

PERRY CITY TOWN HALL

PERRY CITY OFFICES

February 19, 2026

6:59 PM

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Recorder/Finance Director Shanna Johnson, City Administrator Bob Barnhill, Chief Scott Hancey, Public Works Director Zach Allen, Sergeant Dave Freeze and Deputy Recorder Misty Moesser

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephanie Quintero, Jim Morris, Jill Jeppsen, Kim Barnard, Tom Murdock, Heidi Murdock, Aaron Nielsen, Brandon Doyle, Rachel Buechele, Koryann Freeze, Danny Driggs, Anna Ostler, Abbi Ostler and Mandi Shupe

ON-LINE: None

### **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kevin Jeppsen called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He noted that the town hall was convened specifically to gather public input on the proposed unification of the Perry City Police Department with the Tremonton and Garland Police Departments. He clarified that all discussion should remain focused on that topic, and that a presentation from Chief Hancey would precede public comment. He also indicated that both police chiefs and council members would be available to respond to questions.

### **ITEM 2: PRESENTATION**

#### **A. Possible Pilot Program to Explore Police Unification with Tremonton City**

Perry City Police Chief Scott Hancey delivered a presentation on the proposed unification, framing the discussion around two core problems: rapidly growing demand on public safety services and rapidly increasing costs. He noted that a single officer costs the city approximately \$130,000 per year at minimum, covering wages, insurance, vehicles, and fuel.

Chief Hancey presented a five-year case count trend showing a steady increase in total calls and crime in Perry. He emphasized that Perry's officers handle a significantly higher caseload per patrol officer than the county average, largely due to the department's commitment to proactive policing. He also presented growth data showing 179 homes currently approved for construction and an additional 401 units pending approval — totaling approximately 580 new rooftops representing roughly a 23% increase over the city's current estimated 1,800 rooftops.

Chief Hancey outlined the proposed solution: an interlocal agreement (ILA) entering a pilot period of slightly over one year with Tremonton and Garland. He explained that during this period, a range of

metrics would be measured, including officer availability, detective caseload, case clearance rates, sick leave, injuries, turnover rates, and response times. Results would be reported to the respective city councils on a monthly or quarterly basis. He stressed that the agreement is structured so that any city can withdraw if the pilot is not working.

On staffing, Chief Hancey presented a minimum staffing comparison showing that Perry currently maintains one officer per shift, while Tremonton maintains three. Under the proposed unification, Perry would have two officers assigned per shift and Tremonton would have four — effectively doubling Perry's on-duty coverage. He clarified emphatically that assigned officers would remain in their respective cities and would not routinely travel between Perry and Tremonton; mutual aid movement would only occur in extraordinary circumstances, as it already does under existing informal arrangements.

Three options were presented for the council's consideration:

**Option 1 — Unification:** Enter the interlocal agreement at an estimated additional cost of approximately \$98,000 per year to align Perry City officer pay with Tremonton's pay scale. Chief Hancey noted this was the most cost-effective path forward, providing expanded resources, access to specialty units (SWAT, canine, school resource officer expertise, expanded investigations), improved officer retention through career advancement opportunities, and doubled patrol coverage.

**Option 2 — Hire Additional Officers Independently:** Hire two or more officers and set a staffing goal independently. Chief Hancey cautioned this would be an escalating year-over-year cost burden, and that two officers alone would be insufficient to address the city's growing needs.

**Option 3 — Do Nothing:** Maintain the status quo. Chief Hancey warned this would negatively affect officer resilience, morale, and retention, and would ultimately compromise the department's ability to remain proactive rather than purely reactive.

Tremonton/Garland Police Chief Dustin Cordova was also present and indicated he would respond to questions as they arose. Mayor Jeppsen added context, noting that the proposal emerged organically from an existing positive working relationship between the two departments rather than from a top-down mandate, which he believed gave it the best chance for success.

### **ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPLORE POLICE UNIFICATION WITH TREMONTON CITY**

Mayor Jeppsen opened the floor for public comment.

**Jim Morris** expressed support of the unification and strong support for the Perry City Police Department and emphasized the importance of maintaining Perry's community-oriented policing presence, particularly at local schools.

**Heidi Murdock** raised financial concerns regarding the cost comparison between options and questioned how combining two departments would immediately improve staffing. She expressed concerns about the cost, coverage, and whether Brigham City would enter into the unification at a later date.

**Danny Driggs** supported increasing officer pay and asked about the possibility of contracting with the county sheriff; it was noted that this option had previously been explored through Garland City and found to be more costly.

**Stephanie Quintero** expressed concern about potential cultural shifts and the difficulty of reversing consolidation after a trial period. Officials reiterated that the one-year pilot allows the city to evaluate outcomes before making a permanent decision. She expressed concern about Perry receiving the same service level as Tremonton and about Perry losing resources.

**Aaron Neilsen** questioned the need for a formal agreement rather than continuing mutual aid and suggested simply raising wages. He shared experiences with mutual aid concerning responses to his business. The chiefs explained that guaranteed staffing and career development opportunities that would be available with an ILA would support both officer safety and retention.

**Kim Barnard** voiced concerns about the proposed change in leadership structure and officer familiarity with Perry. She also shared concern with the new officers finding addresses in Perry. The chiefs explained that local representation would remain in leadership and that officers would be assigned by jurisdiction.

**Brandon Doyle** asked clarifying questions regarding workload data, pilot metrics, and risk exposure. He shared concerns with resource allocation. The chiefs confirmed that response times and other performance data would be tracked and reported throughout the pilot.

**Council Member Young** asked about investigative resources and school resource officer access and later expressed appreciation for the evident community pride in the Perry Police Department.

**Tom Murdock** questioned whether geographic distance between cities would limit effectiveness and asked about SWAT structure. The chiefs emphasized guaranteed two-officer coverage in Perry and noted regional resource discussions are ongoing.

Council members reiterated that no decision has been made and that public input will factor into the Council's final determination.

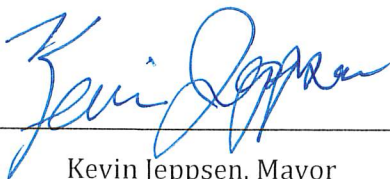
Mayor Jeppsen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and his appreciation to those that shared their questions and concerns.

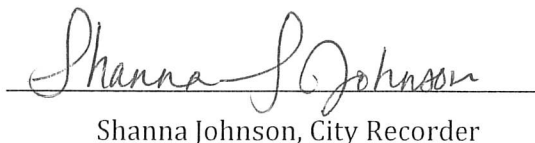
#### **ITEM 4: ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion Approved. All Council Members were in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

  
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Kevin Jeppsen, Mayor

  
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Shanna Johnson, City Recorder

Misty M. Moesser  
Misty Moesser, Deputy Recorder