MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 5:38p.m. in the Clarion Room of the Security Bank Building, 1102 Willis Avenue, Perry Iowa. This meeting was also held electronically via a Zoom virtual meeting, meeting ID 835 3554 0623. This meeting was recorded and public access to the virtual meeting was obtainable and published with the agenda and summary.

Council members present were: Mahler, Wolling, Klein, Andorf
Absent: Shelly
A quorum was present to conduct business.

Staff members present:
City Clerk, Elizabeth Hix
Finance Officer, Susie Moorhead
City Administrator, Sven Peterson
City Attorney Alternate, Nick Spellman
Police Chief, Jim Archer
Public Works Director, Josh Wuebker
Parks and Recreation Director, John Anderson
Aquatics Coordinator, Ben Fleming
Library Director, Misty Von Behren
Marketing and Engagement Coordinator, Chris Cohea
Bolton & Menk Engineer, Jacob Ahrens

Motion Wolling Second Klein to approve the meeting agenda. MCU

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Levy FY2027 Budget: Per Iowa HF718 cities are required to hold a public hearing on the consolidated general fund tax levy, during its own meeting, where any resident or taxpayer of the City may present to the City Council objections or arguments in favor of the tax dollars before the budget is adopted and certified to the County Auditor. The City of Perry published and posted the notice of the public hearing as required. The City Council of the City of Perry held such a hearing to receive public comment on the proposed property tax levy. Mayor Cavanaugh opened the public hearing at 5:39pm. Finance Officer, Susie Moorhead, reviewed the publication for the proposed property tax levy hearing and explained what it, and the recent proposed property tax mailer from the County, was trying to show and compare between the current year's levy rate of $17.92583 and the proposed rate for FY2027 of $17.91073. Susie detailed prior year max levy rates and the effect growth in taxable valuation had on the max rates and how such max rates had impacted prior year budgets and the proposed budget. Details of the requirements of this hearing and other budget items were also discussed. Councilmember Klein inquired on the increase for the FICA & IPERS section of the publication and Susie stated that the prior year some portions of IPERS had been included in the other employee benefits column and that in the proposed budget those amounts had been returned to the FICA & IPERS column. It was stated that the figure was in line with the proposed wage increases as well. Jim Caufield with ThePerryNews.com asked what the States rationale behind the growth caps was and what it was they were trying to achieve from imposing such caps. City Administrator, Sven Peterson, stated it was a way for the State to ratchet down on levies, because with growth, you have an increase in

total valuation, but Sven added that the growth would still require public services. Caufield also asked what accounts for increase in taxable valuation, and Sven stated it could be natural increases in assessments, which were market based new home and commercial growth, along with renovations to current stock. Sven again provided details on the growth cap and stated that some reassessment years alone could account for a 3-4% increase, with the Mayor detailing the current fiscal year growth being over by .04% limiting property tax revenue for the budget by roughly $80,000. With no further public comments or input, and no further discussion Mayor Cavanaugh closed the hearing at 5:51pm.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct Mayor Cavanaugh adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

_____
Dirk Cavanaugh, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Elizabeth Hix, City Clerk

Clerk's Certification

Date Published: April 16, 2026

Certified By: _____
Elizabeth Hix, City Clerk