

KATHY RAY, MAYOR
KIM FOSTER, CITY MANAGER
JAMES SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY



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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PARIS, TENNESSEE
September 21, 2023
1:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Paris, Tennessee held a Special Called Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023, 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 Vickey Roberts
Commissioner Jackie Jones
Commissioner Sam Tharpe
Commissioner John Etheridge
- Also Present:** City Manager Kim Foster
City Attorney James Smith
Finance Director Tammie Hopper
Administrative Assistant Jessica Crouch
Community Development Director Jennifer Morris
- 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: Regular Meeting – September 7, 2023

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: The minutes stand approved as read.

VOTE: None

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: None

SERVICE RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER: None

OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO.1

Discussion of Volunteer Drive Sidewalk Noncompliance Issue

DISCUSSION: City Attorney James Smith updated the City Commission on the noncompliance issue with the sidewalk on Volunteer Drive. At the last commission meeting on September 7, 2023, Mr. Smith reported on the issue and presented options for the commission to consider. After the last commission meeting, Mr. Smith, Building Inspector Jesse Skidmore, and the builders Wyatt and Brent Owens met to talk about and consider all solutions to make the sidewalk ADA compliant. Mr. Smith stated that the conversation went as well as it could have following the circumstance. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Brent Owens has tried to help the situation by grinding the sidewalk. Since the grinding took place, the sidewalk went from an 8-degree slope to a 6-degree slope. Mr. Smith stated that according to the ADA, the city is required to have 4 feet of a 2-degree slope sidewalk. Mr. Smith recommended that the best plan of action for the city and moving forward is for the city commissioners to authorize the City Manager to retain and pay for an engineer to come up with a solution to present to the builder and the current homeowner.

Mr. Smith also addressed the recent Social Media chatter regarding other sidewalks around the City of Paris. Mr. Smith spoke about the City of Paris ADA transition plan and addressing the other sidewalks in due course. Mr. Smith stated that this solution from the engineer will provide the city with a roadmap in case this situation comes about again.

Commissioner Etheridge stated that he was in favor of this recommendation. Mr. Etheridge stated that he would like to see the city work with an engineer with a background and expertise in ADA compliance and sidewalk issues.

Commissioner Jackie Jones stated that she was in favor as well and asked for clarification on the driveway being a new curb cut. Mr. Smith stated that the builder pulled the permit from the city and once that permit is pulled, it is the City's due diligence to make sure the sidewalk is replaced to ADA compliance standards. Ms. Jones expressed her concern regarding the liability issues that this sidewalk brings by not being in compliance with ADA.

Vice Mayor Vickey Roberts asked for clarification on the recommendation from Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith stated that his recommendation was for the engineer to look at the sidewalk and not the driveway.

ACTION: Commissioner Sam Tharpe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Etheridge to authorize the City Manager to retain and pay for an engineer to provide a professional solution to present to the builder and the current homeowner to comply with ADA standards.

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Mayor

Finance Director