

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
April 18, 2022
5:00 pm.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on April 18, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll:

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

Elected Officials Absent: Council Members Riley Hunt and Phyllis Bynum-Grace

Staff: City Manager Lee Gilmour, City Attorney Brooke Newby, and Recording Clerk Annie Warren

City Departmental Staffing: Captain Alan Everidge – Perry Police Department, Chief Lee Parker – Fire and Emergency Services Department, Brenda King – Director of Administration, Mitchell Worthington - Finance Director, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Sedrick Swan – Director of Leisure Services, Holly Wharton - Community Planner, Alicia Hartley - Downtown Manager, Anya Turpin – Special Events Administrator, Ashley Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, and Danny Hicks – Code Compliance.

Press: William Oliver – Houston Home Journal.

Guest(s): Mr. Mike Fox (Stonebridge HOA)

3. Items of Review /Discussion: Mayor Randall Walker

3a. Office of the City Manager

1. Department impact when 24% of the local workforce work from home.

a. Department of Administration – Ms. B. King.

Ms. King presented the impact could increase maintenance calls and cost, increase wear/tear of city facilities, increase in insurance claims and an increase in calls for service and/or assistance.

b. Finance Department – Mr. M. Worthington.

Mr. Worthington presented the impact could increase requests for electronic payments/remittance. Mr. Worthington reviewed operational considerations going forward: revised policies and

procedures regarding electronic payments, review the types of payments we accept, and accept online credit cards payment for all invoices.

c. Economic Development – Ms. A. Hardin.

Ms. Hardin reviewed data relative to remote workers and hybrid employees. Ms. Hardin discussed the challenges, and advantages of remote working.

d. Special Events – Ms. A. Turpin.

Ms. Turpin reported people are showing an interest in special events. People are looking for opportunities for socialization, and suggested the city consider hosting more frequent small community focused events that offer more opportunities for individuals to get out and our city after work or on weekends.

e. Downtown – Ms. Alicia Hartley.

Ms. Hartley reviewed the positive and negative impacts as well as what other programs have done relative to remote workers. The positive impacts included: remote workers are typically well paid, thus boost in local spending/investment, increase in demand for co-working spaces due to need for socialization, and business relocation opportunities from large office buildings to small regional locations. Negative impacts were more remote jobs become available might take available work force from retail/restaurants furthering current staffing issues and the possible reduction in office space demand, but tech and e-commerce sectors thrive.

f. Office of the City Clerk – Ms. A. Warren.

Ms. Warren reported data is not available at this time.

2. Consider appointees to the East Perry Destination Park Advisory Committee. Mr. Gilmour advised Council that a written invitation was mailed out to city residents who have a water/sewerage account north and east of Perry Parkway. Twenty-seven residents indicated an interest to serve. Administration provided Council a list of recommended candidates for the advisory board. Mayor Walker asked that this item be placed on Council's April 19 agenda.

3. New City Hall expenditures. Mr. Smith reviewed the New City Hall project budget and asked for Council's concurrence to order lead items

for the project. Council unanimously concurred with Mr. Smith recommendation.

3b. Department of Community Development

1. Stonebridge sign request. Mr. Wood reviewed the Stonebridge Residential Association's sign request. Administration recommended Council decline the request. Council Member Peterson inquired if the Association had looked at other locations on a private property lot for the sign. Mr. Fox advised the Association had not. Mayor Walker asked that this item be placed on Council's April 19 agenda.
2. Perry Trash Dash update. Ms. Wharton reported the Perry Trash Dash was a city-wide effort that had ninety-nine volunteers who picked up 3,440 pounds of trash and 64 tires.

3c. Office of the City Attorney

1. Discussion to amend the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines. Ms. Newby to amend the city's expense reimbursement guidelines to ensure the city is in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.
2. Discussion of an ordinance to amend the City Code, Section 1-10, General penalty; continuing violations. Ms. Newby stated this is an amendment to Code Sec. 1-10, General penalty; continuing violations. This amendment is a follow up relative to a conversation with a municipal court prosecutor. The amendment provides for a fine up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to 60 days or both, for any violation of a city code ordinance.
3. Approval of Request for Group Insurance Amendment with the Standard Insurance Company to amend our Short-Term Disability Policy. – Ms. Newby stated this amendment will allow the change from an annual/sick leave system to a PTO system. This will allow an employee on short-term disability to use PTO to make up the difference of income.

4. Council Member Items.

Council had no reports.

Mr. Gilmour advised Mayor and Council that his office had forwarded to them a copy of the downtown parking survey that Ms. Hartley conducted.

5. Department Head/Staff Items:

Ms. Swan reported on the Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt event and thanked Mayor Walker and Council Member Albritton for their attendance.

Ms. Fitzner reported the Spring Clean Up was a success. Public Works crews collected 211 tires, 65 tons of bulk waste and 86 tons of yard debris.

Ms. Turpin passed out the LET'S GO! publication for April.

6. Adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on April 18, 2022, Council Member Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 pm; Council Member Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.