

Village of St. Paris
April 15, 2024
Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The invocation prayer was led by Councilor Curran.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Prince. Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II and Tony Hoyt were present. Steve Lett was absent. Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell was absent.

Motion was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated April 1, 2024. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- An event to celebrate National Trails Day will be held at Harmon Park on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Details about the Pony Wagon Bike Trail will be discussed at the event and guided trail exploration walks along the trail will start at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM.
- Mayor Prince introduced the new police sergeant, David Craine.

The presentation of financials dated March 31, 2024 was reviewed. Councilor Curran inquired about the Harmon Park expenditures and it was noted that the first down payment for the installation of the new playground equipment was made in April. Councilor Ervin inquired about the \$378.25 expenditure to St. Paris Carwash. Councilor Blair inquired about the Dinkler Law Office resolution and if money was appropriated for the attorney fees. It was noted that \$50,000 was appropriated for the Accounting and Legal Fees line item. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated March 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated March 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Appropriation Supplemental dated March 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve the Appropriation Supplemental. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

Police Department:

- For the month of March, the department had 49 recordable calls for service, 5 arrests and 9 citations issued for 10 charges.
- Officer Jacob Robinson resigned from his position as full-time police officer.
- Chief Smith is waiting on an Ordinance in order to advertise and sell the 2 oldest police cruisers. Mayor Prince will inquire about the Ordinance with Village Solicitor, Daniel Bey.
- The solar eclipse on April 8th was not an issue.
- David Craine was hired as a Sergeant on April 8, 2024 and comes with 23.5 years of experience.

Administrator:

- In preparation for the new playground equipment to be installed at Harmon Park, some of the old playground equipment has been removed. Pending weather, the new playground equipment installation should begin in May.
- The W. Plum Street improvement project will be advertised for bid on April 19th and April 26th, 2024 with the opening of bids on May 3rd, 2024. The results of the bidding will be brought to council with a presentation to show the scope of the project. This project includes a new water line, service lines, curb boxes, hydrants from Springfield Street to Jefferson Street. Stormwater improvements, street reconstruction and paving are also included in the plans.
- Access Engineering and an excavation contractor met to discuss the storm drainage issues on E. Elm Street. It was determined that there is a significant collapse within the storm tile just east of Park Avenue. The contractor will begin fixing the issue as soon as the wet ground dries. Correcting this problem should improve the drainage issue.
- The Champaign County Engineer's Office will be doing some chip and sealing and fogging maintenance to selected streets in St. Paris. The streets include Cottage Street, Dugan Street, W. Elm Street, Jefferson Street, Lafayette Avenue, Madison Street, Mill Street, E. Poplar Street, E. Troy Street and a few existing alleys.

- Administrator Mitchell will be submitting information later in this month to the Champaign County Municipal Court Prosecutor's office in regards to a nuisance property and another property that has violations occurring over a long period of time.
- Administrator Mitchell met with Robert Snavely, of Palmer Energy, to discuss potential aggregation options for St. Paris and developing language for electric aggregation to be put on the November general election ballot.

Committee Reports:

Budget: no report

JSP Fire Board:

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.

Land & Buildings:

- At the last meeting, discussion was about the implementation of the bike trail. Councilor Blair ask Mayor Prince if the questions he gave the Mayor have been reviewed. Mayor Prince will contact the Village Solicitor on the status of the review.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the council room.

Park & Trees:

- Chief Smith noted that parking along Huffman Drive is a problem during baseball games at GYAA park. Councilor Blair noted that there are no parking signs posted along Huffman Drive and the Park Committee has discussed this issue and is working on a solution to possibly have parking at the quonset hut, if allowed by the property owner.

Planning Commission:

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the council room.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Mayor Prince discussed the indigent cremation that occurred in November of 2023. The village recently received an invoice from Vernon Funeral Homes for \$850 for their services of the indigent cremation. According to Ohio Revised Code, the village is responsible for payment for indigent residents. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Blair to pay Vernon Funeral Homes \$850, from the general fund, for the indigent cremation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Ray Smoot, 130 Rupolo Drive, inquired about the light fixtures in the council room and how they are out or blinking and noted that it was a possible fire hazard. Mr. Smoot noted that he could probably fix the issue if he could get access to the fixtures from above.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, noted that a community breakfast will be held in the municipal garage bays from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM on April 27th, May 11th, June 22nd, July 20th, August 17th, September 28th, October 26th, November 23rd and December 21st. It was also noted that the JSP Fire District is having a community breakfast on April 20th. Ms. Hess also discussed the drainage issues on W. Troy Street and how catch basins are not being regularly cleaned and how the storm tile is washed up behind her property. She also expressed concern about how phone calls were not being returned by the municipal office during the flooding issue.
- Jim Reed, owner of properties on 211 Maple Drive and on E. Lynn Street, stated that there is a water leak at 211 Maple and it is on the village side. He also inquired about in case of emergency phone numbers that residents could call when there were problems outside the normal working hours. Mr. Reed also expressed concern about the street debris from the reconstruction of Plum Street and if the debris would be hauled and dumped down at the property on E. Elm Street causing more flooding issues.
- Councilor Blair noted that there needs to be a schedule to clean catch basins.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date