

PERRY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PERRY CITY OFFICES
April 24, 2025

7:02 PM

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Jeppsen, Council Member Nathan Tueller (online), Council Member Toby Wright, Council Member Ashley Young and Council Member Blake Ostler

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Council Member Dave Walker

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Recorder Shanna Johnson, City Administrator Bob Barnhill, Deputy Recorder Misty Moesser, Public Works Director Zach Allen, City Attorney Bill Morris and Chief of Police Scott Hancey

OTHERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Paul White (Planning Commission) and Amy Swensen

ON-LINE: Nelson Phillips (BENJ)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeppsen welcomed everyone and called the City Council meeting to order.

ITEM 2: PROCEDURAL ISSUES

A. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None

ITEM 3: Discussion Items

A. FY2025-2026 Budget Proposals

Public Works Director Zach Allen presented the budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. He began with the parks department, highlighting several key points:

- The mowing contractor had a 4% increase in cost from the previous year but offered a 2-year locked-in contract at \$26,000 per year.
- The fertilizer budget remained the same, but now includes coverage for all five parks, which will lead to more consistent weed control and fertilization.
- Mr. Allen proposed increasing the miscellaneous services budget from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to address aging trees in the parks and other maintenance needs.
- He mentioned the addition of new playground equipment at Mountain View Park, funded by the previous year's capital fund increase and adding some benches at both Mountain View Park and Perry Park.
- Mr. Allen noted that a company had been hired (utilizing grant funds) to work on a master plan for the parks, which will guide future projects and budget allocations.

For the sewer department, Mr. Allen reported that the cleaning and camera inspection costs would increase to \$97,000 this year due to the cleaning of the largest zone. He explained that this cost would fluctuate over the next three years based on the areas being cleaned.

Regarding stormwater, Mr. Allen proposed increasing the street sweeping budget due to a 40% increase in contractor costs. He suggested purchasing a used street sweeper for around \$80,000, which would pay for itself in less than four years and provide more flexibility in cleaning schedules. Council Member Wright expressed concern about the staff time required to operate the street sweeper. Mr. Allen acknowledged this and shared that he felt that the time needed to street sweep would not take away from other work that needs to be done. Council Member Blake Ostler asked several questions about the street sweeper, including its age, expected useful life, and warranty options. Mr. Allen provided information on these points and mentioned that an independent mechanic could potentially inspect the equipment before purchase.

Mr. Allen also noted that he wanted to keep \$23,000 in the detention pond fund to continue improvements.

For the streets department, Mr. Allen reported that he has been working with Jones and Associates with the StreetLogix software and a 5-year plan has been created. He noted that some projects have been delayed due to work on 1200 West and mentioned that 425 West will need to be redone due to a water leak during winter. He added that they will also be seal coating the subdivisions that have been completed in the last 3-4 years.

He reported that there would be approximately \$800,000 available annually for road maintenance projects. Mr. Allen shared some details on the different steps and products for sealing the roads. He mentioned that some projects planned for the current fiscal year might roll over into the next year due to timing constraints.

Allen then discussed the water department's budget, highlighting several achievements and proposals:

- The city's pressure system has been fully regulated, leading to fewer main breaks and better chlorine regulation.
- Water loss has been reduced from 50% to 30% over the past few years, largely due to replacing faulty water meters.
- Mr. Allen proposed increasing the meter budget to \$60,000 to accelerate the replacement of the remaining faulty meters.
- He reported on the successful drilling of Well 5, which will provide a significant water source for the city.
- Allen mentioned the installation of generators at two main water sources to improve emergency preparedness.
- He noted an increase in utility costs for water pumping and explained efforts to mitigate these costs.

Lastly, Mr. Allen proposed hiring seasonal employees to assist with various maintenance tasks during peak months. He estimated the cost at around \$8,082 plus workers' compensation.

B. Legislative Update

City Administrator Bob Barnhill provided an update on recent legislative changes affecting the city. He highlighted House Bill 355, which concerns critical infrastructure (gravel pits). Mr. Barnhill explained that this bill allows gravel pit owners to expand their operations onto contiguous land without local government approval.

Mr. Barnhill showed a map of the Geneva gravel pit in Perry and expressed concern about the potential for significant expansion without city oversight. He suggested reaching out to the local senator, Scott Sandall, who sponsored the bill, to discuss its implications for the community.

Mayor Jeppsen mentioned the possibility of working with Geneva to create conservation easements or other protective measures for the area. Council members discussed the need for further action and awareness regarding this legislation.

ITEM 4: MINUTES & COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORTS (INCLUDING COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS)

A. Approval of Consent Items

- April 10, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Council Member Wright made a motion to approve the consent items. Council Member Young seconded.

All Council Members were in favor.

Motion Approved.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor Jeppsen reported that the fence project at the gun range had finally started and would likely continue throughout the summer.

C. Council Reports

Council Member Ostler inquired about the timeline for budget review and approval. City Recorder Shanna Johnson provided details on upcoming deadlines and meetings related to the budget process.

Council members discussed the need for a work session to review and discuss the budget proposals in more detail. They agreed to schedule a work session for May 15th.

Council Member Tueller expressed willingness to participate in additional work sessions to discuss the budget proposals.

D. Staff Comments

Ms. Johnson reported on the following items:

- The first Fourth of July committee meeting was held, with a good turnout. Some positions still need to be filled, including the hamburger stand and games coordinator.
- She mentioned upcoming changes to election procedures, including the requirement for mail-in ballots to be received by 8 PM on election day (a post mark will no longer qualify).
- Ms. Johnson announced that the tourism board had awarded \$48,000 to the mountain bike trail project, crediting Council Member Walker for his efforts.

E. Planning Commission Report

None

ITEM 5: CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

ITEM 6: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Approved. All Council Members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Kevin Jeppsen, Mayor

Shanna Johnson, City Recorder

Misty Moesser, Deputy Recorder