

City of Perryville
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2026

The city of Perryville held a special council meeting at City Hall at 7:00 PM.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance to Flag, and Prayer by Mayor Kernodle.

Roll call conducted. Present were Councilmembers Edwards, Caldwell, Reed, Simpson. Council members Rita Bailey and Steve Bailey were absent. Quorum determined. City Clerk Mona Followell and Counselor Jordan Shewmaker also present.

Routine Business:

Motion made by Councilperson Caldwell, second by Councilperson Simpson to accept minutes from the February meeting. Motion carried.

Financial report approved upon motion by Councilperson Simpson, second by Councilperson Caldwell, and unanimously passed.

Councilperson Reed moved to pay pending bills. Second by Councilperson Caldwell and unanimously passed.

Reports:

Main Street Director Aly Huff was not present but left a monthly report. Permission requested to relocate and install a donated covered wood pavilion on the lot adjacent to Grill House on Merchants Row. An individual has offered to move and reconstruct said structure at no cost. Councilperson Simpson expressed concern over the structure being oversized for the space. Counselor Shewmaker advised clarification of property boundaries and cautioned against encroachment upon the neighboring Tucker property. Motion made by Councilperson Simpson, second by Councilperson Caldwell, and unanimously passed, to table the item. The report also included drawings for the Perryville welcome signs. Council choice was the one containing the cannon.

Fire report presented by Chief Stevens. Mayor Kernodle asked about costs for recent storm standby. The firefighters' time was presented to the City Clerk and submitted to the Emergency Management Director, for possible reimbursement due to the state's emergency declaration.

Chief Hatter presented a Police report and ABC report.

Old Business:

Mayor Kernodle has contacted Republic about a trash receptacle near the steps at the Merchants Row boardwalk and is awaiting a response.

Councilperson Reed was asked by a citizen about streaming council meetings. Mayor Kernodle reminded the group of previous complications regarding audio and buffering and reminded the group that the city no longer has the equipment nor staff. Counselor Shewmaker has also received an inquiry about remote participation and stated there are legal and statutory guidelines which must be followed, as well as infrastructure and host concerns because the city website is not functional. Councilperson Simpson asked about videoing meetings and posting later to

Facebook. Shewmaker thinks that to be a good creative solution and agreed to check legality and compliance with open meeting requirements.

Counselor Shewmaker has read the Statewide Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement and explained his understanding of section IV, pertaining to available resources. He and EM Director Brian Caldwell interpret it to mean that if emergency funding is obtained, those entities rendering aid are also entitled to recover their related costs. Upon motion of Councilperson Caldwell, second by Councilperson Reed, and unanimously passed, Mayor Kernodle was authorized to enter into the Statewide Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement on the City's behalf.

County collection of property taxes was brought off the table upon motion by Councilperson Simpson, second by Councilperson Edwards, and unanimously passed. Councilperson Caldwell asked whether the city taxes will be inclusive with the county taxes. Mayor Kernodle explained the tax will be inclusive but itemized separately, and payable simultaneously to the Sheriff's office. He further explained payment for the amount collected, less the three percent commission, will be issued monthly from the Sheriff's office. Mayor reiterated the fact that the County offers full-time hours for paying taxes, whereas the City offers only part-time. Counselor Shewmaker again explained the collection process for delinquent taxes. He and the City Clerk file liens which stay with the property, but legal action cannot be initiated until a one-year wait. Thereafter, delinquent taxes are sold through a tax sale and purchasing entities may then initiate foreclosure. Shewmaker emphasized the importance of accurate record keeping because any lien information and action rely on the City Clerk's bookkeeping. The City Clerk reiterated the importance of accurate record keeping and stated embarrassment when explaining a delayed response to title search companies. Councilperson Simpson made a motion to enter into agreement with the Sheriff to collect city property taxes. Councilperson Edwards seconded. Motion carried 3-1, with Councilperson Caldwell opposing.

New Business:

None

Open Forum:

Magisterial candidate Matthew Ellis was in attendance and expressed appreciation to the council for the recent agreement regarding joint ownership of the fire truck, stating the city and county will both benefit.

Magisterial candidate William Rayens was in attendance and believes the County tax collection is a good move that will ease some burden on the City.

This concluding the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm, upon motion by Councilperson Caldwell, second by Councilperson Reed, and passed.