

PARK BOARD

October 13, 2026

The October 13, 2026 Park Board meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jon Blackburn, Cathy Browne, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Charlie Schneider, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Phil Schiffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Ashley Kress; Amanda Watson; Danny Schwartz, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$136,736.25 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$136,736.25. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the September 14, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the October 6, 2026 special Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Park Board members discussed the conditional \$500.00 bonus for the pool managers to be paid at the end of the swimming pool season, as set by the Park Board at their February 9, 2026 meeting. Park Board members agreed that Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman did a great job managing the swimming pool this summer. Ms. Browne added that their social media presence was outstanding.

A motion was made by Ms. Browne, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve \$500.00 bonuses for Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Pool Managers. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Charlie Schneider and Mr. Phil Schiffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., shared updated plans for the new swimming pool area including added shade structures and the eliminated climbing wall and zipline. It was noted that the proposed swimming pool has seven (7) lanes for swimming and swim meets, with an eighth (8th) optional lane. Mrs. Niederkohr asked the members of the Park Board if they agree on the updated design/layout of the new swimming pool area. Park Board members voiced no objections to the updated design/layout of the new swimming pool area. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Schiffarth also presented revised plans for the pool house with an added concession area, including a serving window to the outside of the pool house. Additional possible changes to the pool house plans were discussed and Mr. Schneider and Mr. Schiffarth agreed they will prepare and present more options for the Park Board's consideration. Park Board members also reviewed plans for the 1,360 square foot pump house and an option layout was discussed. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Schiffarth will look at other possible options and present those options to the Park Board. A proposed outdoor water slide layout was presented and discussed. The proposed water slide would stand 19.83' in height and be 154.32' in length. There would be a 48" height requirement for patrons who wish to use the slide that would exit into 42" of water depth. Mr. Schneider indicated that the patron height and water depth requirement are safety requirements that must be met. An opinion of probable cost was provided showing an estimated sub-total construction cost of \$5,541,000.00, and a total project cost of \$6,829,725.00 including contingencies, design fees, testing and inspections, and permits and fees. An alternate addition of an 8th swimming lane is estimated to cost an additional \$122,596.00. Mayor McColly stated that he is encouraged by the estimated cost of \$630,850.00 for the full renovation of the pool house, but he questioned the need for a water slide with the estimated cost for this feature being \$457,500.00, and noted that he has concerns because some patrons would be excluded from using the water slide due to the height requirement. Mrs. Niederkohr indicated that she likes the water slide feature and noted that it was the #1 desired aquatic features as voted on by the public. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Schiffarth will look at other options/different slides and noted that different water slide options can be bid. Mayor McColly also asked about the possibility of saving cost by reducing the number of swim lanes from seven (7) to six (6). Mr. Schneider stated that swimming pools usually have either six (6) or eight (8) lanes and noted that the more lanes a swimming pool has the faster swim meets will be. Mr. Sturgeon indicated that the current swimming pool has four (4) swim lanes that can be used during swim meets and the existing fifth (5th) lane is too shallow to be used. Mr. Schneider inquired as to if Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. is good to move on

to the next phase of the project being the Design/Development Phase? An inquiry was made with Mayor McColly as to where current expenses for the new swimming pool are being paid from. Mayor McColly stated that current expenses for the new swimming pool are being paid from the Park Fund. Park Board members unanimously agreed to move the Swimming Pool Project on to the Design/Development Plan Phase.

The reinstatement of the CDL Class B requirement for Parks Department employees was discussed. As stated and agreed upon in the March 9, 2026 Park Board meeting, obtaining a CDL by a Parks Department employee is not needed but it could be listed as being “preferred” in the job description. It was noted that it would be beneficial for Parks Department employees to possess a CDL so they could haul materials in a dump truck, plow snow, or help with projects in other departments if needed. Mayor McColly stated that the City administration would like the CDL Class B requirement for Parks Department employees reinstated.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to reinstate the CDL Class B requirement for Parks Department employees. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

It was noted that a notice was received from Mr. Jeff Frederick, Parks Department employee, of his resignation.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the resignation of Parks Department employee Mr. Jeff Frederick. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

A job posting for a Parks Manager was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Browne, to authorize the Human Resource Officer to advertise for a Parks Manager. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly presented a recommendation from Mrs. Stephanie Hessey, Human Resource Officer, regarding the hourly rate of pay for Lifeguards, Cashiers, and seasonal part-time laborers. Mrs. Hessey is recommending the hourly pay range for Lifeguards be increased to \$12.00 to \$14.00, with first year Lifeguards to be paid \$13.00 and returning Lifeguards to be given 25¢ for each year they return; and Cashiers hourly pay range be increased to \$11.00 to \$13.00, with first year Cashiers to be paid \$11.50. Mayor McColly noted that seasonal part-time laborers are given a 3% annual hourly pay increase. Mrs. Niederkohr suggested the hourly pay range for Lifeguards be increased to \$13.00 to \$15.00 and returning Lifeguards be given 25¢ for each year they return; and Cashiers hourly pay range be increased to \$12.00 to \$14.00 and returning Cashiers be given 25¢ for each year they return. Mayor McColly stated that the City needs to stay competitive with wages, and noted that some fast food establishments are paying more per hour than the City pays their pool staff. Mr. Leonard asked if the pay amounts for local jobs could be obtained. Mayor McColly indicated that he will research information for this request.

Mrs. Smith inquired about the status of the inclusive playground in Bicentennial Park. Mayor McColly noted that the grant for this project is on a two (2) year cycle. Mayor McColly also indicated that his Administrative Assistant Mr. Ethan Korte is working with Mr. Buckland to put bid information together for this project.

A motion was made by Ms. Browne, seconded by Ms. Smith, to authorize to proceed with the bidding process for the inclusive playground in Bicentennial Park. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson