

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL  
February 14, 2022  
**5:00 pm.**

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on February 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll:

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

City Departmental Staffing: Chief Steve Lynn – Perry Police Department, Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington - Finance Director, Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Annie Warren – City Clerk, Chad McMurrian – Engineering Services Manager, Ashely Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, Anya Turpin – Special Events Manager, and Matt White – Personnel Technician.

Press: William Oliver – Houston Home Journal.

Guest (s): Burke Murph – GWES, LLC., and Doug Stoner and Lee Comer – Foresite Group.

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

3a. Department of Community Development.

1. Presentation of proposed Sewer Master Plan. Mr. McMurrian stated that Mr. Burke Murph with GWES will review with Mayor and Council the Sewer Master Plan. Mr. Burke Murph reviewed with Mayor and Council the sewer master plan for the south and east service areas. Based on the growth in the City, these two service areas have been identified for significant development, and the current systems will reach capacity. The sewer master plan would phase sewer infrastructure expansion in the south and east services areas, including a new wastewater treatment facility over the next 30 years as needed. Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Murph for all his work on this project. Mr. Gilmour stated that if Council

concurs to move forward with the sewer master plan, this item will be added to Council's agenda as a resolution for adoption. Council concurred to proceed.

3b. Office of the City Manager.

1. Foresight Group: Presentation on Leveraging Federal Dollars for Broadband Infrastructure. Ms. Hardin presented to Mayor and Council Mr. Doug Stoner and Mr. Lee Comer from the Foresite Group. Mr. Comer presented to the Mayor and Council the Broadband Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA) that has \$45 billion to be distributed to states for the development of broadband and a minimum of \$100 million going to each State for broadband initiatives. This infrastructure act will allow local governments to apply for federal funding for broadband infrastructure. The first step is to develop a Broadband Master Plan.
2. Outline of city's black history banner program. Ms. Turpin reviewed with Mayor and Council the black history banner program application available on the City's website. Applications open in the spring, and the deadline to apply is September 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline allows the committee time to review the applications, design banners, print banners, and hang banners before February 1<sup>st</sup>. Banners are displayed the entire month of February. Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Turpin for all her hard work on this program.
3. Downtown Development Authority development financing. Mr. Smith reviewed with Mayor and Council the DDA financing. Mr. Smith presented how other downtown development authorities in other cities get funding for projects. Mr. Smith stated that if Council concurs based on Council's feedback, a policy will be drafted to establish guidelines/policies for the DDA projects. Council concurred to proceed.
4. Consider the proposal to amend annual leave. Mr. Gilmour reviewed the proposal to amend the annual leave policy. Mr. Gilmour stated in the proposal that the annual leave would be replaced with paid time off; all annual leave balances would shift to paid time off; sick leave would cease accumulating, and any balance of sick leave would remain until exhausted; the accrual of paid time off would shift based on the employee's length of employment/type of work and the payout of paid time off would be capped based on the type of work and length of service. Mr. Gilmour stated that if Council concurs, the next step is to notify all employees and to set up hearings for input. Council concurred to proceed.
5. Military Leave Policy. Mr. White presented to Mayor and Council the updated Military Leave policy. Mr. White stated that the current policy on file is out of date. The proposed military leave policy would ensure the City's compliance with all federal and state laws regarding military leave.

Mayor Walker recommended this item if Council concurs to be on Council February 15<sup>th</sup> agenda for a vote. Council concurred to proceed.

6. Parking Study Proposal. Mr. Smith reviewed with Mayor and Council the parking study proposal from Middle Georgia Regional Commission. The parking study would begin in the fall, with the information from the study coming back to the Council to review by the end of the year. Council concurred to proceed with the parking study.

4. Council Member Items:

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

Council Member Jones asked for an update relative to the piping at New Haven/Stonebridge subdivisions. Mr. McMurrian stated that Pyles Plumbing had installed isolation valves to minimize the number of houses affected during a water main break, and the subdivisions have been looped.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Mr. Smith and Ms. Newby had no reports.

Mr. Gilmour asked for clarification relative to the COVID-19 policy benchmarks for cases and hospitalizations. Mr. Gilmour requests the Council to affirm cases/hospitalization as benchmarks, not absolute numbers. Council affirmed.

Ms. King, Mr. Worthington, Chief Lynn, Chief Parker, Ms. Fitzner, Ms. Warren, Ms. Clark, Ms. Hardin, Mr. McMurrian, and Mr. White had no reports.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on February 14, 2022, Council Member Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm, and Council Member Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.