

Paris City Commission
525 High Street Paris, KY 40361
Commission Chambers – Room 121
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on August 12, 2025 viewable on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofParisKY>.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Plummer called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor, John Plummer; Commissioner, Wallis Brooks; Commissioner, Tim Gray; Commissioner, Sharon Fields; Commissioner, Stan Galbraith.

Others in attendance: City Manager, Matt Belcher; City Attorney, Bryan Beaman; Finance Director, Brad Oberlander; City Clerk & Treasurer, Stephanie Settles.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Fields, seconded by Plummer, the motion unanimously carried to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 22, 2025 as presented.

Motion by Galbraith, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried to approve the Joint City and County meeting minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Trumbo discussed a monument on Western Way to honor and preserve the history of Western School. He noted that Western won the national championship in 1953 among other notable accomplishments and deserves a memorial to recognize and preserve its legacy. Mr. Trumbo requested the Commission's support. It was decided that the City Manager will assist Mr. Trumbo with the next steps for the memorial.

ORDINANCES

Public Hearing Related to a Zoning Map Amendment Located at 195 Bethlehem Road

Josh Harp – Attorney for Applicant Travis Potter

Mr. Harp spoke on behalf of his client, Travis Potter, regarding the proposed coffee shop location. The property, currently zoned R-5, is surrounded on both sides by B-2 zones. The Planning Commission made factual findings supporting the request. He noted that the primary objection raised was the potential for increased traffic on Bethlehem Road. However, there is no indication or study showing a significant traffic impact. He stated that any increase would likely come from vehicles already traveling that route, capturing existing traffic rather than generating new trips. Regarding concerns about converting a residence into a business, Mr. Harp observed that the property is a single structure situated on a 2/3-acre lot.

Opposition – Connie Dampier represented the Westridge Neighborhood Association

Connie Dampier expressed their main concerns regarding the proposal. Increased traffic would make it more difficult to exit the Westridge neighborhood and could pose a greater risk to motorists. The area is a bus pick-up location for Roeling Acres, creating potential safety risks for children. The change from a residential property to a business use is a concern for the neighborhood. She also noted that the state roundabout improvement project at the Matlack intersection is scheduled to begin in 2026 or early 2027.

Motion: Move to approve ordinance 2025-18; zoning map amendment ZMA 25-01 for 195 Bethlehem Road.

By: Galbraith

Seconded: Brooks

Yes: Plummer, Brooks, Galbraith

No: Fields, Gray

Abstain: None

First reading of ordinance 2025-19 was read by Bryan Beaman levying City of Paris Ad Valorem Taxes for general municipal purposes for the fiscal year of 2025-2026 on Real Property within the taxing jurisdiction of the City of Paris shall be at the rate of \$0.1123 per One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars of assessed valuation.

First reading of ordinance 2025-20 was ready by Bryan Beayman levying City of Paris ad valorem taxes for general municipal purposes for the fiscal year of 2025-2026 on personal property, other than motor vehicles and watercraft, within the taxing jurisdiction of the City of Paris shall be at the rate of \$0.1847 per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of assessed valuation.

First reading of ordinance 2025-11 was read by Bryan Beauman levying the City of Paris ad valorem taxes for general municipal purposes for the calendar year of 2026 on motor vehicles and watercraft within the taxing jurisdiction of the City of Paris shall be the rate of \$0.170 per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of assessed valuation.

First Reading ordinance 2025-22 was read by Bryan Beauman providing a 2% discount on real property tax paid in full on or before 4:30 p.m. on November 26, 2025.

Motion by Fields, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried to approve scheduling a workshop for the levy of the 2025–2026 tax rates for August 22, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., and to set a public hearing for the levy of tax rates for September 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2025-54 related to a contract with Stand Associates for the Fords Mill Lift Station and Houston Creek Interceptor project.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2025-55, appointing Emmett Davis to the Housing Authority Board for a four-year term.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks , the motion unanimously carried approving municipal order 2025-56 for the full-time hire of Johnathan Johnson to the position of a certified E911 Dispatcher, pay scale P3-8.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Resolution 2025-14 accepting the Cleaner Water Grant Assistance Agreement in the amount of \$726,735.00 for the Fords Mill Road project KIA Grant number 21CWS160, WRIS Project SX21017023, and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Resolution 2025-15 accepting the Cleaner Water Grant Assistance Agreement in the amount of \$1,230,201 for the Fords Mill Road project, KIA Grant Number 22CWS187, WRIS Project Number SX21017023, and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the bid from Citco Water in the amount of \$99,760.00 for the purchase of a 10,000-gallon chemical storage tank and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving to accept the bid from Wilson Equipment Company in the amount of \$124,900 for the purchase of a 2025 Case Super N backhoe and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents related to the purchase, and authorize the Finance Director to obtain financing quotes for the acquisition.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving to award the bid to Bob Hook Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet 2500 HD flat bed pickup truck for \$ 53,161.00 authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving to accept the bid from Bachman Commercial in the amount of \$57637.00 for the purchase of a new 1-Ton flatbed pickup and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement with the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the Law Enforcement Protection Program Grant.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving a street closure request of Main Street from 4th Street thru 2nd Street from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. on September 27th, 2025 for Farm to Table Dinner Event.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the surplus of vehicles by using GovDeals and authorizing the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Manager to execute any necessary documents relating to the surplus vehicles.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the payment of invoices for General Fund in the amount of \$110,913.74 and Utility Fund in the amount of \$185,835.15.

REPORTS

Betty Ann Allen, Tourism Director

- Noted that funding for the Western School memorial may be available through the Heritage Trail.
- Reminded that the Pumpkin Festival will be held on September 20th.

- Announced a meeting related to the 250th Birthday Celebration of the United States, is scheduled for August 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Public Library.

Allyson Wellman, Chamber of Commerce

- Welcomed five new Chamber members.
- Reported that “Festivals off 5th Street” and “Coffee and Commerce” are going well; the Chamber hosts members-only networking on the first Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- Noted that Friday, August 22, will be the final “Festival off 5th” event.
- Announced City and County Government Day on September 9.
- Continuing business and organization visits.
- Provided updates on plans for the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting.

Vanessa Logan, President, Westside Neighborhood Association

- Chicago that detailed the step-by-step project process, remediation plans, and an overall roadmap. She also highlighted the support provided by local government in Paris for the effort.

Bryan Beauman, City Attorney

- Stated that Darnell has completed the survey and drew the platt, which has been signed and recorded. The deed will be ready this week for the Mayor’s and Judge’s signatures.

Michelle Thornsburg, Planning and Zoning Director

- Reported that as of Monday, August 18, the department will be fully staffed with the hiring of building inspector Steven Watson.
- July activity included: 13 permits in city limits, 16 electrical permits, 27 building inspections, and 16 code violations.
- Board of Adjustment meeting is scheduled for August 19 at 5:30 p.m. with seven items on the agenda.
- Development Plan TRC meeting scheduled for August 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- TRC meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 1:30 p.m.

Matt Belcher, City Manager

- Expressed enthusiasm about being in Paris and the future of working with City staff.

Stan Galbraith, Commissioner

- Thanked Sheigh Hurst for her contributions to the city, noting that today marked her last day of service. Ms. Hurst expressed her appreciation in return.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Galbraith, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the Board of Commissioners to exit open session and enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) for discussions of pending litigation on behalf of the public agency at 10:16 a.m.

With no action taken during executive session. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving to exit executive session and resume open session at 10:27 a.m.

Bryan Beauman reported that a property had been identified with an old alleyway located within its boundaries. This issue will be addressed by ordinance and scheduled for a first reading at the next meeting.

No other business was discussed. The meeting proceeded to ajournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Plummer, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

John A. Plummer, Mayor

Stephanie Settles, City Clerk