

PERRY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PERRY CITY OFFICES
May 8, 2025

7:01 PM

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Jeppsen, Council Member Nathan Tueller, Council Member Toby Wright, Council Member Ashley Young, Council Member Dave Walker, and Council Member Blake Ostler

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Roberts

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: PRESENTATION

A. Utopia Annual Update

Jason Roberts presented an update on Utopia Fiber. He explained that Utopia Fiber started in 2002 with 11 founding member cities to build a fiber optic system for internet access. Since then, 14 additional cities have joined. He noted that Idaho Falls and Bountiful issued their own bonds for their networks.

He discussed Utopia's accomplishments, including being the largest open access network in the U.S. with 19 providers and offering the fastest speeds. He highlighted their high customer satisfaction ratings and awards received.

Mr. Roberts presented financial information, showing Utopia and UIA's monthly revenues approaching \$5 million combined. He noted that most new customers come through UIA due to its funding structure established in 2010.

For Perry specifically, Mr. Roberts reported that fiber is now available to about 1,800 addresses, up from around 1,450 ten years ago. Perry recently passed 1,000 subscribers.

Council Member Ostler asked about the financial structure differences between Utopia and UIA cities. Mr. Roberts explained that UIA was formed as a funding agency to separate from Utopia's credit issues at the time.

Mayor Jeppsen inquired if other agencies operate similarly in terms of cities being unable to leave without approval. Mr. Roberts acknowledged it was set up legislatively and operates differently than other districts.

Council members expressed some concerns about the lack of direct representation on the Utopia board despite paying into it. They discussed potential legal options if needed to address this in the future.

B. CWPP Training

Tabled.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Resolution 25-05 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment

The public hearing was opened at 7:38PM.

No public comments were made.

The public hearing was closed at 7:38PM.

ITEM 5: ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution 2025-05 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment

Financial Director Shanna Johnson presented the proposed budget amendment. She explained adjustments to revenues, including accounting for the Class C Road Funds for the 1200 West project and changes to RDA tax increment. The amendment appropriates \$43,677 in revenue, with \$40,000 going to the streets department for a street sweeper purchase and the remaining funds adjusting transfers between funds.

Public Works Director Zach Allen provided additional details on the street sweeper purchase, noting it would pay for itself in about 4 years compared to contracting out the service. He explained it would allow for more frequent street cleaning and maintenance of city facilities.

MOTION: Council Member Ostler made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment. Council Member Tueller seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Walker, Yes
Council Member Ostler, Yes

Council Member Wright, Yes
Council Member Tueller, Yes
Council Member Young, Yes

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No

B. Resolution 2025-07 Removal from the Bear River Water Conservancy District

City Administrator Bob Barnhill presented Resolution 2025-07, requesting the removal of Perry City from the Bear River Water Conservancy District. He explained that Perry residents have paid about \$1.5 million to the district over 30 years but have not received direct benefits or capital projects in return. The resolution would ask the district's board to consider removing Perry from the district.

Council members discussed potential impacts and expressed support for the resolution. Inquiries were made about why the City could not just leave. City Attorney Bill Morris explained that the Conservancy is a special district, therefore the City is required to ask to be let out. He encouraged going to the Legislature to allow representation or an exit strategy. Mayor Jeppsen noted that Brigham City recently passed a similar resolution and suggested Perry's chances of approval may depend on how Brigham City's request progresses.

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07 Removal from the Bear River Water Conservancy District. Council Member Wright seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Walker, Yes
Council Member Ostler, Yes
Council Member Wright, Yes
Council Member Tueller, Yes
Council Member Young, Yes

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No

C. Resolution 2025-08 Moderate Income Housing

Tabled.

ITEM 6: Discussion Items

A. FY2025-2026 Budget Proposals

The following departmental budget proposals were presented:

First Responders: Assistant Chief Monica Taylor requested small increases for building maintenance, equipment supplies, and communications equipment. The council discussed potentially setting aside funds annually for future equipment replacement.

Administration: Ms. Johnson noted a total budget reduction due to a grant moving to the capital project fund. Increases were proposed for building maintenance, elections, and professional/technical services.

Community Development: The budget is reducing due to completion of a contract. Small increases were proposed for holiday events and recognition.

Fire and Animal Control: The fire services contract with Brigham City will increase by \$88,000 to \$125,000 total. For animal control, \$3,250 was budgeted for potential animal boarding needs as the current contract is ending.

Gun Range: Small increases were requested for grounds maintenance, targets, and portable restroom costs.

Wastewater Treatment: Increases were noted for supplies and equipment, with Council Member Nathan Tueller explaining the rising costs of necessary replacement parts.

Ms. Johnson announced a budget work session scheduled for May 15th at 6:30 PM to further discuss the proposals

ITEM 7: MINUTES & COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORTS (INCLUDING COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS)

A. Approval of Consent Items

- April 24, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

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

All Council Members were in favor.

Motion Approved.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor Jeppsen reported on a meeting with Brigham City's mayor and city administrator regarding changes to the fire marshal situation. He noted it would likely result in increased costs for Perry, though exact details were still being determined.

C. Council Reports

None

D. Staff Comments

None

E. Planning Commission Report

None

ITEM 8: CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion to close the public session and open the closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Council Member Wright seconded the motion.

Executive Session opened at 8:51PM.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Wright, Yes
Council Member Tueller, Yes
Council Member Ostler, Yes
Council Member Walker, Yes
Council Member Young, Yes

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No.

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion at 8:56PM to close the closed session and move back into the public meeting. Council Member Wright seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Wright, Yes
Council Member Tueller, Yes
Council Member Ostler, Yes
Council Member Walker, Yes
Council Member Young, Yes

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No.

ITEM 9: OTHER ACTION

A. Possible Action on Staffing Policy Exception

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion to approve the Staffing Policy Exception discussed in the Closed Session. Council Member Wright seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Wright, Yes
Council Member Tueller, Yes
Council Member Ostler, Yes
Council Member Walker, Yes
Council Member Young, Yes

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Approved. All Council Members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58PM.

Kevin Jeppsen, Mayor

Shanna Johnson, City Recorder

Misty Moesser, Deputy Recorder