

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 regular session at 9:00 a.m. viewable on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofParisKY> on July 28th, 2026.

## **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, Jonathan Gilford; Finance Director, Brad Oberlander; City Clerk & Treasurer, Stephanie Settles.

## **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Fields, the motion unanimously carried approving June 30, 2026, minutes as presented.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Tim Looper presented the City of Paris Financial Statements for FY 2025-2026, the year ending on June 30, 2025.

David Brown with HMB Engineers presented an overview of the completed Paris Water Improvements Project. The project included significant upgrades to the water treatment plant, including the installation of a new E-House, a sodium hypochlorite disinfection system, replacement of the raw water check valve, replacement of the high-service pumps, replacement of the backwash pump, replacement of the raw water pumps, and installation of a new hot water heater.

Nimalie Yarmen addressed the Commission regarding concerns about the safety of Cedar Heights Cemetery, noting that several recent vehicle accidents have resulted in damage to the cemetery fence and headstones. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to move forward with the installation of concrete barriers to help protect the cemetery from future incidents.

## **ORDINANCES**

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-9 was read by Matt Belcher related to a zoning text amendment for permitted and conditional uses in a PUD.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-71 for the promotion of Donna Smith to Wastewater-Lab Technician, pay scale O8-1.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-72 for the full-time hire of Caleb Thornsburg to the position of Firefighter EMT F3-1.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-73 for the promotion of Lt. Greg Barnett to the position of Captain, pay scale F15-7.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-74 for the promotion of Brandon Lizer to the position of Captain, pay scale F14-6.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-75 for the promotion of Kendall Williams to the position of Captain, pay scale F15-3.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-69 reappointing Carey Barr to the Joint Parks and Recreation board for a term ending August 14, 2030 and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute documents necessary.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, approving Municipal Order 2026-70 Re-appointing Keri Marcum to the Joint Parks and Recreation board for a term ending August 14, 2030 and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute documents necessary.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving Micheal Mynear, GIS Coordinator, be designated as the Mayor's designee on the Bluegrass (409) Water Management Council for the purpose of attending the

quarterly meetings, ranking and voting, when necessary, relative to potential funding of water and sewer projects for the City of Paris Combined Utilities.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving to accept the bid from Bachmann Chevrolet for \$162,000 for the purchase of the annual police fleet replacement and move to accept the bid from Ridgenet for \$63,950.97, and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents. Also, move to approve the City Manager and Finance Director to seek financing options from local financial institutions.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the requested street closure for the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, September 19, on Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Ardery Place and Bankers Row Street and High Street, beginning at 5:00am and reopening at approximately 10:00pm. The request is also to close access to the parking lot on Bankers Row Street, and activation of the EDC. Approval is subject to proof of insurance being provided, approval from the state, and proper applications and permits being finalized.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried to approve the payment of invoices for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,079,754.75 and the Utility Fund in the amount of \$456,771.74.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving funding for Outside Agencies and Joint Funded Agencies.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving a FY'26-27 funding agreement with Bourbon County Health Department, utilizing opioid funds under Statute, and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to create, finalize, and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with CASA of Lexington authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris-Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris-Bourbon County Economic Development Authority "EDA" authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris-Bourbon County Hopewell Museum and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris-Bourbon County Recreation, Tourist, and Convention Commission, authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris-Bourbon County Senior Citizen Center and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Paris Animal Welfare Society and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving the FY'26-27 funding agreement with Secretariat Park Foundation and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to finalize and execute documents as necessary related to the agreement.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving an extension of the purchase closing date for the real property located on Main Street from August 1, 2026, to September 1, 2026.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Plummer, the motion unanimously carried approving the support of a 0.5% payroll tax wage assessment incentive for KY Mudworks, contingent upon final approval of the project under the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) Program, and authorize the Mayor to execute the Letter of Support.

Motion by Galbraith, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving March financial reports as presented reflecting general fund revenues of \$9,527,691 with expenses of \$9,671,865 and utility fund revenues of \$12,413,226 with expenses of \$12,113,832.

Motion by Fields, seconded by Plummer, the motion unanimously carried approving financial reports as presented reflecting general fund revenues of \$11,767,960 with expenses of \$10,878,303 and utility fund revenues of \$13,751,527 with expenses of \$13,000,304.

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Galbraith, the motion unanimously carried approving May financial reports as presented reflecting general fund revenues of \$12,528,556 with expenses of \$12,220,273 and utility fund revenues of \$14,900,925 with expenses of \$14,736,101.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving June financial reports as presented reflecting general fund revenues of \$13,279,663 with expenses of \$13,147,944 and utility fund revenues of \$16,388,433 with expenses of \$15,422,345.

**REPORTS**

Vanessa Logan, Westside Community

Reported that the 4M Grant was awarded to the Bourbon County Fiscal Court for Brownfield.

Advised that the old transfer station building has been demolished, with cleanup efforts still underway.

Reported that the Westside Fish Fry was a successful event.

Announced improvements at Chief Reed Park on Paris west side, including replacement of the mulch around the monument, installation of new paver stones, and new landscaping with flowers.

Allyson Wellman, Chamber of Commerce

Expressed appreciation to the Commission for its continued financial support.

Announced the Stepping Stone Farm ribbon cutting.

Reported that Youth Leadership begins next week.

Noted that Coffee & Commerce was held on July 10 at Bourbon Heights, with the next event scheduled for August 7 at Rose & Thorne Pub.

Announced that Festival on Fifth will be held on August 7.

Sam Harney, Field Operations

Reported that work has begun on the Fords Mill Road Project and that KIA funding is expected to be fully utilized by October.

Advised that blasting operations are scheduled to resume in November.

Announced a countywide Smoke-Free Workplace workshop scheduled for Thursday evening and noted that the first reading of the proposed smoking ordinance is scheduled for August 13.

Commissioner Stan Galbraith

Raised concerns regarding dead trees located on Tobacco Drive.

Michelle Thornsburg, Planning & Zoning

Announced the hiring of Savannah W. as the City's new Code Enforcement Officer.

Matt Belcher, City Manager

Introduced new City employees: Jessica Riggs, Executive Assistant, Eric Howard, Finance Specialist, Kim Mills, Assistant City Manager

Betty Ann Allen, Tourism

Expressed appreciation to the Commission for its continued support.

Announced that movie producer Charles Burke was in Bourbon County on July 17 in relation to a movie titled Dream Team.

Reported that the Legends of Bourbon County mural/building is currently being tuck pointed in preparation for painting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Galbraith, the motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.