; and in the event of a natural disaster the citizens of Perry can rest assure the utility department will strive to keep utility services uninterrupted. The strategic focus areas included aging infrastructure, regulatory changes, capacity needs, and water source and treatment upgrades needed if the City discontinues purchase of water from Houston County. Future growth action items included 18 additional staff members, vac truck, tractor, 8 crew trucks, mini-excavator, and covered storage for equipment and materials.

6. Public Works. Ms. Fitzner presented the strategic plan for the Public Works department. Ms. Fitzner outlined the mission statement, goals and future needs for the department. The strategic plan focus areas were growth and sustainability, quality of life, service provision and organizational excellence. The future needs of the department included an additional 12 positions, 3 landscape mowers, solid waste knuckle-boom truck, 2 custodial vehicles, building maintenance truck, animal control vehicle, infrastructure vehicle, infrastructure tractor mower, bucket truck, stormwater vehicle, front deck tractor mower, and jet-trailer.
7. Fire. Chief Parker presented the Perry Fire and Emergency Services strategic planning assessment. Chief Parker outlined the strategic plan focus areas, and future growth areas. The plan focus areas were Administration (Organizational Excellence/Equity and Diversity), Community Risk Reduction Programs (Community Engagement and Accountability), Technology (Organizational Excellence/Service Provision), Infrastructural (Growth and Sustainability), Equipment (Service Provision), Facilities (Growth and Sustainability), Staffing (Organizational Excellence/Service Provision), and Apparatus (organizational Excellence/Service Provision). Future growth areas included headquarters renovation, fire stations, and fire training facility. Future needs of the department included 2 additional shift fire inspector positions, Fire/Life Safety Educator, purchase additional ladder truck, rescue truck, brush truck, and utility vehicle.
8. Police. Chief Lynn presented to Mayor and Council the Perry Police Department strategic planning initiative. Chief Lynn outlined the core areas and action items. The core areas identified were Service Demand, Community Engagement, Staffing, Technology, and Facilities/Infrastructure. Future action items included adding an additional Detective, Civilian Crime Analyst, Administrative Support, Logistics Support, Drug/Gang Investigator, full-time Training Officer, FLOCK Camera Systems, Portable Camera Systems, and Drone/Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Goals included maintaining the desired level of service to Perry citizens, minimize the negative impact of growth on crime and safety and to be the foundation of the Perry Brand.

4. Council Member Items.
Council had no reports.

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

Mayor Walker entertained a motion to go into executive session for real estate acquisition.

5. Executive Session entered at 7:25 p.m.: Mayor Pro Tempore Jones moved to adjourn the work session and entered into executive session for the purpose of real estate acquisition. Council Member King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
6. Executive Session adjourned at 7:33 p.m.; Council strategic planning session reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held August 31, 2021 and reconvened into the council strategic planning session.
7. Adopted Resolution No. 2021-37 stating the purpose of the executive session held on August 31, 2021, was to discuss real estate acquisition. Council Member Hunt moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the executive session held on August 31, 2021, was to discuss real estate acquisition; Council Member Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member King motioned to accept an offer from the Loudermilk Companies to acquire a portion of property at 523 Courtney Hodges Boulevard needed for part of right-of-way project Creekwood Drive \$59,500 authorizing and sell agreement. (*Resolution No. 2021-37 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
8. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held August 31, 2021, Council Member Bynum-Grace motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Council Member Albritton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.