

Paris City Commission
525 High Street Paris, KY 40361
Commission Chambers – Room 121
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners and the Bourbon County Fiscal Court convened in a joint meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Judge Executive, Michael Williams delivered the invocation.

ROLL CALL

City Present: Mayor, John Plummer; Commissioner, Wallis Brooks; Commissioner, Tim Gray; Commissioner, Sharon Fields; Commissioner, Stan Galbraith; City Manager, Matt Belcher; City Attorney, Bryan Beaman.

County Present: Judge Executive, Micheal Williams; Lewis Subblefield; Kristal Cameron; Bill Conner; Bart Horne arrived at 10:47 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY "EDA"

Gordon Wilson provided an update on EDA activities, noting that a kickoff meeting for EDA planning is anticipated in May or June. Discussions included planned 2025 expenditures at the industrial park and the intent to apply for a KPPI grant. Wilson highlighted recent industry spotlight events, including one featuring Send Cut Send, Southwest Storage Solutions, and Hunt Brothers Pizza, which was well attended. A second event in November featuring CMWA, Envioia, and Kentucky Smelting also reported strong attendance.

Wilson reported a change in ownership of industrial park buildings, with Easy Gardner selling to a new company that is not yet prepared to release details. The new operation is expected to employ approximately 30 people. The AgTech building may no longer proceed with a sale due to issues related to tariff forgiveness for equipment being moved from India to Paris. Additionally, Green Lightning dissolved its partnership, resulting in 20 acres now being available for sale.

Updates were also provided on the Bourbon-Nicholas Industrial Park, located off US 68 at the Bourbon–Nicholas County line, where grading is underway for the development of a rail storage yard. A \$3.3 million KPPI grant has been awarded for site grading, requiring an 85/15 match. A Sustainable Strategies Grant for pre-planning on Bethlehem Road was submitted and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES "EMS"

EMS Director Taylor and Chief Hurst provided an update, beginning with appreciation for the recent purchase of a new ambulance. Training accomplishments were highlighted, including 10 paramedics receiving critical care certification, the highest level available. Two individuals graduated from paramedic school, and an EMT class graduated 11 students, several of whom have begun employment with the City of Paris.

A new training program has been developed, and the department noted ongoing space limitations, as there is currently no bay storage available for all units. Expansion of Station 2 was discussed as a potential solution, with the long-term goal of housing all EMS units in climate-controlled facilities. It was also noted that there is a two-year lead time for ordering new ambulances. Judge Williams emphasized that the community expects a certain level of service, while acknowledging that operational costs continue to increase.

ENHANCED E-911 SERVICES

An update on E-911 operations was provided by Captain, Scott Toadvine, and Chief of Police Mark Burdern. Technology improvements were discussed that included a remodel of the 911 center and a mapping update completed by Bluegrass ADD. The new CAD system has been live for over a year, replacing the Spillman system that had been in use for 32 years. Staffing levels were reported as stable and fully staffed at present.

Current grant-funded projects include Total Response software, which assists call takers with EMS coordination and response times. A future project involves applying for a grant to replace dispatch radio consoles, an anticipated \$100,000 project with a potential 80% grant match. The center operates with three workstations, with a minimum of two staffed at all times and the third used during peak hours.

PARIS PIKE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

The Paris Pike Corridor Commission was discussed the commission is an advisory board established through an interlocal agreement among Lexington, Paris, and Bourbon County.

Judge Williams reported that he had recently spoken with Mayor Linda Gorton. He clarified that under the agreement, all three jurisdictions must mutually agree in order to dissolve the commission, and he emphasized that there is no intent to pursue dissolution at this time. However, questions were raised regarding the effectiveness and purpose of the commission when its recommendations are not being considered. Judge Williams stated he does not plan to bring forward a motion to dissolve the commission, but noted that the board has also experienced difficulties in achieving a quorum.

Commissioner Fields suggested that representatives from the three governing bodies meet to discuss. Judge Williams indicated that such a meeting could be arranged involving the City of Paris, Bourbon County, and Lexington.

Eric Hamelback, Chair of the Paris Pike Corridor Commission, stated that the Commission has requested a meeting with Mayor Gorton, and not yet received a response. Hamelback stated that his proposal is to refocus efforts on protecting Bourbon County interests, particularly near the county line, and expressed concern that the corridor is not being treated equitably. He also noted that Fayette County has two appointments vacant on the commission. The commission currently consists of eight members, with the option to add a ninth at-large member if desired. The chair votes in the event of a tie.

Magistrate Bart Horne reiterated that the commission’s original intent was to protect the Paris Pike Corridor, and that remains a primary focus, along with protecting Bourbon County.

MILLERSBURG ROAD SANITARY SEWER

Discussion regarding the Millersburg Sanitary Sewer included plans to transfer Cleaner Water Funds to the Fords Mill Road sanitary sewer project, with expenditures to be completed by year-end. The City of Paris will extend sewer service to the Millersburg Road park and affirmed its continued commitment to the project. Coordination between the city and county will continue to ensure appropriate timing and completion of related facilities.

Judge Williams noted the county’s partnership with the City of Paris to expand water services to the park, while the city focuses on sanitary sewer infrastructure. Federal Grant Funding of \$750,000 was secured for an elevated water Tank for the Millerburg Road park. The intent is for the park to own and control the water tower. City representatives stated they do not anticipate any capacity issues in supplying water to the park.

UTILITY GROSS RECEIPTS LICENSE TAX

City Attorney Bryan Beaman provided clarification regarding the utility gross receipts tax applied to utility bills. He explained that customers may see a separate line item labeled “Other Tax,” which represents a school tax authorized under school funding statutes and assessed at a rate of 3 percent on utility customers. Questions were raised regarding potential exemptions for nonprofit or tax-exempt entities. It was noted that tax exemptions must be established through the Constitution or by Statute and must be expressly identified. At present, there is no exemption for government agencies from the utility gross receipts tax.

Judge Williams requested that the utility bill language be revised to reflect “School Tax” in place of “Other Tax.” City Manager Matt Belcher stated that staff will contact the billing company to request the update.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Stan Galbraith, seconded by Kristal Fuller the motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meetin gat 12:21 p.m.