

KIM FOSTER, CITY MANAGER
JAMES SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY



KATHY RAY, MAYOR
JOHN ETHERIDGE, VICE MAYOR
VICKEY ROBERTS, COMMISSIONER
JACKIE JONES, COMMISSIONER
SAM THARPE, COMMISSIONER

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PARIS, TENNESSEE
November 6, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Paris, Tennessee held a Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2025, in the Paris City Hall Courtroom.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kathy Ray with the following roll call:

Present: Mayor Kathy Ray
Vice Mayor John Etheridge
Commissioner Vickey Roberts
Commissioner Jackie Jones
Commissioner Sam Tharpe

Also Present: City Manager Kim Foster
City Attorney James Smith
Community Development Director, Jessica Crouch
Finance Director, Liana Compton
Fire Chief, Jamie Hinson
Police Chief, Ricky Watson
Animal Control Officer, Zack Braham
Admin. Assistant to Building & Codes, Rebecca Renkel

Absent: None

Media: Ken Walker, Paris Post Intelligencer
Shannon McFarlin, WENK/WTPR

Commissioner Jackie Jones led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer led by Commissioner John Etheridge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 9, 2025

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: The minutes stand approved as read.

VOTE: None

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Ann Jones, residing at 100 Nance Circle, presented a petition to the Commission opposing the installation of a sidewalk on Fairgrounds Road. Ms. Jones expressed concerns on behalf of the petition signers regarding the impact and necessity of the proposed sidewalk.

Nancy Geurin, residing at 406 Royal Oak Drive, spoke in favor of the sidewalk project. Ms. Geurin stated that she supports the addition of sidewalks for improved pedestrian safety and

accessibility and noted that she would gladly have the sidewalk installed on her side of the street if feasible.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: None

SERVICE RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: None

**NEW BUSINESS
AGENDA ITEM NO.1
Financial Update**

Narrative to the September 2025 Operating Statement

Finance Director Liana Compton reported that retail sales tax revenues continue to increase, with August up 12.84% compared to the prior August, which itself was 8.25% higher than the previous year. General Fund revenues remained below expenditures for September and year-to-date, largely due to the annual citywide paving project completed by Delta Contracting at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million. In the Landfill Fund, expenditures exceeded revenues for the month because semi-annual and annual maintenance fees totaling about \$11,000 were paid. The City received roughly \$150,000 in ESN122 Fire Fees in September, with additional payments expected beyond the due date. Personnel activity included four full-time hires related to the Central Dispatch merger and two full-time replacement hires. Two new business licenses were issued, including one for a salon.

CITY OF PARIS, TENNESSEE						
RETAIL SALES TAX REVENUE						
	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	% Incr(Decr)
JULY	\$951,793	\$1,046,570	\$1,054,946	\$1,094,220	\$1,178,064	7.66%
AUGUST	\$895,516	\$931,433	\$943,347	\$1,021,159	\$1,152,275	12.84%
SEPTEMBER	\$965,256	\$1,067,740	\$947,948	\$934,065		
OCTOBER	\$974,047	\$1,036,880	\$1,049,601	\$1,098,267		
NOVEMBER	\$988,199	\$1,059,818	\$1,088,505	\$1,092,808		
DECEMBER	\$1,210,615	\$1,218,473	\$1,554,254	\$1,256,621		
JANUARY	\$839,389	\$915,685	\$984,017	\$939,527		
FEBRUARY	\$859,647	\$936,706	\$980,140	\$946,298		
MARCH	\$1,102,651	\$1,106,574	\$1,270,965	\$1,177,011		
APRIL	\$1,060,677	\$1,069,082	\$1,061,509	\$1,136,745		
MAY	\$1,105,515	\$1,122,824	\$1,133,990	\$1,177,125		
JUNE	\$1,125,455	\$1,177,018	\$1,130,424	\$1,147,603		
TOTAL	\$12,078,759	\$12,688,803	\$13,199,647	\$13,021,448	\$2,330,339	
Previous YTD % Increase/Decrease	7.82%	5.05%	4.03%	-1.35%	10.16%	

**Monthly Operating Statement
September 2025**

REVENUES	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Percent Realized</u>
Property Taxes	2,570,000	67,677	142,929	5.56%
Local Option Sales Tax	6,500,000	580,311	1,729,001	26.60%
Wholesale Liquor / Beer	880,000	69,097	226,537	25.74%
Business Tax	450,000	5,457	20,597	4.58%
Fees & Licenses	144,250	1,665	39,864	27.64%
In Lieu Payments	170,250	251	3,251	1.91%
Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax	200,000	21,942	67,112	33.56%
Grants	3,447,160	12,805	70,405	2.04%
State Shared taxes	1,967,500	134,342	446,647	22.70%
TVA Impact Payment	242,500	0	0	0.00%
All Other	12,353,050	343,173	799,684	6.47%
ARPA/TDEC-WII	1,675,000	0	32,590	1.95%
Total General Fund Revenue	30,599,710	1,236,719	3,578,616	11.69%
Solid Waste Collection - BPU	1,400,000	117,766	352,185	25.16%
Solid Waste Disposal - Transfer	750,000	67,694	220,982	29.46%
Other Revenue	31,500	60	1,648	5.23%
Total Sanitation	2,181,500	185,520	574,815	26.35%
Gate Receipts - Brush & Debris	200,000	16,152	63,642	31.82%
County Share Operating Exp	35,000	0	0	0.00%
Gate Receipts - Tires	8,000	1,348	2,354	29.43%
Other Revenue	42,050	210	608	1.45%
Total Landfill	285,050	17,710	66,604	23.37%
Total Drug Fund	59,040	5,229	8,604	14.57%
TOTAL REVENUES	33,125,300	1,445,178	4,228,639	12.77%

EXPENDITURES	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Percent Realized</u>
Grants & Donations	209,000	6,825	82,400	39.43%
General Administration	719,500	56,107	191,250	26.58%
Economic Development	200,371	15,305	46,375	23.14%
Chamber of Commerce	0	0	0	0.00%
Financial Administration	367,878	24,516	76,473	20.79%
City Hall Building	65,285	13,679	22,910	35.09%
Police Department	2,997,899	192,887	700,104	23.35%
Emergency Communications	1,130,104	76,460	211,810	18.74%
Fire Department	2,196,532	155,258	541,752	24.66%
Building Inspection	261,459	18,442	59,951	22.93%
Street Maintenance	1,936,893	142,799	545,555	28.17%
State Street Aid	1,715,000	1,126,153	1,173,795	68.44%
Storm Water Management	674,233	6,814	560,493	83.13%
Street Lighting	129,300	23,558	37,534	29.03%
City Garage	322,945	20,290	90,793	28.11%
Cemetery Maintenance	83,448	15,048	35,544	42.59%
Health & Animal Control	258,931	30,533	98,703	38.12%
Civic Center	866,806	58,403	181,482	20.94%
Parks & Recreation	1,407,825	142,764	472,834	33.59%
Library	212,019	35,337	70,673	33.33%
Community Development	14,359,210	44,460	86,532	0.60%
Debt Service	745,650	0	106,562	14.29%
General Fund Expenditures	30,860,288	2,205,637	5,393,526	17.48%
Sanitation Collection	1,523,292	63,702	266,432	17.49%
Contractual Services	925,000	80,112	244,118	26.39%
Total Sanitation	2,448,292	143,814	510,550	20.85%
Total Landfill	243,150	26,391	64,674	26.60%
Total Drug Fund	42,000	278	11,650	27.74%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	33,593,730	2,376,120	5,980,401	17.80%

REVENUES OVER / (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>
General Fund	(968,918)	(1,814,910)
Sanitation	41,706	64,264
Landfill	(8,681)	1,930
Drug Fund	4,951	(3,046)

Discussion: None

**NEW BUSINESS
AGENDA ITEM NO. 2
Appointments to Boards**

Downtown Parking Committee				
<u>Appointment And Term</u>	<u>Current Member</u>	<u>Proposed Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>New Expiration</u>
One Appt by Chamber of Commerce (1 year term) Two Appt by Downtown Paris Association (2 year term) Two Appt by City Manager, Consumer, and At- Large (3 year term) Finance Director Serves as Chairman	Leslie Henegar	Caleb Grissom	November 7, 2025	November 7, 2026

Discussion: None

Action: None

Vote: None

NEW BUSINESS
AGENDA ITEM NO. 3
Discussion of 2022 TA Grant

City Manager Kim Foster provided an update on the proposed sidewalk project along Royal Oak and Fairgrounds Road, noting continued neighborhood opposition, including a second petition presented at this meeting. She reviewed the project's status and outlined potential paths forward. One option is to proceed with the full project, understanding that approximately 30 of the 35 affected parcels would require easements. Because Transportation Alternative grants do not cover easement expenses, the City would be responsible for survey, appraisal, and review appraisal costs, estimated at about \$3,000 per parcel, plus the cost of each easement, totaling an estimated \$87,000 or more. Another option is to pursue condemnation to acquire the necessary easements for the full project. Foster also noted that the project could be scaled back to include only the Fairgrounds Road portion ending at the Fairgrounds property or further reduced to improvements solely at the Wood Street and Chickasaw/Fairgrounds intersection, pending TDOT approval. The final option is to discontinue the project, which would forfeit approximately \$68,500 already spent on engineering. She then turned the discussion over to City Attorney Smith to explain the condemnation process, including expected timelines and requirements.

Discussion: Vice Mayor John Etheridge asked for the total value of the grant if the City were to move forward with the full project. City Manager Kim Foster explained that the grant is approximately \$1 million, with additional costs due to added project elements. Although Transportation Alternative grants are structured as an 80/20 match, the grant does not cover engineering, and the required easements make the City's share closer to a 70/30 split, or higher in this case. City Attorney James Smith then outlined the condemnation process as an option for acquiring necessary easements, explaining that sidewalks qualify as a public use and that the court would likely support condemnation for easement purposes. Each parcel would require its own appraisal, with the appraised value deposited with the Henry County Circuit Court before filing an individual condemnation petition. He noted that this process is costly and time-consuming, and property owners may challenge either the public use determination or the proposed value. While condemnation disputes can extend for years, they typically do not prevent a project from moving forward once public use is established. Foster added that there is no way to know how many property owners would require condemnation, as some are supportive and willing to sign easements, while others are opposed.

Commissioner Sam Tharpe stated that, in his view, the Wood Street and Chickasaw/Fairgrounds intersection is one of the most dangerous in the city and should be the priority for improvement. City Manager Kim Foster clarified that proposed intersection upgrades would not change roadway alignment but could include pedestrian crossing signals, restriping, and ADA-compliant curb improvements, and confirmed that the existing traffic signals would not be replaced. Commissioner Jackie Jones asked whether completing only the intersection improvements would still provide value, and Foster responded that it would improve safety and accessibility and that engineering for that intersection is already included in the funds spent to date. Commissioner Vickey Roberts asked about costs, and Foster said those figures were not yet available. Roberts also asked whether declining the full project would affect future TDOT funding. Foster reported that TDOT staff, including Steve Allen, assured the City it would not, noting that partial-scope options could be submitted for consideration.

Vice Mayor John Etheridge said he would need more information before making any decision and stressed balancing public safety, cost, and resident concerns; he noted that improvements on Fairgrounds Road may still hold value, while benefits on Royal Oak may be limited relative to cost. Commissioner Jones asked why the sidewalk was not proposed for the opposite side of the street, and Foster explained that utilities and large trees made that alignment significantly more expensive and complicated.

Etheridge requested cost estimates for average easements and potential condemnation expenses. Community Development Director Jessica Crouch provided examples from the Rison Street Bridge project, noting appraisal and review-appraisal costs of about \$3,000 per property plus minimum compensation of \$300, with some parcels exceeding that amount. Foster added that even minimum compensation for 29 properties would total about \$8,700. Etheridge also requested estimates for a scaled-back Fairgrounds Road option and for improvements at the intersection. Tarpe reiterated his support for prioritizing the intersection and expressed concerns about proceeding with Royal Oak due to its flood-prone conditions. Jones agreed that the project should be pared back and approached gradually. Commissioner Roberts emphasized pedestrian safety as a key concern.

Foster concluded by stating she would work with TLM to obtain cost breakdowns for the options discussed, ask the City Attorney to compile information on condemnation timelines and expenses, and consult TDOT regarding whether the grant could be used for an intersection-only project.

Action: Deferred

Vote: None

NEW BUSINESS
AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Proposal to Purchase Property for CDBG – Boardwalk at Eiffel Tower Park Extended

City Attorney James Smith provided an update on the property acquisition needed for the CDBG-funded Boardwalk at Eiffel Tower Park Extended project. During engineering and surveying, it was discovered that the planned boardwalk alignment encroaches onto an adjacent parcel owned by an LLC, of which Dr. Joe Mobley is a member. Smith explained that the City faced two options: pursue a costly redesign of the boardwalk or request a small portion of land from the property owner. After contacting Dr. Mobley, he agreed to donate the necessary piece of property to the City on the condition that the City make a \$400 charitable contribution to the Chris Mobley Charitable Trust. Smith noted that the property owner will not receive payment for the land; rather, donation to the charity is requested in exchange for their conveyance of the property.

Discussion: None

Action: Commissioner Jackie Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Etheridge to approve the acceptance of the donated property needed for the CDBG Boardwalk at Eiffel Tower Park Extended project and to authorize a \$400 charitable contribution to the Chris Mobley Charitable Trust as requested by the property owner.

Vote: Unanimous

MONTHLY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS
“YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK”

November 2025

<u><i>Department</i></u>	<u><i>Highlight/Service</i></u>	<u><i>Metric</i></u>	<u><i>Significance</i></u>
Public Works	Brush Collected	81 tons	Equivalent to 162,000 pounds or 648 standard pickup trucks stretched over two miles.
Parks & Recreation	Spooktacular Attendance	8,000+ attendees	33.3% ↗ increase from Spooktacular 2024
Communications	Website Traffic	10,633 views	91.5% ↗ increase from October 2024
Animal Shelter	Adoptions	40 animals adopted	Adoption numbers remain steady from previous months.

Discussion: City Manager Kim Foster introduced a new agenda item titled *Monthly Service Highlights: “Your Tax Dollars at Work.”* She explained that this report will share key statistics illustrating the day-to-day work performed by City departments and originated from recent discussions about the large volume of brush collected in October. Foster noted that Abby Pierce will present this report each month, and this meeting marks the first installment. She then turned the floor over to Community Engagement Coordinator Abby Pierce, who presented the monthly service highlights.

Kim stated that she believes the City’s website views have increased due to the recent cross-posting efforts on social media and through email newsletters. She reported that she and Jessica attended the Governor’s Conference and participated in a marketing and social media session, where they learned several additional strategies to further enhance outreach on both the website and social media platforms.

Kim encouraged Commissioners to contact Abby if there is anything specific they would like included in next month’s highlights. She also commended Abby on the recent social media and website post regarding the Fire Department’s pump testing at Williams Lake, where Abby paired a photograph from the 1970s with a current photo from this year’s testing. Kim noted that it was meaningful to see the department continuing to provide the same service to the community after so many years, even as personnel and equipment have changed.

**STATUS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS
November 2025**

PROJECT	PRIMARY STAFF	TARGET COMPLETION DATE(S)	DISCUSSION
Back Alley Paris	Foster/Ray	June 2026	Dan Knowles is working on a rendering for a mural to be painted on the wall of the new bathrooms being built at Ogburn Park next to the Levi Miles Foundation Playground.
2018 STBG Project for Signalization & Safety Upgrades at 3 Intersections Downtown	Foster/Crouch	Spring 2027	There has been an 8–11-month delay in traffic signal equipment. TLM will reschedule a pre-con later when the contractor can begin work.
Rison St Bridge Replacement	Foster/Crouch	Summer 2026	City of Paris received ROW certification on 9/19/2025. A Notice to Proceed will be issued once the funding is obligated in November / December
2020 Multimodal Access Grant for 4 Downtown Intersections	Foster/Crouch	Spring 2027	City of Paris received ROW certification. TLM continues to discuss with TDOT regarding ways to speed up acquisition of signal equipment.
2022 Multimodal Access Grant for Tyson/M.W. Intersection Upgrades & Sidewalk	Foster/Crouch	Fall 2026	TLM bid project on 9/22/2025. The bid concurrence package is under review at TDOT.
2022 TA Grant for Sidewalk Project along Fairgrounds & Royal Oak	Foster/Crouch	Winter of 2027	TLM is working with the City and TDOT to determine possible scope change for project. TLM continues to work on utility coordination.
TDEC Water Infrastructure Improvement (WII) Grant	Foster/Crouch	Spring 2026	Construction is ongoing and progress can be monitored in TLM system, Oversight.
Paris City Wide Drainage Study	Foster	TBD	TLM continues to work on the report. Hydraulic modeling is 100% complete.
2024 CDBG – Boardwalk at Eiffel Tower Park	Foster/Lawrence	Summer 2026	TLM has completed all Civil Plans. TLM has submitted plans to the Army Corp of Engineers. TLM is working to finalize TDEC submission by early November.
Municipal Facilities Project – Municipal building on N. Caldwell St.	Foster	Winter 2027	The owners and design team held a Design Development review meeting. The design is 50% complete at this time. The Design Development team is on track to have 100% completed by December 10, 2025.
Municipal Facilities Project – Fire Station on Tyson Ave.	Foster	Summer 2026	TLM held a pre-construction meeting on October 21 st with Barger Construction. The construction time has officially started, and the current estimate of substantial completion is January 14, 2027. TLM has scheduled the first progress meeting for November 18 th . The SWPPP was given to Barger to submit online.

Kim Foster reported that the City has received the Notice to Proceed to Construction for the 2020 Multimodal Access Grant. She noted that this project is now only a couple of months behind the STBG project, creating the possibility for both projects to be under construction at the same time. She also stated that staff hopes to move forward with ordering the controller boxes for the multimodal project to help mitigate the current 8–11 month lead time.

Notes from the City Manager:

None

The meeting duly adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Mayor

Finance Director