

## **LAND BANK COMMISSION MEETING**

**July 22, 2025**

Paragould Land Bank Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 3:58 p.m.

Commissioners present were Keith White, Pat Austin, Kimberly Dale, Blake Phillips and Bobby Kasserman.

Mayor Agee and Secretary/Treasurer Tara Sexton were present.

### **Old Business**

Motion made by Commissioner Kasserman to approve the May 27, 2025, minutes; seconded by Commissioner Austin. All in favor.

Mayor Agee presented information to the commission regarding an offer from the Economic Development Corporation to donate \$20,000 for the development of a pocket park in the Northend Overlay District. The EDC stipulated that the Parks committee would have to approve the park first, as well as the commission would be required to provide a \$20,000 match. Commissioners discussed briefly the benefits. Mayor Agee also advised the committee that the Kiwanis Club might be interested in donating funds to pay for a Bank Shot Court for the pocket park. Commissioners discussed briefly potential park layouts and the need to visit the site to make final determinations at a later date.

Motion made by Commissioner Dale to approve the partnership with the Economic Development Corporation and potentially the Kiwanis Club as it relates to the Northend Overlay District Pocket Park; seconded by Commissioner Austin. All in favor.

Secretary Sexton provided an update on the Northend Overlay District banners; PMU had picked up the banners from City Hall that same day and would begin work on mounting the banners in the district. Poles by were marked by the Mayor and Secretary Sexton, for a total of 40 banners.

Commissioners discussed at length an update on building permits purchased for properties sold at the first land bank auction in 2024. Commissioner White raised the point that in the future in other districts and other projects, it would be wise to include Paragould Municipal Utilities on the timeline prior to starting to ensure that they will be able to do their part (if needed) in a timely manner. Due to only about half of the building permits having been purchased and the 1-year deadline coming up in October, the commissioners discussed the possibility of lowering the time limit to 6 months when establishing design standards and covenants in the other districts. Commissioners discussed reaching out personally to the builders who have not yet purchased their permits to encourage them to do so. Due to the number of

properties that do not have foundations poured yet, the commissioners decided to postpone the asphalt overlay of 4<sup>th</sup> street until 2026 to avoid builders having to dig up new asphalt when their construction begins. Commissioners discussed other ideas for the funds that would no longer be spent on overlaying, such as overlaying half of third street (which has ongoing construction already), overlaying Hunt Street, or using it to purchase additional properties. This will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

Commissioners discussed the recently acquired property at 701 N. Pruett Street. Commissioners determined that a survey of the property would need to be completed to ensure that the lot was large enough without a variance to sell. Secretary Sexton will draft a Request for Qualifications for Land Survey Services to publish in the paper and accept bids. Once the survey results are in, the commission will discuss the possibility of selling the property in an online auction.

Motion made by Commissioner Kasserman to survey 701 N. Pruett Street; seconded by Commissioner Dale. All in favor.

### **New Business**

Motion made by Commissioner Dale to approve the expenditures and deposits as presented in the July financial statement, as well as physical assets; seconded by Commissioner Austin. All in favor.

Commissioners discussed mailboxes in the Northend Overlay District. Commissioner White spoke with a USPS mail carrier who informed him that porch mailboxes would not be delivered to. As the commission has placed a restrictive covenant regarding porch mailboxes in the Northend District, Commissioner White will have to reach out to the postmaster to determine if that is verified information. If so, the commission will consider new, uniform mailboxes to offer to Northend residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

  
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Keith White, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Tara Sexton, Secretary/Treasurer