

**\*Minutes amended on January 16, 2025. Motion made by Kari Brandt and seconded by Kandice Higgins.**

MINUTES PARKER CITY COUNCIL  
Parker Library  
234 W. Main St., Parker, Kansas  
**December 12, 2024**

Mayor Jason Webber called the regular meeting to order at 7:01.

**PLEDGE AND PRAYER:** The pledge was given, and Jason Webber 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>Present</b>
Meranda Ellison, Council Member	<b>Present</b>

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

**NOMINATION OF NEW COUNCIL PERSON:** Mayor Jason Webber announced the resignation of Council Member Ivonne Clark, effective December 9, 2024. He nominated Meranda Ellison to fill the vacancy left due to Ms. Clark’s resignation.

Council Member Kandice Higgins questioned Mayor Webber about a previous volunteer for the council. He stated it had been a couple of months since contact with the previous volunteer, so he moved forward with his new choice.

**Gary Earley motioned to approve the nomination of Meranda Ellison to the position of City Council Member. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.**

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Clerk Leach administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Meranda Ellison and Police Chief Cody Kiser.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mayor Webber asked if the council had read the minutes from November 14, 2024, the special meeting on December 2, 2024, and the bills for November 2024. Mayor Webber asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Council Member Kandice Higgins made a statement that she feels minutes are not fully representing what is said by all and she would like the meetings to be recorded for accuracy.

**Joe Godfrey motioned to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2024, meeting, the December 2, 2024, special meeting, and the November bills. Gary Earley seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 with Kandice Higgins dissenting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Resident Tim Griffin suggested the council take more time to consider the benefits of issues to city residents and commented on several issues that have recently been discussed and/or voted on by the city council.

Steve Lyman, Treasurer of the Park Board, introduced himself to the current City Council and gave information regarding the Park Board.

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

**Meranda Ellison motioned to approve the agenda as written. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**City Attorney, Geri Hartley,** stated over one-half of the issues at court were resolved. She said she has talked with the county about the Senior Center. They are offering a no-cost lease or a no-cost sale to the city. The city will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Council Member Higgins asked what the difference between the lease and the sale would be. Attorney Hartley said the lease could be breached by the city if the need arises in the future. There is a question about insurance and liability and the county may need to continue to use the building for elections.

Attorney Hartley recommends the lease for the city. The council members agreed with her. She stated that when the agreement is drafted the council will still have the option to decline.

**City Treasurer, Kathy Harrison,** gave the treasurer's report. She noted a mistake with a sewer/water entry but that it will be corrected.

**City Clerk, Lisa Leach,** let the council know Heritage Park was voted 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Park in Linn County by the Linn County News 'Best of Linn County' awards.

Clerk Leach thanked all of those who assisted with the city's Christmas decorations this year. She included Lawrence Raitinger, Shawn and Kari Brandt, Gary Earley, and James Hazelet. She also thanked Chad Page for the use of his telehandler, without which things would have been much more difficult.

Clerk Leach brought up the ARPA fund and there is still \$777.24 that needs to be allocated for use by December 16, 2024.

**Kandice Higgins motioned to use the remaining ARPA funds of \$777.24 toward the slide repairs made at Heritage Park. Kari Brandt seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.**

**Interim Police Chief, Cody Kiser,** answered questions from the public comment. It was reiterated that the police department would like to have a yearly department budget so they can use it as a guide for purchasing.

Int. Chief Kiser asked for security cameras to be installed at City Hall. He spoke with Kwikom and could get an external wifi router installed for \$10 a month. The system he would recommend is a Google Nest system with 2 cameras that are solar powered. The system cost would be \$439.99 for the 2 cameras. There would be a yearly subscription cost of \$150.00 for 24/ coverage with replay capability.

He brought up a potential agreement with LaCygne to take care of dog calls. The county won't take those calls unless the animal is attacking a human or livestock. The city has discussed building a kennel but has not made any decisions. When he spoke with LaCygne, they offered an agreement of \$25 to come to pick the dog up and take it to their pound, and \$10 per day to take of the dog. We could note in the agreement that criminal action would follow, and we would seek restitution from the animal owner.

Mayor Webber asked for thoughts. Kandice Higgins would like to look for more information. Int. Chief Kiser stated the city has no options right now, we are required to have a place for the animals, and we are not meeting the requirements.

It was decided to table the discussion until next month.

**Maintenance, James Hazelet,** had nothing to report.

**Water and Sewer Contractor, Chad Page,** said there are no issues to speak of. He wanted to remind the council that there will need to be water upgrades in the future. The current water lines are from the '60s. We may need to look at replacing a block at a time. The sewer was updated in 2008, but that is also almost 20 years old now.

**Compactor Operator, Al Kerr,** let the council know someone from the state came by to inspect the compactor. Al asked him why he can't keep things around the area for others to use. He said the state guy said they only worry about large appliances sitting around, he had no problems with cans, and he would speak with Al at the county. He also said a new container had been brought in on Tuesday and this day (Thursday) and he is back to his normal schedule with container replacement.

**Park Board:** no report.

**Planning and Zoning:** no report.

**PWWSD#13:** Chad Page let the council know there will be a water rate hike at some point soon.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Stop Sign Resolution:** Mayor Webber said there were complaints when the sign was placed so he removed it and got into a little trouble. He did not put it back.

Much debate on the topic was had. Concerns included the location of the sign being too close to train tracks, people racing the trains, and a blind corner. Suggestions made included rumble strips, sign placement on Railroad Street, and no sign at all.

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Emergency Management Coordinator, suggested the council look at the MUTCD, which is the federal standard on signs.

The council decided to do more research and table the discussion until next month.

**Stormwater Drainage Project:**

Geri Hartley had no legal opinion on the bid contract.

Jason Webber suggested tabling this discussion until next month.

Kandice Higgins asked why, and Webber stated it would be a long discussion and we've already had long discussions this evening.

It was agreed to table the topic until next month.

**Expanding City Hall for PD Office:** Int. Chief Kiser suggested an internal build. He said hypothetically there would be no concrete needed. We could tear out the stairs, build a hall to the office, and put 2 secure doors inside and to the outside. The fencing around the side yard would be completed across the back and the vehicle/s would be kept there. Within the new office, a long closet across the rear of the room would make space for a gun safe and lockers and shelves. The front of the building also needs to be brought up to ADA compliance.

Jason Webber asked for a motion to ask for a bid for an internal build with fencing and making the front entrance ADA compliant.

Gary expressed concern about the cost of the police department to the city.

**Kari Brandt made a motion to ask for a bid for an internal build, fencing, and making the front entrance ADA compliant. Joe Godfrey seconded the motion. It passed 3-2 with Gary Earley and Kandice Higgins dissenting.**

**Police Vehicle:** Much discussion and debate occurred over this topic.

The police department is asking for a second vehicle to use for an on-call officer and to have a backup vehicle for the department.

The council is concerned with money spent on the police department and the needs of the city.

Mayor Webber asked for a motion to vote on a budget.

**Gary Earley motioned to table the topic until the next meeting. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, which carried 4-1 with Kari Brandt dissenting.**

**New Business:**

**Randy Hegwald – Emergency Services:** had the council members complete paperwork to get badges to enable them to access city emergencies.

Mr. Hegwald said the fire department is flourishing, but they are in need of more volunteers.

He spoke about a statewide storm siren grant that could be a year out and that little counties without money could benefit.

He expressed that his department is happy to be in contact with our community and to reach out any time with questions, including fire codes.

**Old Water Plant:** it was brought up as a concern for liability issues due to unauthorized people accessing it. Chad Page mentioned there is a valve and water line in the building that runs into the lake, but it could possibly be capped and buried if the building is demoed. He said he will look at it this month, see what can be done with it, and report back next month

**Police Uniforms:** were discussed at the workshop. It was agreed that the officers need to be recognized by the residents of the city for everyone's safety.

**Kandice Higgins motioned for \$2,000 to be budgeted for uniforms for the police department. Kari Brandt seconded the motion. It carried 5-0.**

**Christmas Bonus:** It was asked what the bonuses were last year. All employees received \$250 except Al Kerr, who received \$50.

**Gary Early motioned to give everyone \$100 for a Christmas bonus. The motion died due to lack of a second.**

\* **Kari Brandt motioned to give Craig Haley, Cody Kiser, Charles Stokes, James Hazelet, Kathy Harrison, Al Kerr, and Lisa Leach each \$250. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion, and it carried 4-1 with Gary Earley dissenting.**

**Cereal Malt Beverage License for 1-Stop:** Clerk Leach made the council aware that the CMB license for 1-Stop is up for renewal.

**Kandice Higgins motioned to approve the CMB License for 1-Stop for the upcoming year. Kari Brandt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.**

**Roger Sims:** let the council know he will be adding more info to the home page of the city website. He wants to make it more promotional for Parker. He will be adding businesses with photos as we have many entrepreneurs in our area.

**Kari Brandt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Kandice Higgins seconded the motion which passed 5-0.**

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