

PUBLIC RESPONSE – PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF GOLDEN, KANSAS
06.30.2021 E-MAIL RECEIPT – WILLIAMS, BRIAN

From: B W <op_ks@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:25 PM
To: clerk <clerk@miamicountyks.org>
Subject: Rebuttal



****This email originated from outside of County of Miami****

Please find attached my response to June 23

Thank you!
Brian Williams

Sent from my iPhone

June 29, 2021

<http://www.parkerfieldks.org/history/>

Incorporation of City of Parkerfield

Deb Appel, Parkerfield City Clerk

Prior to the incorporation in 2004, Parkerfield was a cluster of rural homes and agricultural land within Creswell Township, east of Arkansas City and south of U.S. Highway 166.

A few township residents noticed an Arkansas City Commission meeting agenda in the Arkansas City Traveler newspaper outlining a plan to annex four areas on the outskirts of Ark City, which involved a large portion of present day Parkerfield. The meeting was to be held November 18, 2003. Troubling the township residents was property north of Chestnut Avenue and East of Country Club Road included in the annexation plan.

Taken by surprise, word spread among the township residents and a plan was formed to attend the commission meeting to oppose the annexation of the parcels. Despite concerns voiced by the residents affected by the proposed annexation, Arkansas City commission voted at the November 18, 2003 meeting to hold a public hearing on January 20, 2004 to proceed with the intent to annex.

Worries of zoning regulations that could be imposed on the rural area spurred the group of concerned citizens to seek legal opinion and guidance. Residents dug deep into their pockets contributing \$100, and in some cases more, to hire attorneys versed in annexation proceedings. Orval Mason and David Maslen represented the concerned citizens. With few options and little time to resolve the looming annexation, it was decided that the best route was to proceed with incorporating as a city. Upon the revelation that the name Parkerville was already a city in Kansas, the name Parkerfield was settled on to pay tribute to the Parker family that settled the area in 1868.

On the same night as the **January 20th** Arkansas City public hearing, Glenn and Sandra Davis and legal counsel Maslen **filed a petition** on behalf of the residents with the Cowley County Commission **requesting a public hearing for the consideration of incorporating** Parkerfield. Though only required to have 50 valid signatures from eligible voters, the group presented a petition signed by 181

Creswell Township residents. Of those approached to sign; only two objected and four were undecided. The county commission set a public hearing date for February 24, 2004.

Almost simultaneously Mason filed a petition with Cowley County Judge James Pringle and was granted a restraining order blocking the Arkansas City commission from voting on the annexation of the property which would make up one-third of the proposed Parkerfield city limits. Arkansas City commission did vote that night, January 20th, to annex the other three areas. Since Kansas state statute required a minimum population of 300 to incorporate, the land considered by Ark City for annexation was necessary to organize Parkerfield, therefore this was a pivotal moment for the township residents.

The two hour Cowley County Commission public hearing held by was conducted February 24th at the Cowley County Courthouse with about 150 people in attendance; both for and against the incorporation of the new town. Concerns voiced by residents included not only the anticipated increase in property taxes if annexed by Ark City, but also the fear of the unknown such as the effect of city zoning regulations on agricultural use of property, rural lifestyles, owning livestock and land use.

Faced with a difficult decision, Cowley County Commission reconvened on Tuesday night, **March 9, 2004 and voted unanimously to allow the incorporation** of Parkerfield. Commissioners were Randy Storey, Margie Berrie and Chair Dick Bonfy. Parkerfield became the 628th incorporated city in Kansas; the latest since 1998.

The next step for the city was to select their governing body. The first election for Parkerfield was held in Todd Masterson's garage on April 13, 2004 with top vote-getters sworn in April 15. Mayor Michael Bergagnini ran uncontested and continues to be the first and only mayor of Parkerfield. Council members elected were Todd Masterson, Dorothy Milliron, Chad Eckstein, Deuane Wells (still serving) and Mara Lynne Schmitz. Also on the ballot were Danny Mitchell, Suzan Robinson and John McDonald. Sixty percent of the 270 registered voters cast their ballots. Soon after the city's appointed positions were filled; City Clerk Susan Rozelle, Treasurer Teresa Stalnaker and Attorney David Maslen.

Meetings were held in the Creswell Township Building and planning meetings were often conducted in Ark City at the offices of Dorothy Milliron, Century 21 Realtors. The first meeting was held April 15, 2004. The first ordinance was passed

May 6, 2004 establishing meeting date and time. First issues were passing a city budget and "City of Parkerfield" signs at the city limits.

At time of incorporation Parkerfield encompassed 560 acres with 153 acres agricultural land and the census was 378 residents and 147 residencies. Within a year, due to voluntary annexation of properties, population increased to 403 citizens and 156 residencies and growth continues to this day.

In 2010 the city constructed a building for a community center and city office at the intersection of 91st and Vine on land donated by Richard and Carol Gottlob. City meetings were moved to the community building starting February 2011. The project was led by John McDonald and carried out by community members and the governing body.

Maintaining a rural lifestyle, affordable property taxes and road repairs are priorities for the city while governing in accordance to the city's motto; **"Where Every Person Matters"**.

End quote from website

Dear Miami County Commissioners:

Please recognize that this process does not have to take this long. You are fully aware of what is going to happen to us if we are not given the opportunity to incorporate. We have one of the highest tax bases per home in the entire county and we are an asset to you.

You have been presented with a similar difficult decision with the same fears and concerns, that the Cowley County Commissioners were faced with, yet they voted unanimously immediately. As Ms. Sharon Drake who lives in Cowley County, KS wrote to tell us after reading about our story in the Wichita Eagle, Parkerfield has been a success! They did not have to have a city hall or all of the answers up front. They worked together and grew together as a group of like-minded citizens.

The only difference between Parkerfield and Golden is Parkerfield farmers were not being lured with the fabricated notion of becoming instant-millionaires by the big money of warehouse corruption.

The comment in the opposition petition about Golden being a dangerous precedent is true if you are the opposition trying exploit a loophole that developers have found in the law to take advantage of citizens and steamroll them with their unethical annexations and rezonings. Since when is people exercising their constitutional rights a dangerous precedent? I deem that comment to be frightening, un-American, and unjust.

As a resident of Golden wrote my wife this morning to tell her about the synchronicity of her daily devotion for today and how similar it is to the lies and deceit we are up against with the opposition petition wanting to sell out the neighbors for their personal gain and the neighboring city and corporate interest who are wanting to destroy all that is good for their own selfish agendas:

Psalms 5

Listen to my words, LORD,
consider my lament.

² Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

³ In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

⁴ For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵ The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

⁶ you destroy those who tell lies.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, LORD, detest.

⁷ But I, by your great love,
can come into your house;

in reverence I bow down
toward your holy temple.

⁸ Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies—
make your way straight before me.

⁹ Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
their heart is filled with malice.

Their throat is an open grave;
with their tongues they tell lies.

¹⁰ Declare them guilty, O God!

Let their intrigues be their downfall.

Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

¹² Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Please help us protect ourselves immediately from the wickedness that is trying to destroy our people, our rights, and God's land.

Sincerely,

Brian Williams
21993 Moonlight Road
Golden, Kansas