

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF PAOLA, KANSAS
PAOLA JUSTICE CENTER 805 N PEARL
6:00 O'CLOCK P.M.
July 8, 2025**

The Governing Body of the City of Paola, Kansas, met with Mayor House presiding.

Council Members present: Mayor Leigh House and Council Members J.R. McMahon, Anthony Hugo and LeAnne Shields.

Council Members absent: Joshua Brown

Also present: City Manager Randi Shannon, City Clerk Stephanie Marler, Police Chief Chad Corbin, Planning and Zoning Administrator Mitch Gabbert, Public Works Director Brett Marler, Fire Chief Bruce Hartig, employees of the Paola Fire Department, employees of the Paola Police Department, Lucas and Matthew Nance, Michael Shonkwiler and others.

CALL TO ORDER: The regular council meeting was called to order by Mayor House.

ROLL CALL: Mayor House and Council Members McMahon, Hugo and Shields.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTIONS: Fire Chief Hartig said there have been several promotions in the Fire Department and wanted to introduce the new command staff.

John Hinman - Deputy Chief

Chris Courtney & Mark Farmer - Captain

Jeff VanDonsel, Jacob Maynard, Jacob Hinman & Cam Johnson - Lieutenant

LIFE SAVING AWARDS: Police Chief Corbin presented awards to 2 members of the community and several police officers.

Community members Lucas Nance, 17 yrs old and Matthew Nance, 15 yrs old were each awarded the Life Saving Award for helping to save 9 individuals during a house fire at 204 E Peoria.

Sergeant Oathout and Officer Haugland were dispatched to the fire at 204 E Peoria and each received the Life Saving Award for their actions. Officer Jarred was off duty but also responded and received the Award of Excellence.

Lieutenant Gazzano, Officer Rakaoski and Officer Halaquist were dispatched to an unresponsive individual who ended up as a non breather. They were able to provide life saving techniques to save the individual. They each received the Life Saving Award.

Officer Watson was dispatched to an unconscious individual with agonal breathing. He was able to provide CPR and restore a pulse. He received the Life Saving Award.

Officer Haugland was awarded Officer of the Year. This award is selected by the department supervisors. Officer Haugland stood out by his dedication to control the community drug problem and remain professional and adapt to ever changing challenges.

DETECTIVE PINNING: Officer Johnson, who has been with the department for a short time, has transferred to the Detective position. His wife Kelly had the honor of pinning his new badge.

Agenda Item 1 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of minutes of the meeting on June 10, 2025
- b. Approval of Salary Ordinances 25-13 & 25-14
- c. Approval of Appropriation Ordinance 1053 & 1054
- d. Approval of the Pledged Collateral Report for June 2025
- e. Approval of Journal Entries for June 2025

Council Member Shields made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and authorize the mayor to sign. The motion was seconded by Council Member McMahon and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Agenda Item 2 - COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

Agenda Item 3 – NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 3a - 2025 Miami County Fair Lease Agreement

Clerk Marler said the Miami County Fair Association is requesting the use of City-owned property in Wallace Park to hold the carnival for the Miami County Fair. She said annually the Miami County Fair is held at the fairgrounds, which is County property, next to Wallace Park. The property owned by the Fair Association is not large enough to accommodate all of the activities of the fair so they would like to lease the area south of the loop road across from the playground. This is the area the carnival traditionally sets up in.

Council Member Hugo made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the Miami County Fair Association and authorize the necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Council Member McMahon and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Agenda Item 3b - Demolition Bid Award for 610 E Kaskaskia.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said bids were solicited for the demolition of the barn at 610 E. Kaskaskia. The solicitation was advertised in the newspaper, as well as posted on the City of Paola website and social media. Solicitation was open from June 13, 2025 through June 27, 2025 at 4:30 PM. Bids were received by the deadline and are summarized in the table below.

Contractor Name	Bid Price
Gowing's Construction	\$5,000.00
Hammer In Tow	\$5,600.00
SH Flatworks	\$7,500.00
KC Excavating Co.	\$9,800.00
G-B Construction	\$25,000.00

Zoning Administrator Gabbert suggested the lowest bid from Gowing's Construction be approved.

Council Member Shields made a motion to award the demolition bid for the barn at 610 E Kaskaskia to Gowing's Construction in the amount of \$5,000.00 and authorize the necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hugo and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Agenda Item 3c - Project Authorization - Ordinance #3233

Manager Shannon said three water related projects were discussed at the work study meeting on July 1, 2025. These projects were addressing the streambank erosion along Wea Creek that impacts the City's main water line from the Public Utility Authority, updating several radio read water meters and replacing water service lines to reduce lead and copper in the system. She said the estimated cost of the three projects is \$1,050,000.

Manager Shannon said a Project Authorization Ordinance is a step in the financial process of bond issuance. She said this ordinance is a mechanism utilized by the governing body to formally approve the issue of general obligation bonds to finance specific public improvement projects, and give the City the authority to issue Temporary Notes for a portion of the costs of the Project if necessary until the bonds may be issued. She also noted these projects are permitted under the Kansas Water Act so no election is required.

Council Member McMahon made a motion to approve Ordinance #3233 - Project Authorization and authorize the necessary signature. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hugo and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Agenda Item 3d - Notice to exceed the RNR & set the public hearing.

Clerk Marler said the City of Paola's Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) for the 2026 budget is 40.621. She said although there have been many budget discussions, a final budget has not been decided. With preliminary budget reviews, it appears the City will need to exceed the RNR with an anticipated amount of 42.242.

Clerk Marler said the notice sent to the County Clerk will also need to include the RNR public hearing and budget public hearing date and time.

Council Member Shields made a motion to notify the County Clerk of the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and set the revenue neutral rate public hearing and budget public hearing for September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Paola Justice Center. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hugo and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Agenda Item 5 - STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Hartig thanked the Council for allowing him to introduce and recognize the new command staff.

Police Chief Corbin said the department has been busy with awards and training. He has a couple officers getting through training in the next couple weeks and will be out on their own.

Director Marler said the Lake Miola Dam is nearing completion.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said there are 302 permits so far and 3 new house permits. He said Bur Oak 3 development received the permit to get started.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said the Paola Planning Commission is doing a subdivision review. He said the ice cream shop is opening soon and there are 2 CUP's going to the Commission for consideration.

Agenda Item 6 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM THE COUNCIL

Council Member McMahon said Paola has a huge sense of community and thanked the staff for their professionalism.

Council Member Hugo said he attended his first fireworks show at the lake and really enjoyed it. He also mentioned the fountain on the square was a little green.

Agenda Item 7 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor House said the work study meeting last week was great with a lot of input from the council for budget.

Mayor House thanked everyone for their quality leadership.

Agenda Item 8 - ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Hugo made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shields and all voted aye. The motion passed 3 to 0.



ATTEST: [signature]


Leigh House, Mayor


Stephanie Marler, City Clerk