



**Where Georgia comes together.**

Minutes

Perry Youth Advisory Council  
808 Carroll Street  
December 12, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Madisyn Gonzalez called to order the Perry Youth Advisory Council held on December 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll.

Elected Officials Present: Council Member Robert Jones

Youth Advisory Council Members Present: Tia Walker, Chloe Shelton, Madisyn Gonzalez, Rylee Arbogast, Sawan Patel, Davis Smith.

Youth Advisory Council Members Absent: Mary Blake Brannen

City Staff: Amber Howell – Communications Specialist

3. Guests/Speakers:

- a. Welcome – Council Member Jones
  - i. Council Member Jones welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced the topics of discussion for the meeting.

4. New Business.

- a. Discussion of The Perry Brand:

Council Member Jones reflected on the Perry brand, recalling how, when he first joined the City Council 10 years ago, the Council had a vision to rebrand the city with the tagline “Where Georgia Comes Together”, and what that means. Mrs. Howell then presented a PowerPoint on The Perry Brand, emphasizing the goal that the brand represents a promise of a unique



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experience and feeling found within the community. She highlighted the importance of all City of Perry employees, board members, and council members sharing a unified vision to foster an exceptional environment where people are eager to live, and explained why cohesive branding across the board is critical.

b. Discussion of the proposed Orchard on Keith Drive and Main Street:

Council Member Jones provided a detailed overview of the history of the plat, which was first presented to City Council over a year ago, and explained its progression since then. He outlined the zoning specifications, focusing on the differences between R-3 and R-1, to provide context for the Youth Council Members. Following his explanation, the Youth Council engaged in a discussion about the potential implications of an R-3 development on this piece of land.

Youth Council Member Chloe Shelton voiced concerns about the aesthetic quality of such a development, suggesting it might not align with the standards expected for the Perry community. She also raised the issue of overcrowded schools in the area, which could result from the density of an R-3 development. Youth Council Member Davis Smith added concerns about the impact on agriculture, expressing his personal attachment to the scenic land and stressing the importance of avoiding overcrowding in this area, citing insufficient space for this number of houses.

Vice Chairman Rylee Arbogast questioned Council Member Jones on the potential benefits of the development for Perry. In response, Council Member Jones explained that the project would provide affordable housing options for prospective homeowners, increase tax revenues to fund amenities such as recreational parks, and attract high-quality businesses and restaurants to the



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area. Chairman Gonzalez, however, pointed to the ongoing development on Perimeter Road, suggesting that additional projects like the one proposed for Keith Drive and Main Street might not be necessary. Council Member Jones clarified that the land on Perimeter Road was already zoned for development of this nature, and the proposed project was not subject to consideration by Perry City Council.

Council Member Jones explained that while the original R-3 zoning proposal for Keith Drive and Main Street was not approved by the Perry City Council, the developer later returned with an R-1 zoning plan.

Vice Chairman Arbogast shared her personal experience as a newcomer to Perry, noting how challenging it was for her military family to find affordable housing that met their quality standards. She acknowledged the potential benefits such developments could bring for families in similar situations. Meanwhile, Council Member Sawan Patel supported Chairman Gonzalez's earlier concerns about school overcrowding, pointing out that current classroom sizes were already substantial. He also emphasized the need for additional infrastructure to support a neighborhood of this scale.

Mrs. Howell concluded the discussion by asking each Youth Council Member to share their stance on the proposed development. Chairman Gonzalez, Vice Chairman Arbogast, and Council Members Shelton, Smith, and Patel voted against the project, while Council Member Tia Walker expressed her support.

5. Review of Minutes: Mrs. Howell emphasized the importance of reviewing meeting minutes to ensure their accuracy and maintain a reliable record.



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- a. Youth Council's Consideration:
  - i. Minutes of November 21, 2024, Youth Council Meeting.
  - ii. Youth Council Member Smith motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Youth Council Member Patel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  
6. Staff Items: Mrs. Howell and Council Member Jones provided closing remarks and thanks for their participation.
  - a. Mrs. Howell invited the Youth Council members to attend Perry University's Public Safety Night on February 6, 2025, at Davis Farm Fire Station 2. She noted that the invitation was extended in response to the Youth Council's expressed interest in learning more about the Police and Fire Departments.
  - b. The next Perry Youth Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, beginning at 5 PM at Perry City Hall (808 Carroll Street).
  
7. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Perry Youth Advisory Council in the regular meeting held on December 12, 2024, Chairman Gonzalez called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Councilmember Arbogast motioned to adjourn; Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.