

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OF THE PERRY CITY COUNCIL
May 2, 2022
5:00 pm.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Randall Walker, Presiding Officer, called to order the work session meeting held on May 2, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll:

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Randall Walker.
Council Members Joy Peterson, Riley Hunt, Darryl Albritton, and Phyllis Bynum-Grace.

Elected Officials Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Willie King and Council Member Robert Jones.

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, Bryan Wood – Director of Community Development, Tabitha Clark – Communications Administrator, Amber Garrett - Communications Specialist, Ansley Fitzner – Public Works Superintendent, Ashely Hardin – Economic Development Administrator, and Anya Turpin – Special Events Manager.

Press: William Oliver – Houston Home Journal.

Guest (s): Ms. Juresha Moss.

3. Citizens with input. None.

4. Appear(s).

4a. Presentation of The Royal Blueprint. Mayor Walker stated that Ms. Moss was not present and suggested shifting to the end of the meeting.

5. Items of Review/Discussion.

5a. Office of City Manager.

1. Meeting decorum. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the suggested guidelines to establish formal rules concerning public

participation at its meetings. Mr. Gilmour stated that these guidelines shall apply to all City of Perry council meetings and its authorities, boards, and commission if Council concurs. Council concurred to proceed with the guidelines as outlined.

Council Member Albritton asked if the wording for “Community Partners” could be rephrased to assist citizens who may not know when it is time for citizens to voice their input/concerns. City Manager Gilmour stated it would be addressed.

2. FedEx/UPS drop-off boxes. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the recommendation to move the current FedEx/UPS drop-off boxes from Carroll Street and Jernigan Street to the intersection of Jernigan Street and Main Street. The Downtown Manager Ms. Hartley surveyed the businesses downtown, and they still use the drop-off boxes, and the City staff will utilize these boxes once moved into the new city hall. The request for the move of the drop-off boxes is when the City has events downtown, the companies cannot access the boxes. Council concurred to proceed with moving the FedEx/UPS drop-off boxes.
3. Process for greenspace. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the recommendation to authorize the planting of natural trees, except pine trees, on empty greenspace parcels. These trees will provide a natural buffer between developments and an aesthetic backdrop for surrounding property owners, and the tree canopy will reduce maintenance over time, and other uses requests for the greenspace sites. Council Member Peterson asked if the City currently maintains greenspaces. Mr. Gilmour stated that the City does until the tree canopy reduces mowing/weeds. Council concurred to proceed with authorizing the planting of natural trees on empty greenspace parcels as outlined.
4. Consider property tax fees refund. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the request from Ms. Elicia Mills requesting a refund on the fees charged on her late tax payment for her City property tax bill. Mr. Gilmour stated that City policy says that unless there is an error by the city, the property owner is responsible for the timely payment of the tax bill. Ms. Mills provided payment in late February. Mr. Gilmour stated the recommendation of the Administration is for the council to adhere to its policy and not authorize the refund. Council concurred with the recommendation of the City to adhere to its policy and not authorize the refund.
5. Engineering services. Mr. Gilmour reviewed with Mayor and Council the engineering proposal from Keck & Wood survey and concept planning for the downtown parking lots on the railroad right of way, based on Keck & Wood’s experience dealing with railroads. Administration’s recommendation for council to concur to authorize this proposal. The project will be paid for out of the Capital Projects Construction Fund. Council concurred to proceed with the proposal as outlined.

Mayor Walker stated that Ms. Moss was present for her presentation.

4a. Presentation of The Royal Blueprint. Ms. Moss, 107 Woodspring Court.

Ms. Moss presented to Mayor and Council a powerpoint presentation outlining the services her company, The Royal Blu Print provides. Ms. Moss stated she started her company during the pandemic when she saw a need to assist others by providing training in technical and administrative fields. Ms. Moss stated that her company is offering a free workshop on May 28, 2022, at the Perry Library.

6. Council Member Items:

Mayor Walker updated everyone on Mayor Pro Tempore King's condition. Mayor Pro Tempore King underwent triple bypass surgery and is recovering at the hospital.

Council Member Bynum-Grace reminded everyone of the Criminal Records Restriction Day on May 7th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Perry Events Center.

Council Member Albritton stated that he received a call from a Coca-Cola delivery driver trying to deliver to a downtown business that could not find any parking downtown.

Council Member Hunt asked about follow-up relative to the Post Office. Mr. Gilmour stated he would provide that information to Council.

Council Member Peterson stated that she felt that the petitioner should have been told when they submitted their petition for the sign at Stonebridge.

Council Member Hunt asked for feedback from the merchants relative to the downtown parking. Mr. Gilmour stated that the merchants are split 50/50. This will continue to be monitored.

7. Department Head/Staff Items:

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

Ms. King stated that the Local Government Authorities Annual Authority Registration is due by June 22, 2022. The registration is to list all members on boards and authorities.

Chief Parker reminded everyone that the State of Georgia EPD burn ban began on May 1, 2022, until September 30, 2022.

Mr. Swan stated that fall sports registration began on May 1, 2022. On May 14th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the County Bike Rodeo will be at Creekwood Park.

Ms. Turpin stated that the 2nd Annual Art in the Park event is Saturday, May 7th, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Heritage Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend and vote on their favorite artists.

Mayor Walker stated that Council's Pre Council and Regular meetings are Tuesday, May 3rd, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Worthington, Mr. Wood, Chief Lynn, Ms. Fitzner, Ms. Clark, Ms. Garrett, and Ms. Hardin had no reports.

Mayor Walker entertained a motion to enter an executive session for real estate.

8. Executive Session entered at 5:37 p.m. Council Member Hunt moved to adjourn the work session and enter into executive session for the purpose of real estate. Council Member Albritton seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
9. Executive Session adjourned 5:48 p.m.; Council work session reconvened. Council adjourned the executive session held on May 2, 2022, and reconvened into the council work session.
10. Adopted Resolution No. 2022-26 stated the purpose of the executive session held on May 2, 2022, was to discuss real estate. Council Member Peterson moved to adopt a resolution stating the purpose of the executive session held on May 2, 2022 was to discuss real estate; Council Member Bynum-Grace seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. No action was taken. (*Resolution No. 2022-26 has been entered in the City's official book of record*).
11. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council in the work session held on May 2, 2022, Council Member Albritton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.