

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  
March 2, 2023  
5:00 P.M.**

Board of Commissioners of the City of Paris, Tennessee held a Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 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  
Community Development Director Jennifer Morris  
Administrative Assistant Jessica Crouch  
Finance Director Traci Shannon

**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 Sam Tharpe.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – February 2, 2023

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** Commissioner John Etheridge made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sam Tharpe to approve the minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

First Comment was from David Hinton who is a business owner in Downtown Paris, Tennessee. Mr. Hinton brought forth his concern regarding the pedestrian/vehicle situation downtown. He stated that he was clipped by a car 2 years ago and is afraid to cross the street.

Second Comment was from Tammy Walker who lives at 912 East Blythe Street, Paris, Tennessee. Ms. Walker brought forth her concern regarding the pedestrian/vehicle situation downtown. Ms. Walker also asked for an update regarding the downtown crosswalk project.

Third Comment was from Willa Brown who lives at 1315 Valleywood Drive, Paris, Tennessee. Ms. Brown brought forth her concern regarding the pedestrian/vehicle situation downtown. Ms. Brown stated that she was hit by a vehicle in September 2022.

Fourth Comment was from Anita Ostrum who lives at 608 S Market Street, Paris, Tennessee. Ms. Ostrum brought forth her concern regarding the pedestrian/vehicle situation downtown. Ms. Ostrum stated that she works at Commercial Bank and Trust Company and she and her colleagues would like to rename Brewer Street to Sadler Street.

Fifth Comment was from George Combs who lives at 818 E Washington Street, Paris, Tennessee. Mr. Combs brought forth his thanks and gratitude to the City of Paris regarding Quinn Chapel receiving historic registry designation.

Kim Foster, City Manager addressed the Citizens comments. Ms. Foster expressed condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Sadler. Questions were asked regarding the accident that occurred at Brewer and E Wood Street. Police Chief, Ricky Watson, and Ms. Foster shed light on the accident to their fullest extent. Ms. Foster also gave an update on the Downtown Signalization project and the plan of offering a Public Input Meeting in the near future. Ms. Foster also explained to the public the new safety measures that have been in place since the accident at Brewer and E Wood Street. Ricky Watson, Police Chief, stated that there has been extra patrol in the morning and afternoon hours from the Paris Police Department. Ms. Foster stated in order for this to occur, the criminal investigation department has been taken off their desk job in the morning and afternoons in order to patrol. Ms. Foster demonstrated the new Pedestrian Flags that will be installed at all seven intersections in the downtown districts. These Pedestrian Flags are being made by the Public Works department with the expectation of them being installed by the end of March 2023.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:** None

**SERVICE RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.1**

#### **Financial Update**

### **Narrative to the January 2023 Operating Statement**

Our retail sales tax revenue for the first half of this fiscal year has been strong. We are ahead fiscal year-to-date 6.27%. The month of December reflected a slight increase of .65% compared to last December.

General Fund revenues were ahead of expenditures for the month of January and also ahead fiscal year-to-date. A few of the larger expenses during the month included \$308K for a front-end loader, \$25K for material used for street repair, and \$34K for E-Citation hardware/software.

Other Business:

**New employees (4):** Two part-time (Animal Shelter), One part-time (KPAC),  
One part-time (PHCBL)

**Voluntarily Quit (1):** One part-time (Animal-Shelter)

We issued eight business licenses in January:

**New business (5):** Heritage Valley Home Inspections, Southern Vinyls, Nonni's NY Pizza, Crown Meeting & Event Center, Jay Odom Design

**Name/Owner change (1):** McPhearson Enterprise (Prev. Rawls Funeral Home)

**Ownership Change (1):** Burger King

**New Location (1):** The Inspector

**CITY OF PARIS, TENNESSEE  
RETAIL SALES TAX REVENUE**

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	% Incr(Decr)
JULY	\$787,901	\$802,267	\$898,979	\$951,793	\$1,046,570	9.96%
AUGUST	\$790,533	\$799,378	\$843,541	\$895,516	\$931,433	4.01%
SEPTEMBER	\$774,425	\$797,992	\$888,921	\$965,256	\$1,067,740	10.62%
OCTOBER	\$761,812	\$761,453	\$873,733	\$974,047	\$1,036,880	6.45%
NOVEMBER	\$809,116	\$807,105	\$874,641	\$988,199	\$1,059,818	7.25%
DECEMBER	\$960,027	\$957,286	\$1,097,412	\$1,210,615	\$1,218,473	0.65%
JANUARY	\$665,013	\$713,906	\$844,826	\$839,389		
FEBRUARY	\$704,313	\$727,380	\$719,938	\$859,647		
MARCH	\$877,659	\$840,175	\$1,101,592	\$1,102,651		
APRIL	\$849,875	\$865,360	\$1,040,359	\$1,060,677		
MAY	\$863,697	\$949,140	\$1,005,346	\$1,105,515		
JUNE	\$873,145	\$966,861	\$1,013,926	\$1,125,455		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,717,515</b>	<b>\$9,988,303</b>	<b>\$11,203,215</b>	<b>\$12,078,759</b>	<b>\$6,360,914</b>	
Previous YTD % Increase/Decrease	1.24%	2.79%	12.16%	7.82%	6.27%	

**Monthly Operating Statement  
January 2023**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Percent Realized</u>
Property Taxes	1,727,000	482,420	763,757	44.22%
Local Option Sales Tax	6,086,700	522,114	3,632,162	59.67%
Wholesale Liquor / Beer	875,000	85,362	571,230	65.28%
Business Tax	400,000	15,800	53,976	13.49%
Fees & Licenses	168,500	3,254	88,858	52.73%
In Lieu Payments	904,250	83,419	522,151	57.74%
Grants	1,036,430	63,053	636,909	61.45%
State Shared taxes	1,791,800	140,053	979,163	54.65%
All Other	1,615,948	289,045	1,721,852	106.55%
Federal ARPA Grant	1,491,875	0	1,491,875	100.00%
ARPA/TDEC-WII	500,000	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>16,597,503</b>	<b>1,684,520</b>	<b>10,461,934</b>	<b>63.03%</b>
Solid Waste Collection - BPU	1,250,000	99,423	742,834	59.43%
Solid Waste Disposal - Transfer	400,000	41,042	281,674	70.42%
Other Revenue	25,400	4	25,307	99.63%
<b>Total Sanitation</b>	<b>1,675,400</b>	<b>140,469</b>	<b>1,049,815</b>	<b>62.66%</b>
Gate Receipts - Brush & Debris	140,000	8,047	79,918	57.08%
County Share Operating Exp	30,000	0	0	0.00%
Gate Receipts - Tires	10,000	1,692	10,788	107.88%
Other Revenue	91,450	49	36,150	39.53%
<b>Total Landfill</b>	<b>271,450</b>	<b>9,787</b>	<b>126,856</b>	<b>46.73%</b>
<b>Total Drug Fund</b>	<b>42,050</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>54,518</b>	<b>129.65%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>18,586,403</b>	<b>1,836,132</b>	<b>11,693,122</b>	<b>62.91%</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Percent Realized</u>
Grants & Donations	229,961	82,895	169,070	73.52%
General Administration	423,856	36,722	237,304	55.99%
Economic Development	178,474	13,683	102,838	57.62%
Elections	4,500	0	0	0.00%
Financial Administration	331,384	20,506	206,553	62.33%
City Hall Building	104,397	9,563	70,501	67.53%
Police Department	2,369,010	172,008	1,486,242	62.74%
Emergency Communications	748,932	64,934	449,676	60.04%
Fire Department	1,923,446	140,735	1,119,616	58.21%
Building Inspection	178,037	12,210	97,359	54.68%
Street Maintenance	1,772,747	72,633	1,124,459	63.43%
State Street Aid	1,683,000	62,901	1,516,960	90.13%
Storm Water Management	72,140	2,519	30,846	42.76%
Street Lighting	116,000	36,811	83,085	71.62%
City Garage	310,298	24,108	177,487	57.20%
Cemetery Maintenance	73,324	648	35,510	48.43%
Health & Animal Control	199,228	16,015	111,402	55.92%
Civic Center	692,100	55,086	398,286	57.55%
Parks & Recreation	1,111,601	89,187	751,385	67.59%
Library	183,430	30,572	122,287	66.67%
Community Development	1,376,700	7,728	835,996	60.72%
ARPA-SLFRF	1,000,000	34,122	386,576	38.66%
ARPA/TDEC-WII	500,000	5,621	36,496	7.30%
Debt Service	683,917	10,427	159,836	23.37%
<b>General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>16,266,482</b>	<b>1,001,633</b>	<b>9,709,769</b>	<b>59.69%</b>
Sanitation Collection	1,566,797	373,413	1,065,883	68.03%
Contractual Services	661,500	60,645	432,254	65.34%
<b>Total Sanitation</b>	<b>2,228,297</b>	<b>434,058</b>	<b>1,498,137</b>	<b>67.23%</b>
<b>Total Landfill</b>	<b>215,404</b>	<b>19,325</b>	<b>141,166</b>	<b>65.54%</b>
<b>Total Drug Fund</b>	<b>75,300</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>37,338</b>	<b>49.59%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>18,785,483</b>	<b>1,457,228</b>	<b>11,386,410</b>	<b>60.61%</b>

<u>REVENUES OVER / (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>
General Fund	682,887	752,165
Sanitation	(293,588)	(448,322)
Landfill	(9,538)	(14,310)
Drug Fund	(856)	17,180

**NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2**

**Appointments to Boards**

<u>BOARD</u>	<u>CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>PROPOSED MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NEW EXPIRATION</u>
County Board of Equalization  2 Year Term  (City Commission Appointment)	Sabra Fuller	Sabra Fuller	April 1, 2023	April 1, 2025

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** Commissioner Jackie Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Same Tharpe to reappoint Sabra Fuller to the County Board of Equalization.

**VOTE:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

**Resolution in Support of Restoring Historic Revenue Sharing**

**DISCUSSION:** Kim Foster, City Manager, explained that the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) biggest priority is an initiative to pass legislation aimed at restoring the historic revenue sharing sales tax relationship that the State had with municipalities. Ms. Foster goes on to state that if this bill would have been in place last year, it would have resulted in \$190,249 toward the City of Paris. This signed resolution will be shared with legislation, TML, and elected officials in the West Tennessee area in hopes they will sign on and co-sponsor this bill. Ms. Foster stated that our small towns are the driving factor in economic development in the State of Tennessee.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Sam Tharpe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jackie Jones to approve the Resolution in Support of Restoring Historic Revenue Sharing.

**VOTE:** None

**RESOLUTION NO. 1676**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RESTORING THE HISTORIC REVENUE SHARING  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND ITS LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS AND TO RETURN THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE SINGLE ARTICLE  
CAP TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's municipal communities are the economic engine of the state and today 92% of the state's total sales tax collections are generated within municipal boundaries; and,

**WHEREAS**, such economic growth is intentional and when it occurs, it is financed largely through city taxes for police, fire, streets, water and sewer, schools, parks, libraries and other amenities that attract and retain businesses and make Tennessee's communities desirable places for people to raise a family, start a business, and visit; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1947, the state began sharing 4.6% of each year's total state sales tax collections with cities for the purposes of recognizing the collective contribution of cities as the state's economic engine; thereby acknowledging that city residents incur a local tax burden that is directly attributable to financing, developing, and maintaining an economic environment that continues to generate a healthy portion of the sales tax revenue accruing to the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, when confronting serious fiscal challenges in 2002, the state of Tennessee increased the state sales tax rate from 6% to 7%; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state chose not to share a portion of the sales tax revenues generated by the increase from 6% to 7% with Tennessee municipalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this change the state broke a 55-year relationship of sharing 4.6% of all sales tax revenue designated for the state's general fund with municipalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, at the same time in 2002, the state also doubled from \$1,600 to \$3,200 the amount of the purchase price any single item that is subject to a combined state and local option sales tax of 9.75%; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the single article cap increase from \$1,600 to \$3,200, the state also captured and continues to capture 100% of the state's 7% levy as well as the 2.75% portion of the sales tax levy that is customarily reserved for local government on the added sale of items with a purchase price above \$1,600; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 20 years since these provisions took effect, these two changes have combined to result in the state realizing nearly \$2 billion in additional sales tax collections -- \$2 billion that would have benefitted local taxpayers had the historic revenue sharing relationship and single article cap not been altered in 2002; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 20 years since these provisions took effect, Tennessee's state leaders have managed the budget with great care and a strong fiscally conservative approach to create a dynamic and growing economy with eight consecutive years of surplus revenues; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 20 years since these provisions took effect, the State of Tennessee's sustained economic and fiscal performance have erased the conditions which led to these austerity measures in 2002; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is expected to be a surplus of recurring revenues produced by the economic engines of our state and managed by its leaders; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the accolades bestowed upon the state for its economic success, its fiscally conservative policies and strong leadership, the state has garnered an enviable reputation as the state in which to live, work and play; and,

**WHEREAS**, a consequence of this reputation has led to continued and substantial economic growth and an increase and realignment of the state's population, thereby increasing the fiscal pressures on municipal governments to meet demands to expand and maintain infrastructure, to deliver essential services, to provide the amenities that allow for continued quality of life for

Tennessee's citizens, and to promote an economic environment that allows Tennessee's businesses and communities to prosper; and,

**WHEREAS**, these fiscal pressures create the need for recurring dollars to keep pace with this demand and to counteract the effects of inflation; and,

**WHEREAS**, correcting the provisions which took effect in 2002 will help to offset these fiscal pressures and to provide relief to local taxpayers shouldering the burden of meeting this demand which is associated with generating the sales tax revenues accruing to the state;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of the City of Paris, on behalf of its residents, formally supports the restoration of the historic revenue sharing relationship of recurring state shared sales taxes in order for cities to once again receive 4.6% of all state general fund sales tax revenue. The Board of Commissioners also formally supports the state allowing local governments to receive the local share of sales tax revenues realized by increasing the single article cap in 2002 to collect on items with a purchase price between \$1,600 and \$3,200.

This resolution shall become a part of and be spread upon the minutes of this meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Paris, Tennessee.

Resolved this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2023.

  
City of Paris Mayor

  
Finance Director

**STATUS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS**  
**March 2023**

	<b>PRIMARY STAFF</b>	<b>TARGET COMPLETION DATE(S)</b>	
HOME Grant	Morris/Foster	2023	All of the hurdles have been crossed on the first two houses to be rebuilt under this grant and construction has begun. The third house is scheduled for inspection.
Back Alley Paris	Foster/Morris/ Ray (DPA)	June 2022	A conceptual painting depicting the second 100 years of our bicentennial is still being perfected. The project is on target for a June unveiling.
TA Grant for Sidewalks along Wilson & Patriot	Foster/Morris	Fall 2022	The last step in this project, a driveway repair, was completed mid-Feb. The process for officially closing this project has been started.
2018 STBG Project for Signalization & Safety Upgrades at 3 Intersections Downtown	Foster/Morris	Fall 2022	Work on preliminary ROW plans continues. Meeting held with city, layout to be revised at corner of Brewer and Wood. Historical survey completed with finding of no adverse effect. Historical survey sent to TDOT environmental department. Waiting on responses from the following agencies for the in-house re-eval: air & noise, archeology, historic, NAC, TDEC, USFWS, and TWRA.
Rison St Bridge Replacement	Foster/Morris	Summer 2023	The second updated NEPA (environmental) document has been submitted to TDOT, we are, once again, awaiting their response.
2020 Multimodal Access Grant for 4 Downtown Intersections	Foster/ Morris	Fall 2022	Work on preliminary ROW plans continues. Historical survey completed with finding of no adverse effect. Historical survey sent to TDOT environmental department. Early utility coordination completed. Meeting held with TDOT Regional Traffic Engineer regarding improvements at Washington and Market.
2021 Multimodal Access Grant for Tyson/M.W. Intersection Upgrades & Sidewalk	Foster/Morris	Summer 2024 (if awarded)	NEPA phase documentation continues. Waiting on responses from the following agencies TWRA, USACE, Archaeology, Historic Preservation, NAC. Preliminary grading for intersection completed. Preliminary grading 40% complete.
2021 TA Grant for Sidewalk Project along Fairgrounds & Royal Oak	Foster	Winter of 2024 (if awarded)	Application deadline for submission of qualifications for engineers is Feb. 28. Selection of engineer to perform CEI for this project will be done the first week of March.
TDEC Water Infrastructure Improvement (WII) Grant	Foster	Spring 2023	Work on hydraulic analysis continues with development of individual drainage basins. Basin development approximately 85% complete.
Downtown Improvement Grant	Morris/Crouch/Foster	Spring 2024	Ten projects have now been completed. We have three projects left to complete; Scott building on Ruff St., Scott building on Poplar & the Iron Place.
Municipal Facilities Study	Foster	Spring 2023	TLM continuing evaluation layouts and reports creation.

Kim Foster, City Manager discussed the following updates regarding the Status of Various Projects:

- None

**Notes/Updates from the City Manager**

- We have some new ideas &/or strategies for dealing with the dangerous cross walk situation in our downtown. They are:
  - Increased police presence in the early morning and late afternoon.
  - Removal of some parking spaces close to intersections to add visibility.
  - Flags &/or flashers to alert drivers of pedestrian crossings.
  - Development of an education campaign designed to increase awareness and understanding for both pedestrians and drivers.
- Currently, because of our new work schedule, when a holiday falls on a Friday we will take off on Thursday to recognize the holiday. This works well in most cases, but in the instance of Fish Fry, I don't think it sends the correct message to the community to be closed on Thursday. I am considering changing the Fish Fry holiday day to a floating holiday to be taken at the discretion of each employee. I am looking for feedback on this from the Commission. **Board of City Commissioners were in agreement to change the Fish Fry Holiday to a floating holiday.**
- The City Employee Input meeting was well received and went very well. I was a bit disappointed that more ideas for improved services to the community did not make the list of highest priorities, but we had



some great ideas about how internal customers can be better served. We will be working on how to move forward and implement some improvements.

- Jesse Skidmore, Building Inspector, is now fully certified. He has passed all (6) certification tests.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Commissioner Sam Tharpe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jackie Jones to adjourn at 6:08 p.m.

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Mayor

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Finance Director