

MINUTES
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
November 16, 2021
5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the pre council meeting held November 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Official Absent: None.

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

Departmental Staffing: Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington – Finance Director, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, and Annie Warren – City Clerk.

Media: William Oliver – Houston Home Journal.

Guest(s): Mike Baker – Hargray Communications.

3. Items of Review/Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Discussion of November 16, 2021 council meeting agenda.

4a. Presentation of the 2021 Fire Safety Poster Contest. Chief Parker stated that the winner and the runner-up would be present, but the honorable mention will not attend.

4d. (2) Special Events Applications – Peaches to Beaches event. Mr. Gilmour requested that this item be tabled until clarification on the request for personnel support. This event is not until March 2022.

7a. Public Hearing – TEXT-256-2021. Applicant, the City of Perry, requests the proposed amendment defines and addresses self-service vending units within the City of Perry. This amendment updates Section 1.13 Definitions by defining "Self- service vending unit" and Section 4-1.1 (D) Prohibited uses.

by adding (h) freestanding self-service vending units as a prohibited use. Mr. Wood stated that the following proposed amendment defines and addresses self-service vending units within the City of Perry. This item has been reviewed by the Planning Commission and staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval of the amendment.

9a. (1) Second Reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 4, Animals, adding Section 4-111 to address Public Nuisance for Dogs. Ms. Newby stated the ordinance is to add a section to address public nuisance for dogs. This is the second reading and will require a voice vote at the meeting.

9a. (2) Second Reading of an ordinance to amend City Code, Chapter 15, Article VI, Transient Merchants. Ms. Newby stated the ordinance continues to prohibit transient merchants in the city limits. This is the second reading and will require a voice vote at the meeting.

11c. Resolution declaring certain assets surplus. Mr. Worthington stated the item requested for surplus is Asset #1928 Police Department "Paddy Wagon." This golf cart was used in parades but has not run in several years.

11d. Award of emergency contract to repair Valley Drive stormwater pipe. Mr. Worthington stated that this is for an emergency repair due to the driveway starting to collapse and possibly damaging the gas and sewer lines beneath. Mr. Worthington said he had requested quotes, and TMT Utilities quoted \$15,000.00 for the repair.

- 3b. Facility Fiber Connectivity Project. Mr. Smith presented to the Mayor and Council the proposal to have Hargray install a dedicated fiber network between the current city hall, police department, fire department, new city hall site, Planning, Engineering, Building Services building, and public works facilities. The hub would be located at the new city hall site, with a backup located at the Police Department building. This dedicated line would be for the City only and would prevent hackers from accessing our network. Mr. Mike Baker stated that the fiber network lines would be run on the current power poles to connect the City facilities. Mr. Smith stated that if Council concurred to proceed, the cost would be an additional \$4,500 per month, \$55,000 additionally per year. Council concurred unanimously to proceed with the project.
- 3c. Yard debris bagging request. Ms. Fitzner presented to Mayor and Council a request from a citizen asking if the yard debris could be bagged in paper bags. Ms. Fitzner stated that the City's bagging program gives customers a \$3.50 credit on their utility bill for every five (5) bags of yard debris. The customers currently use plastic bags for their yard debris. Ms. Fitzner contacted the Houston County landfill office to verify if the plastic bags were a problem. Count stated they use the plastic yard debris bags as mulch on-site. Ms. Fitzner stated that if Council decides to go with paper bags, the citizens could lose their credits due to the cost of the paper bags. Council concurred unanimously to stay with the current process.

4. Council Member Items:

Council Members Albritton, Peterson, and King had no reports

Council Member Bynum-Grace asked for clarification on the letters sent to the citizens relative to the natural gas price increase. Mr. Gilmour stated that all gas customers were sent a flyer from the Municipal Gas Authority stating natural gas prices could increase by 30% this year and explained why the increase was occurring. The increase is due to demand and how much the natural gas prices rise. Some assistance for natural gas customers would be participating in the City's budget billing process that spreads the cost over 12-month period.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Jones asked if a 4-Way Stop sign could be installed at Northside Road and Pineneedle Drive. Mr. Gilmour stated that the speed table policy petition would have to be signed by 60% of the residents affected, a study by the police department to verify a legitimate need and, if so, recommendation to have a sign installed.

Council Member Hunt asked for an update on the Tucker Road culvert stormwater pipe project. Mr. Gilmour stated the project was on hold while the engineers reviewed the project and is now back on track to begin.

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

5. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the pre council meeting held November 16, 2021, Council Member King motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Council Member Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.