

MINUTES PARKER CITY COUNCIL  
Parker Senior Center  
234 W. Main St., Parker, Kansas  
**January 16, 2025**

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

**PLEDGE AND PRAYER:** The pledge was given, and Cody Kiser offered the prayer.

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mayor Webber asked if the council had read the minutes from December 12, 2024, and the bills for December 2024. Mayor Webber asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Council Member Kari Brandt asked for an amendment to Al Kerr's Christmas bonus. She asked that it be shown to be \$250 rather than \$50.

**Kandice Higgins motioned to amend the minutes from December 12, 2024, to reflect the Christmas bonus paid to Al Kerr was increased from \$50 to \$250. Kari Brandt seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.**

**Kari Brandt motioned to approve the consent agenda. Gary Earley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, 3-0.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mayor Webber asked for any additions to the agenda and approval. None were made.

**Kari Brandt motioned to approve the agenda as written. Gary Earley seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**City Attorney, Geri Hartley,** was not present.

**City Treasurer, Kathy Harrison,** gave the treasurer's report.

**City Clerk, Lisa Leach,** reminded the council members about KOMA rules, noting there are new council members who may not be familiar with the guidelines.

Clerk Leach reminded the council they had held three meetings at the city library due to heating issues at the senior center. She asked if the council would like to donate to the library due to the fact the city was not charged for the space during the meetings.

**Kari Brandt motioned to donate \$100.00 to the library for the use of their meeting room. There was not a second; the motion failed.**

**Police Chief, Cody Kiser**, stated he has a meeting with KDOT on January 17, 2025, regarding the STEP (Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program) Program. He was able to choose up to \$1000 worth of equipment, which he chose equipment for the patrol vehicle.

He told the council he will be meeting with the new county attorney and has several felony cases waiting that he is hoping to get cleared up.

He purchased uniforms for the police department using the allocation from the previous meeting.

He signed up for a program through the Department of Corrections to possibly receive equipment such as firearms. If received, he would like to sell the equipment for store credit toward future needs such as ammo.

The Tahoe broke down recently. He thanked Jason Webber, James Hazelet, and the LaCygne Police Department for assisting and the vehicle is now running again.

Officer Stokes is going to DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) school on behalf of the Linn County Sheriff's Department, which will benefit the City of Parker. This would enable Officer Stokes to be an expert witness in drug cases.

The dog agreement was discussed between both city attorneys, and we have received the finalized copy. Chief Kiser is hoping to get the agreement signed as soon as everything can be double-checked by our city attorney.

The Axon dash camera has been shipped. He would like to have it installed in the second vehicle, if the council decides to purchase one.

Chief Kiser is going to look for some PIO training (Public Information Officer). He would like to be sure the department is following all the rules when it comes to social media and public posting. The one he found recently is \$500, which seems expensive, so he is still looking.

**Maintenance, James Hazelet**, let the council know all the equipment is working great. He said with the current equipment, he can only push snow, and the city could benefit from having a way to spread salt or sand, especially at intersections.

The council thanked James for his work during the storm the city just experienced.

**Water and Sewer Contractor, Chad Page**, informed the council he had found a leak at a house that amounted to over 100,000 gallons of water this week.

**Compactor Operator, Al Kerr,** informed the council that a major hydraulic line had broken at the compactor on Saturday, resulting in the closing of the compactor for the rest of the day. It was fixed on Monday and is working again.

He noted there are signs of cockroaches, and he'd like to get the building sprayed. Mayor Webber said he would reach out to Shaun West with the county about possibly spraying.

**Park Board:** no report.

**Planning and Zoning:** no report.

**PWWSD#13:** no report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Resident Tim Griffin stated that the city should not be spending more than it is taking in and shared figures to show how this is happening. He also stated that the council should ask how their decisions will benefit the City of Parker.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Floodplain Management Ordinance:** Clerk Leach presented an approved copy of the ordinance from the Kansas Department of Agriculture that is ready to be adopted by the city. She informed the council of the need to publish the document and send it in to be finalized before the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Kandice Higgins had a question about the position of Floodplain Administrator and, if the assigned position had not been filled, could the council come together and make those decisions? Does it need to be in the ordinance? Clerk Leach said she would reach out to find the answer and let the council know as soon as possible.

The topic is tabled until the question is answered.

**Stop Sign Resolution:** Mayor Webber stated he had done some research into the MUTCD, and per the document, this topic needs to be turned over to Union Pacific's diagnostic engineering team for them to give us a designation for where the stop sign should go.

The topic is tabled until we get more information from the railroad.

**Stormwater Drainage Project:** Kari Brandt opened the topic with concerns about wasting money on fixing stormwater drainage if the city will need to begin replacing water lines in the very same spots within a couple of years, thus undoing all the money previously spent.

Kandice Higgins asked if it's possible to take care of water, sewer, and drainage issues at the same time.

Chad Page suggested it could be possible a road at a time if we can't get grant money. He said it wouldn't hurt to scope and do smoke tests to see how the sewer looks. The sewer lines were rehabbed with plastic lines in 2008 and may need spot repairs. The water

lines, which are 60 years old, are still functioning well. It was also stated that the water loss is currently so good that it would be hard to get grants to assist with the cost associated with replacement.

It was suggested the city ask for an engineering bid that encompasses the water lines, sewer lines, and stormwater drainage.

**Gary Earley motioned to get a bid from an engineering firm to include water lines, sewer lines, and stormwater drainage. There was no second: the motion failed.**

Kandice Higgins asked if we could have a workshop to become more informed about this issue.

The topic is tabled until further information is gathered. Dates for the workshop will be presented to council members.

**Parker Senior Center Lease:** The lease was reviewed by the council. It offers the city a 99-year lease for the senior center for \$1.00. The city would be responsible for all upkeep, maintenance, and insurance. The council would like to know how much the 1-million-dollar insurance policy would cost, in addition to the monthly expenses the county currently incurs.

This topic is tabled until the next council meeting.

**Police Vehicle:** Gary Earley suggested the police department use the current vehicle until the city can come up with a budget for the police department. He would like to hold a workshop to discuss the expectations of both the city and the police department.

This topic is put on hold.

**Water Plant:** The council reviewed a proposal from Chad Page that includes the demolition of the water plant for \$7800.00. The council agreed it is a possible safety issue and is necessary. Discussion of where the funds would be paid from concluded with an agreement of an even split between the water fund and capital outlay.

**Gary Earley motioned to accept the bid of \$7800.00 from Chad Page which includes the demolition of the water plant. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 3-0.**

**Animal Control Agreement:** The proposed agreement with the City of LaCygne regarding dog impoundment was reviewed by the city council. The proposed agreement left a few questions unanswered, which the council would like to review before signing the agreement.

The topic is tabled until the questions are answered.

**Camera System at City Hall:** This topic is tabled until all pricing information is presented.

**Planning and Zoning Administrator Position:** This position was recommended to the Planning and Zoning Board to pre-empt possible legal issues per KOMA. All communication would go through this person to the board. The board asked for the administrator to have a city-issued cell phone and to be authorized to work up to 4 hours a month, as needed. Discussion on the topic concluded with the suggestion of the position being included in the city clerk's duties, with the understanding that if it proved to be very time-consuming the topic could be revisited by the council.

**Kandice Higgins motioned for the city clerk to take on the position of Planning and Zoning Administrator. Gary Earley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

**New Business:**

**2025 Calendar of Events:** Clerk Leach presented the draft of the 2025 Calendar of Events for Parker. The date for the Easter Egg Hunt was changed to April 12<sup>th</sup> and the Pet Clinic Event was given the end time of noon.

**PALS Donation:** Clerk Leach asked the council if they would like to donate to the Parker Area Ladies Society for the upcoming years' events in Parker. The amount of \$1200 was requested, which would be an increase over the \$1000 donated last year.

**Gary Earley motioned to donate \$1000 to the Parker Area Ladies Society for the 2025 events. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0.**

**Emails for Officers:** Clerk Leach presented the request for the city to purchase email addresses for each of the city police officers to use for official police department work. The cost would be \$7 per month per officer.

The council is tabling the request at this time.

**Executive Session:**

**Kandice Higgins motioned to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-personnel issues at 8:35 p.m. Kari Brandt seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.**

**Kari Brandt motioned to come out of the executive session at 8:45 p.m. with no action taken. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0.**

**Other Business:**

**Tim Griffin:** Mr. Griffin informed the council the city's biggest spending in 2024 was the police department. He broke down a multitude of figures to help the council see where exactly the money was being spent. He emphasized the need for oversight and

questioned the crime rate before the department and since it began. He is asking the council to sit down as a group to find a budget and satisfy the citizens of Parker.

Mr. Griffin also addressed the issue of Al Kerr, the city compactor operator, coming to meetings to make reports but not receiving pay for his time. He stated that all city employees should be paid for their attendance. He asked that the city give Mr. Kerr retroactive pay for the meetings he has attended but has not received pay for. The council agreed with this suggestion.

**Kandice Higgins motioned to pay Al Kerr \$336 for his attendance at council meetings retroactively from his date of employment. Gary Earley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously 3-0.**

Kandice Higgins thanked Tim Griffin and Gary Earley for doing their due diligence in researching information to share at this evening's meeting.

**Kandice Higgins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Gary Earley seconded the motion. It passed 3-0.**

**Submitted by: Lisa Leach, City Clerk**