

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2026**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Cory Filley (CF), Gale Garner (GG), Brad Harth (BH) and Paul Brockman (PB). Auditor Kristinia Hammack was also present. There was no *Sheriff, Attorney* or *News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

DE made the motion to accept as amended, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Charles Baumeister, Perry County Animal Welfare  
Baumeister appeared as the Chairperson of the Perry County Animal Welfare Board. Several months ago, the Council was notified that they have a position on the board. Baumeister wanted to explain that, as he did not know if everyone was aware, the board changed that ordinance. At one time, there were five members; now they have seven. This consists of a representative of Troy, one from Tell city, one from Cannelton, two by the Commissioners, and two by the Council. In the old ordinance, people had to be involved with some sort of animal welfare. That requirement has been taken out, which opens this up to any resident in the county.  
Baumeister stated that they have six members, and are requesting that seventh. Baumeister stated that he has been told that letters have been sent in, however, he does not know that for a fact. Kelli responded that they have received any. She added that if they do, the Council will move on it. Baumeister added that the only requirement to be on the board is that the person has to be a resident of Perry County. Kelli stated that it is currently being advertised that the individual has to be a member of an ag/animal organization, which needs to be updated on the website.
- b) Jim Carter, Perry County Animal Welfare  
Carter stated that last October, he appeared before the Commissioners multiple times to attempt to convince them that because of the restraints and constraints, they have very little money to work with; the Animal Control board has zero money to work with.  
Carter stated that the Commissioners advised him personally to try to switch to, instead of the County or government funding, organizations to try to find a way to fund. The Humane Society has been working with the Animal Control board, as well as the shelter. Between the three organizations, they are trying to figure out how to raise funds. They are specifically trying to find funds for the cat population problem. Spay and neuter is the goal for as many as possible.  
Carter stated that on May 17<sup>th</sup>, there is a spay and neuter clinic, in coordination with the State, and have put approximately 25% of their annual budget that could possibly go towards this. The Humane Society pays \$50 towards any Perry County resident that has a cat that needs to be spayed or neutered., up to three cats. Kelli asked if this is based on income, and Carter responded that the State does based on income where they give a portion of what they need. However, people still do not hardly have enough money.  
Carter stated that with the amount the Humane Society contributes to the spay and neuter, they could do possibly 100 cats, which is \$5,000. That amount is 25% of their annual budget.  
Carter stated that for the Humane Society to be able to come up with funds, they are pushing for membership. Any interested individual is asked to become a member of the Humane Society.  
Carter mentioned that he has been trying to set up a fund in the County that the Animal Welfare Ordinance references. Kelli stated that she assumed that fund would be to accept donations. Auditor Hammack responded that it was never a fund, it was all done out of General as a line item. Kelli asked Carter if the Humane Society and the Animal Shelter are not willing to be the keeper of those funds, and Carter responded that they are.

Kelli stated there was confusion as to why Carter was seeking a County fund, and he responded that these organizations are working with the Animal Control board, which is a County entity. Kelli stated she does not feel it is the County's responsibility to go out and ask for donations. The County already taxes people enough, and does not feel the County should be lobbying for donations. Carter responded that they would like the Animal Control board to oversee donations, which is a County organization. In addition, that board would be the one to oversee the spay and neuter clinics and the TNR (trap and release) program that they are trying to create. Kelli asked Carter if they have checked with the County attorney to make sure this is legal, and Carter responded he has asked the questions and nobody has given any answers.

Baumeister stated the reason he wanted the County out of this was he wanted to go to the shelter or Humane Society, and as the Animal Welfare board, they are going to promote donations to those organizations. They will need that money when they need it, not being able to wait for weeks or months. Baumeister stated that this is nothing illegal, they are just asking for donations be made to the shelter for the TNR program. Carter stated he still feels it is very important that the Animal Control board oversees this.

Kelli stated she will contact the Council's legal attorney to get information for Carter, and stated she would need him present with her.

c) Traci Vinet

Vinet read a statement regarding her separation and termination from the County Clerk's office.

**JOAN HESS, CLERK**

a) Request to fill vacancy

Hess appeared seeking permission to advertise and fill an opening in the Clerk's office. Kelli stated that on advice from the Council attorney, they were asked to table this request at this time. BH stated that he thought any action at this point and time was inappropriate until the Council learns information, facts, and made sure the Council had all the legal information necessary to make a proper decision.

BH made a motion to table as recommended by the Council attorney, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

**LUCY GOFFINET, JUDGE**

a) Goffinet stated that the part-time drug field tester found a full-time job, and she appeared to fill that position. This position is paid for out of SAPS; no County tax dollars pay that position.

Kelli stated that this position is something that is required.

DE made a motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 6-0.

**MINUTES**

a) 02.09.2026

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.

b) 02.26.2026

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 5-0-1 (Kelli abstained).

c) 03.05.2026

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 5-0-1 (BP abstained).

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

a) Appropriation Transfer Request

Planning and Zoning (New fund created in November)

Hammack stated that in budget, these line items came out of General, however, in November a new fund was set up for the Planning and Zoning revenue from building permits. Appropriation will be moved to pay out of the new fund.

- FROM: 1000.11102.00000.0101 Board Members \$810.00
- TO: 4911.11102.00000.0101 Board Members \$810.00

CF made a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.

- FROM: 1000.12100.00000.0101 Social Security \$ 62.00
- TO: 4911.12100.00000.0101 Social Security \$ 62.00

PB made a motion to approve, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.

- FROM: 1000.21000.00000.0101 Office Supplies \$275.00
- TO: 4911.21000.00000.0101 Office Supplies \$275.00

DE made a motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 6-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) Letter of Support for OCRA – Cannelton Water System Grant

Kelli stated she has spoken to the gentleman who will be helping Cannelton with this.

Kelli drafted a letter of support for this project. She added she felt it would help with the grant application.

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Open Board Appointment

- Kelli Stated that the Animal Welfare board will be updated to remove the animal affiliation and will be put back out on the website. CF asked if it is still a it is a four-year term., and Baumeister responded starting out he believes is three years, and once they complete that, if reappointed, it is four years. Kelli stated that the County will have to confirm with the Ordinance.
- Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals  
There is one appointment open. Kelli asked what political affiliation does this appointment need to be? Hammack stated that currently there are two Republicans, one Independent, and one Democrat. Kelli stated that there cannot be a simple majority; no more than three of one party. This opening can be Independent, Democrat, or Republican. The website guides an individual to the Indiana Code for more information on this board.  
Kelli stated that is anyone is interested, send in the letters of interest to the Auditor's office.

**RON GIBSON, JAIL COMMANDER**

BH stated that Gibson has asked that the per diem fee that the County is allowed to charge was allowed is listed in an Ordinance that was passed. That Ordinance is referred to as OC-12-4, and per the publication that was provided to the Council, under IC 33-110. Previously the Council has it listed at \$30 multiplied by each part of the day that the person is lawfully detained under IC 35-33-11-3 for more than six hours.

BH stated that the new standard for the State is \$42. Gibson has asked that the Council raise the per diem fee from the current \$30 to \$42 per day. BH added that money does not come out of County funds; it comes out of part of the sentencing.

BH stated that given the Council was provided this information, it seemed cut and dry to him, and would like to see action taken at this meeting.

Auditor Hammack stated that Council Attorney Rod Acchiardo would need to prepare an amendment to the original Ordinance, as the original was in 1998, and was changed in 2012 to the \$30.

BH made a motion to change the per diem fee that can be charged to people who meet the other criteria in the Ordinance, to be changed from \$30 to the State recommended \$42 per day, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

There is a Special County Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The next Regular County Council meeting will be on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Annex.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m. CST.

PB made a motion to adjourn, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2026.

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President, Perry County Council

*Minutes reviewed by:*

*Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor*

*Minutes prepared by:*

*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*