

MINUTES PARKER CITY COUNCIL
Parker Senior Center
432 W. Kimball, Parker, Kansas
June 12, 2025

Mayor Jason Webber called the regular meeting to order at 7:00.

PLEDGE AND PRAYER: The pledge was given, and Kathy Harrison offered the prayer.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u> Jason Webber, Mayor	Present
Kari Brandt, President	Present
Kandice Higgins, Council Member	Absent
Gary Earley, Council Member	Present
Joe Godfrey, Council Member	Present
Meranda Ellison, Council Member	Present

ROLL CALL: Lisa Leach, City Clerk, took the Roll.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL: Mayor Webber asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and if there was any discussion needed.

Kari Brandt motioned to approve the consent agenda. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mayor Webber asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

Kari Brandt made a motion to approve the agenda. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Attorney, not present.

City Treasurer, Kathy Harrison, gave the monthly treasurer's report. Kathy informed the council that the yearly budget is due soon and, due to David Lamb's retirement, another county clerk has made themselves available to assist with the budget preparation process. It will cost the city a fee, but Kathy stated it would be a good service to invest our money in, and she appreciates the county clerk's help with the process. David Lamb charged a fee of \$50.

Kari Brandt motioned to approve up to \$250 for budget preparation assistance. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 4-0.

City Clerk, Lisa Leach,

- Reminded the council that the budget workshop will be on June 26th at 7 pm.

- Informed the council that the previous agenda item regarding the results of the CUP Hearing held in May was removed due to an error on her part. She did not notify the neighboring landowners of the hearing, so a new hearing will need to be scheduled.
- Music in the Park will be on Friday, June 27th at 6 pm. Food provided will be a low-country boil. The event is being sponsored by the Heritage Park Board and PALS.
- The lawyers completed the codification of the city code.

Maintenance, James Hazelet,

- The roads are in bad shape and need resurfacing. We had a hard winter, which further damaged the roads.
- He would like to have a way to apply salt and sand to the roadways in the winter. Even just a small application to the intersections would be helpful.
- The city would also need a place to put the salt and sand mixture if purchased in bulk. Discussion about a possible structure occurred. A discussion about buying salt and sand by the bag vs. bulk was held.
- He is out of cold patch to fill potholes.

Kari Brandt motioned to allow James Hazelet to purchase 30 bags of cold patch wherever he can find the best deal. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

- He informed the council he has enough fogging solution for 3 more sprays. If the council wants more, we will need to order more. The council discussed the previous order and how long it lasted.

Meranda Ellison motioned to purchase 10 gallons of mosquito fogging solution. Kari Brandt seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

- Mayor Webber stated the truck still needs to be taken to Mound City to have the hitch built, which was approved last year.
- A discussion about the maintenance and upkeep of the lake was held by the council, and how nice it looks.
- A discussion about purchasing a trailer occurred. James stated it would be nice to have a way to haul the skid steer to the lake so he can work on the ditches and roads. He has placed gravel at the entrance and graded it several times.

Water and Sewer Contractor, Chad Page, not present.

Compactor Operator, Al Kerr, stated the compactor is not operating at full strength. Mayor Webber has been in contact with several officials at Linn County regarding the issue. The compactor had been emptied with only 4 ½ tons when it should be holding 10 tons. The hope is for a quick resolution to the issue. The city hired Steve Snow to be the backup compactor operator.

Park Board: Report via Lisa Leach: The Park Board is selling 5 by 5 ft sidewalk sections for \$150 each. Steve Lyman did not have the design available for the meeting.

Planning and Zoning: no report.

PWWSD#13: no report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employee Reviews for City Employees:

Kari Brandt motioned to go into executive session for 20 minutes at 7:33 pm to discuss employer/employee negotiation. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Kari Brandt motioned to come out of executive session at 7:53 pm with action being taken. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Kari Brant motioned to have employee Al Kerr's hourly pay raised from \$12 per hour to \$13 per hour, effective immediately. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Kari Brant motioned to have employee Kathy Harrison's monthly pay raised from \$635 to \$800, effective immediately. Meranda Ellison seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Kari Brant motioned to have employee James Hazelet's hourly pay raised from \$18 per hour to \$20 per hour, effective immediately. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Kari Brant motioned to have employee Lisa Leach's hourly pay raised from \$16 per hour to \$18 per hour, effective immediately. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Lake Issues:

- Mayor Webber met with James Hazelet and looked at the lake and the damage. James reported that his mowing time has doubled due to the ruts.
- Videos and pictures were taken of vehicles and were posted on Facebook. The sheriff's department was involved in less than 2 hours. They have approached the accused perpetrators, who are supposed to be coming to make it right.
- Mayor Webber spoke with the city attorney, who stated they will draw up affidavits that he will sign. Due to the lack of police enforcement, the mayor is considered the chief law enforcement officer in town. The affidavits will be submitted to the court. If the responsible party does not follow through, the courts can follow up with action. He is asking that all the ruts be repaired and bring the lake be brought back to its pre-damaged quality.
- If the city does not have an ordinance to keep off-road vehicles on the lake roads only, then the lawyers will draft one.
- Many options are being explored to help control and/or mitigate lake damage. The council is open to suggestions. Creating a parking area was one idea.

NEW BUSINESS: Clerk Leach read a letter from Linn County Library District #1 in Parker, Director Kay Bowman, to ask for donations to assist with the summer reading program. The city was not asked to donate in 2024, but did donate \$200 in 2023. The council was informed of the current programs at the library, including the free meals given out each Monday.

Gary Earley motioned to donate \$400 to the summer reading program at the library. Kari Brandt seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Park Street Drainage: Gary Earley stated that ever since the city raised Park Road, the water is funneling down to the whistle and his house. He brought photos to show the other council members what has been happening. He is asking for a ditch to be put in along the alleyway or somewhere near there to drain the water toward Main Street. Mayor Webber stated he will ask Chad Page to come and take a look at the issue.

Dogs at Large:

- Mayor Webber stated that we are having an issue with dogs running loose in town.
- He shared an issue of a couple of dogs that appear to be pit bull mixes that are chasing people back into their yards and homes when they are trying to walk their dogs. He stated he has had multiple reports of people complaining about the dogs in Parker inhibiting them from walking freely.
- The city does not have a dog catcher, a codes officer, or a police officer, so this issue will fall upon the mayor to work with the city attorney to draw up affidavits to address the issue and issue fines if necessary.
- There was much discussion on the topic.
- The council opted to begin with fines. Mayor Webber stated he will reach out to the attorneys.

Abandoned Properties and Mowing:

Mayor Webber stated that in the past, the city has sent our maintenance crew in to mow, and the city submitted the cost to the county to place toward the property taxes. The council directed the maintenance crew to go forward with mowing the property in question.

Kari Brandt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion. It passed 4-0.

Submitted by: Lisa Leach, City Clerk