

Paris City Commission
525 High Street Paris, KY 40361
Commission Chambers – Room 121
Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners met in workshop session at 10:30 a.m. on July 28, 2026.

Mayor Plummer called the meeting to order, and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Williams gave the invocation.

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

County Present: Judge Executive, Micheal Williams; Magistrate, Lewis Stubblefield; Magistrate, Scott Wells; Magistrate, Bart Horne.

Others in attendance: City Manager, Matt Belcher; City Attorney, Johnny Gifford; City Clerk & Treasurer, Stephanie Settles.

Absent: Magistrate, Kristal Cameron; Magistrate, Todd Earlywine; Magistrate, Henry Lovell; Magistrate, Bill Conner.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Brownfield Project and EPA Grant Process

Judge Williams reported that \$4.8 million has been awarded to the Bourbon County Fiscal Court for the remediation of the former incinerator building located at the old transfer station site. The grant funds must be expended within four years of receipt, with the new fiscal year beginning on October 1. Judge Williams stated that he anticipates the remediation project will likely be completed within the next couple of years.

Commissioner Fields asked whether there are other locations in Bourbon County, such as North Middletown, that may have similar environmental concerns. Judge Williams responded that there could be potential sites in North Middletown but stated he is not currently aware of any other locations that require remediation. Commissioner Fields commented that, if additional sites are identified, the Fiscal Court may wish to discuss future cleanup efforts.

Judge Williams further explained that, once the remediation is complete and the property is ready for redevelopment, ownership of the land will be deeded back to the City of Paris.

Cleaner Water Act Funding; Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Project: 1208 Millersburg Road

City Manager Belcher reported that he met with consulting engineer Mike Davis the previous week to discuss the progress of the project. He stated that the project is moving forward as planned and that the engineering plans are approximately 80% complete.

City Manager Belcher further reported that the City has received approval for a \$1.5 million Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) loan to assist with funding the project.

Judge Williams stated that the expectation was for a force main to be installed on the property. It was also noted that the Paris Stockyards has expressed interest in connecting to the City's sanitary sewer system once the infrastructure is in place.

Joint Parks and Recreation: Program Director Selection

Judge Williams reported that the Bourbon County Fiscal Court has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of a senior living facility on approximately 10 to 11 acres located at Legion Park, just above the Senior Citizens Center. He stated that proposals are due by the August 13 Fiscal Court meeting.

Judge Williams reported that several applications have been received for the Park Director position. The interview committee will begin interviews on Monday, with the goal of making a hiring recommendation to the Fiscal Court within the next 30 days.

Judge Williams also reported that several tournaments are utilizing the new park, and additional organizations have requested use of the facility. He noted that Judy has been overseeing maintenance of the park. Increased use has created concerns related to trash collection and portable restroom capacity. Therefore, additional dumpsters and portable restrooms have been provided. He further stated that a rental fee for use of the park will be established.

Commissioner Fields asked whether the City and County could receive a copy of the job description for the new Park Director position. Judge Williams responded that the Park Director will be a county employee who will report to and receive direction from the Parks and Recreation Board.

A Board member asked whether the park had officially been turned over to the Fiscal Court and who is responsible for opening the park when it is requested for use. Judge Williams responded that contractor Broad Boaz is continuing to complete remaining punch-list items, including additional paving. Until the project is complete and formally accepted, the contractor retains control of the site.

Judge Williams also stated that requests have been received to hold softball tryouts at the park. He explained that, once the project is completed, the Parks and Recreation Board will have authority to schedule activities. However, until construction is complete and the site is turned over, the contractor remains responsible for the property and scheduling of activities must wait.

Joint Parks and Recreation: Summer Little League Program

A citizen asked whether rental income is collected for use of the athletic fields. Comissioner Brooks responded that rental fees collected for use of the fields are received by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Joint Parks and Recreation: Garrard Park

Commissioner Fields asked whether the Board had discussed the future of Garrard Park. Judge Williams stated that the City of Paris is currently maintaining the park and noted that the disc golf course has been installed.

City Manager Belcher suggested that a long-term development and maintenance plan be created for Garrard Park.

Mayor Plummer asked whether the two ball fields could continue to be maintained. Judge Williams responded that the intent was to hire a maintenance employee to oversee the upkeep of the parks.

Main Street Property

City Manager Belcher provided an update on the status of the Main Street property acquisition. He reported that the City Commission previously approved a purchase agreement for the property. Following completion of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was recommended.

Pursuant to the terms of the purchase agreement, the closing date has been extended to September 1, 2026, pending completion of the additional environmental testing and receipt of the Phase II results. City Manager Belcher stated that the City is awaiting the outcome of the Phase II assessment before proceeding with the purchase.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.