



Perris News

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City History on Display During Open House

A century of Perris history went on display during an open house coordinated by City Clerk Judy Haughney.

Photos, minutes from 1911-City Council meetings, copies of resolutions and ordinances and newspaper accounts from the decades were available to the public as part of a celebration of Municipal Clerks Week, which ended May 8.

"This is all part of Perris' history," Haughney said. "It gives the public a chance to see what the City Clerk's office does and to meet the staff."

Haughney said that in addition to storing and archiving the City's official records, the City Clerk's office also assists residents in obtaining passports and perform notary public services. In recent years, the City Clerk's office has digitized thousands of documents, making them much easier to store and more readily available to view by the public.

Decision-makers of 100 years ago faced many of the same challenges faced by today's Perris City Council. They were salaries to set and people to hire. The first City Council also had to establish a meeting hall for Perris leaders. In the earliest days of Perris, the City Council met at a Masonic Hall, which they rented for \$15 a month. The salary for the City's water superintendent was set at \$45 a month.

Other issues tackled by early council members seem out of place today. For instance, City Council members approved an ordinance that banned "the use of seditious language," which among other things was speech deemed to disturb the peace of Perris residents. That ordinance later was repealed. Early City Council members also established rules regarding the presence of minors at pool halls and saloons.

City Councilman Mark Yarbrough was among those who inspected the history on display during the open house.

"We have a lot of rich history in Perris and unlike other cities, we've managed to preserve a great deal of ours," he said. "We have a wealth of information. The City Clerk's office has done a wonderful job of preserving and archiving our records."



City Clerk Judy Haughney and Councilman Mark Yarbrough look over historical records.



City Councilman Mark Yarbrough scans decades-old newspaper clippings on display at the City Clerk's office.



Associate Planner Sabrina Chavez looks at a copy of the Perris High School yearbook from 1941.