

PERRY CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
WORK SESSION
PERRY CITY OFFICES
February 7, 2026

8:07 AM

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

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Bob Barnhill, City Recorder/Financial Director Shanna Johnson and Chief Scott Hancey

OTHERS PRESENT: Melanie Barnhill (online)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Jeppsen welcomed council members and staff and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Public Safety

Chief Scott Hancey presented a proposal regarding a potential unification of police departments between Perry, Tremonton, and Garland through an interlocal agreement. The proposed unification would combine the departments under one banner, allowing for more comprehensive public safety services while minimizing cost increases compared to hiring additional officers directly.

Chief Hancey explained that for Perry to properly staff their department to meet current needs, they would need four additional officers at a cost of approximately \$520,000. In contrast, joining with Tremonton and Garland would cost approximately \$98,000 while providing increased service levels, including:

- Increasing patrol coverage from one officer to two officers
- Access to specialized units like investigations, K-9, and SWAT teams
- Better opportunities for officer career advancement

Council members raised questions about the logistics of the agreement, with concerns about ensuring Perry's specific needs would be met. Chief Hancey clarified that officers would be assigned to Perry and remain in Perry, not constantly traveling between cities except for major incidents.

He shared that during the pilot period, each city would fund their respective departments, but officer pay scales would be equalized. After the pilot period, the cities would create a board of elected officials to oversee the department. The council discussed potentially sharing

administrative costs for the top three positions rather than just the chief position as originally proposed.

Some council members noted online criticism of the proposal, including concerns from a sheriff candidate and a highway patrolman. Chief Hancey addressed these concerns, explaining that much of the criticism stems from confusion with the failed Salt Lake County unification model, which was much larger in scope and had different governance issues.

The council agreed to schedule a town hall meeting on February 19th to gather public input before making a decision at the February 26th council meeting.

Chief Hancey also provided an update on the dispatch service transition that occurred on February 2nd. He reported that the transition went smoothly with 911 and non-emergency lines working properly. He noted they would monitor several metrics to measure success, including response times and proper routing of calls.

B. Projects Update

Bob Barnhill provided updates on several ongoing city projects:

1. 1200 West Road and Trail project (Historic Orchard Pathway): Construction is continuing with a new deadline of approximately June 1st with liquidated damages if not completed.
2. Mountain View Park: Upgrades to play equipment have been completed, and trails are moving forward with funding, design, and contractor in place.
3. Nelson Well: The well has been drilled, and construction of the pump house and chlorinator is underway.
4. Well generators: These have been installed using grant money, with final gas connections pending.
5. Highway 89 and Parks Master Plans: Both were completed over the past year, primarily using grant funding.

Mr. Barnhill also reported that the bike park construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of May for phase 1, with concept design for phase 2 expected by March 13th. He noted they've applied for a Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant for future phases.

The Council discussed several road connectivity projects that remain priorities, including connecting Chateau Drive to improve east-side connectivity and a connection near the Highway Patrol building. These projects face funding and property acquisition challenges.

There was discussion about a UDOT-approved traffic light at 2700, which would allow for a pedestrian crossing. The city needs to work on property acquisition and road alignment to facilitate this project.

C. Community Service Progress Review

City Recorder Shanna Johnson presented a review of the 2016 community survey results and the Council's progress on addressing community priorities. The top priorities from the survey included:

1. Availability of clean water - Addressed through the Nelson Well project
2. Safety features on Highway 89 - Addressed through the Highway 89 Master Plan
3. Well-maintained roads - Significant progress with increased funding
4. Bike lanes and connecting trails - In progress with the Historic Orchard Pathway and other trails
5. Parks and green spaces - Ongoing improvements including Mountain View Park

The Council discussed the possibility of conducting a new survey to gauge current community priorities. They noted that as the current general plan was completed in 2018, and it would soon be time to begin work on an update.

D. Team Building

No formal team-building activity was conducted during this segment; the group agreed to incorporate interactive elements such as a facilitated discussion or icebreaker into future retreats.

E. 2026 Priorities

The Council discussed their priorities for 2026, deciding to focus on:

1. Public Safety (including police unification and fire services)
2. Business and Economic Development (attracting new businesses to Perry)
3. Road Connections and Crossings
4. Parks and Trails
5. Citizen Affordability (reviewing budgets and ensuring efficient use of funds)
6. Gun Range Improvements

For economic development, Council Member Tueller suggested forming a committee to proactively attract businesses to Perry, especially with new residential development occurring that could help attract larger retailers.

Regarding affordability, the Council discussed the need to review department budgets more realistically and encourage departments to identify potential savings rather than automatically requesting increases each year. Council Member Ostler emphasized the importance of continuing to invest in quality staff while seeking efficiencies.

F. Other Discussion

Council Member Ostler presented ideas for modernizing the city's website, including:

1. Adding an AI-powered chatbot to help residents find information quickly
2. Creating financial dashboards for transparency
3. Simplifying navigation and design

Ms. Johnson noted that city staff had been exploring website updates, and the Council was receptive to pursuing improvements. Mr. Ostler offered to donate time to help develop the new website with professional oversight.

Mayor Jeppsen provided an update on the gun range, reporting that they had negotiated a new \$24,000 contract with the Air Force. Additionally, the Air Force has offered \$5,000 to address mud issues at the facility. The city is coordinating with contractors to survey the area and determine what improvements can be made.

ITEM 3: EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion to close the public meeting and open a closed session to discuss strategy regarding pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Council Member Wright seconded the motion.

Closed Session opened at 11:22AM.

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

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No.

MOTION: Council Member Tueller made a motion at 11:56AM to close the closed session and move back into the public meeting. Council Member Walker seconded the motion.

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

Motion Approved. 5 Yes, 0 No.

ITEM 4: ACTION ITEM

A. Possible Action to Grant an Exception to Perry City Policy & Procedure 12.C

The action item was tabled.

ITEM 5: ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Approved. All Council Members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56AM.

Kevin Jepps, Mayor

Shanna Johnson, City Recorder

Misty Moesser, Deputy Recorder