

Paris City Commission
525 High Street Paris, KY 40361
Commission Chambers – Room 121
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 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 August 11, 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, Bryan Beaman; Finance Director, Brad Oberlander; City Clerk & Treasurer, Stephanie Settles.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Plummer, the motion unanimously carried approving July 28, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion by Fields, seconded by Galbraith, the motion unanimously carried approving July 28, 2026, Joint City and County meeting minutes as presented.

ORDINANCES

Motion by Plummer, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried approving ordinance 2026-9 concerning a zoning text amendment for permitted and conditional uses in a PUD.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order 2026-78 for the full-time hire of Jacob Browning to the position of Firefighter recruit, pay scale F3-1.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving Resolution 2026-9, authorizing the submission of an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Millersburg Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute all documents necessary to apply for and secure grant funding.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the Proclamation honoring Dr. Robert W. Copelan on the occasion of his 100th birthday and authorize the Mayor to sign the proclamation on behalf of the City of Paris.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving and rejecting the bid for the sale of recycled commodities to Federal Recycling and Waste Solutions.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the sole bid received for the Halo Water Meter Replacement Project, as the bid exceeded the budget available for the project, and to authorize staff to evaluate the project specifications, identify potential cost-saving opportunities, pursue additional funding if appropriate, and rebid the project at a later date if deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the requested street closure for Trunk or Treat on October 24, 2026, on Main Street between 2nd and 4th Street around the Court House Square, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and reopening at approximately 8:00 p.m. This will include Ardery place and Bank Row Street.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the street closure request of 4th Street to Bank Row on Sunday, September 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Legends of Bourbon County Festival.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the street closure request of 4th Street, between Pleasant Street and Stoner Avenue on Friday, September 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving the payment of invoices for the General Fund in the amount of \$72,059.63 and the Utility Fund in the amount of \$193,122.95.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Gray, the motion unanimously carried approving Municipal Order No. 2026-77, authorizing the Co-Managed IT Services Agreement between the City of Paris and IT Necessity, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

REPORTS

Allyson Wellman, Chamber of Commerce
Chamber Gala – Will be scheduled for March 4 or March 5 of 2027.
September Coffee & Commerce – September 11 at Mustard Seed Hill in Millersburg.
Festival on Fifth – The final event in this year’s series was held Friday night.
Next year, Bluegrass Hearing will sponsor four Festival on Fifth dates, running June through September.
The Chamber has welcomed 26 new members in 2026.

Betty Ann Allen, Tourism
The movie project involving the baseball team has not yet completed the application process with the State.
Two movies are expected to be filmed in Paris, with the possibility of a third.

Vanessa Logan, Westside Neighborhood
The National Park Service was in Paris last week and discussed the 2022 survey.
No additional meetings will be held until the cleanup is completed.
Parks Board meeting is August 19 at 4:00 p.m. at Legion Park.
Russ will report back to the Parks Board.

Michelle Thornsburg, Planning & Zoning
Planning & Zoning is now fully staffed.
New Code Enforcement Officer Savannah Westenbarger.
So far in 2026: 175 building permits issued; 174 electrical permits issued.
Commissioner Fields requested that the Planning & Zoning boards and committees begin reviewing and researching data centers to be proactive on the issue.

Mike Smith, Public Works
Street paving is planned for next spring. Street patching will continue in the meantime.

Aleisha Barnes and Lisa Neuwirth, citizens, discussed concerns regarding the Cedar Heights Cemetery property adjacent to their homes. They stated that the primary issue in the area is speeding and traffic and noted that they have spoken with the Police Chief. Matt offered for them to contact him directly with any concerns. Both expressed opposition to the use of concrete barriers as a fence for the cemetery and stated that taxpayer funds should not be used for a private cemetery. Commissioner Fields stated that the concrete barriers were intended to be temporary until a permanent fence could be installed. Matt stated that no final decision has been made and that he and Mike Smith with Public Works are continuing to review alternatives.

Aaron Sparkman, Electric Department
Work is taking place in backyards along Creekview Drive to renew/replace the system.
All affected residents have been notified.
Door hangers have been placed on residences.
The existing system is approximately seven years old.

Josh Hurst, Fire Department
The Fire Chief is working to include funding in the budget for construction of a building at Station 1.

Dewayne Ison, Assistant Police Chief
The hiring of a Dispatch Director will be on the next agenda Ernie Lucky will be recommended for the Director position.

Commissioner Sharon Fields
Discussed the Stoner Creek Park project at Paris Elementary School, including the property and dam.
Recommended sending a courtesy letter to the Mayor of Cynthiana and the Judge/Executive explaining the project.
They should continue to be kept informed as the project evolves.

Commissioner Wallis Brooks
Interviews for Parks & Recreation Director interviews are underway. The Fiscal Court will vote on the potential hire at its next meeting.

Commissioner Tim Gray
Asked whether 6th Street would have a traffic-flow change similar to the change made on 9th Street. Matt responded that, at this time, there are no plans to change the traffic flow on 6th Street. He also inquired about 3rd Street asking for an update on the space. Matt stated there is a plan to activate the area. Picnic tables are currently being built. The concept is to create a parklet and make the space more usable.

Commissioner Stan Galbraith
Thanked Commissioner Fields for bringing forward the discussion regarding data centers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galbraith, seconded by Brooks, the motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m.