

Village of St. Paris
June 3, 2024
Council Meeting

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

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

Motion was made by Councilor Lett 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 Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve the Council meeting minutes dated May 20, 2024. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Mayor Prince thanked Our Town – St. Paris Association for their donation to the Harmon Park project of \$4,200.00.
- Street chip and sealing will be done by the Champaign County Engineer's Office the week of June 3rd. Streets to be done include E. Poplar Street, E. Troy Street, Madison Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, Lafayette Avenue, W. Elm Street, Dugan Street, Dewey Street and Cottage Street.
- Wild Man, President and Founder of Eagles Breed Brotherhood (EBB) Motorcycle Club, addressed rumors about the club running guns and drugs. Wild Man noted that some motor cycle clubs have a bad reputation, but EBB consists of regional managers, supervisors, owners of sole proprietorships, etc. The EBB club is a family with their own personal reputations at stake. The EBB club has offered to help with any need that arises in St. Paris and has helped with Pony Wagon Days and Christmas in the Village. At their clubhouse in St. Paris, they gather for fellowship and several family friendly activities. EBB has helped several in need families during Christmas, has collected over \$25,000 in charitable donations and has rode in numerous parades. Wild Man stated that the EBB Motor Cycle Club wants the rumors to end. Mayor Prince encourage all to stop by the EBB's clubhouse and get to know them.

Old Business:

- Council received 6 letters of interest for the vacant council seat. Letters were submitted by Shelley Valdez, Morgan Wittman, Melanie Blankenship, Anthony Whitman, Charlene Hess and Linda Julien. Councilor Hoyt allowed each candidate an opportunity to speak and answer any questions regarding their interest in the vacant council seat. After the candidates spoke, Councilor Curran thanked all who showed an interest in the vacant seat. Councilor Hoyt opened the floor for nominations to the vacant council seat. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Blair to appoint Anthony Whitman to the vacant council seat. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted against 2-3, with Councilor Curran, Councilor Hoyt and Councilor Lett voting against. Motion failed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Curran to appoint Linda Julien to the vacant council seat. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 3-2, with Councilor Ervin and Councilor Blair voting against. Motion passed. Linda Julien will be administered the Oath of Office at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on June 17, 2024.
- Council discussed the need of having Ordinance 2024-2 and Ordinance 2024-3 read as emergency Ordinances, eliminating the need to have 3 readings before voting on the Ordinances. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to have Ordinance 2024-2 and Ordinance 2024-3 read as emergency Ordinances. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-1, with Councilor Ervin voting against. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 2024-2, Authorizing the sale of a police cruiser (2014 Dodge Charger VIN 2C3CDXAG3EH362580). Mayor Prince reviewed Ordinance 2024-2. Council discussed the need to amend Article 3 of the Ordinance to include language that within two weeks of the winning bid being received, payment in full must be made. Council agreed that Chief of Police Smith should remove the police lights and equipment from the cruiser prior to the sale of the cruiser. **Motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve Ordinance 2024-2, as amended. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

- Ordinance 2024-3, Authorizing the sale of a police cruiser (2013 Chevrolet Tahoe VIV 1GNLC2E09DR316420). Mayor Prince reviewed Ordinance 2024-3. Council discussed the need to amend Article 3 of the Ordinance to include language that within two weeks of the winning bid being received, payment in full must be made. Council agreed that Chief of Police Smith should remove the police lights and equipment from the cruiser prior to the sale of the cruiser. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve Ordinance 2024-3, as amended. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Bob Snavely, of Palmer Energy, spoke about electric and natural gas aggregation. Aggregation is an easy and effective way for a large group of consumers to save money on their electric/natural gas utilities. Aggregation is an election issue that needs to be voted on by the public and could be placed on the November 2024 election ballot. If passed, eligible residents are automatically enrolled into the program, but they can opt-out of the aggregation program if so desired. Palmer Energy works closely and is supported by County Commissioners and the Ohio Municipal League.

Public Comments:

- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, asked if the stormwater drainage tile on Troy Street has been jettisoned. Administrator Mitchell noted that the tile has not been jettisoned and is waiting on the drier season before doing so. Ms. Hess also inquired about the stormwater drainage on Elm Street and Administrator Mitchell noted that after the repairs to the collapsed tile, the drainage from Elm Street has improved.
- Shelley Valdez, 217 W. Plum Street, noted that there is a pancake breakfast on June 22, 2024, from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM at the municipal bay garage. JSP Fire District will be serving breakfast on that day. Ms. Valdez also mentioned that on June 15, 2024, there will be a bake sale at the municipal building to benefit Daniel “Moose” Brown who tragically died in an accident. Proceeds will go towards Moose’s memorial expenses. Moose was employed by Wooten’s Automotive in St. Paris. Ms. Valdez lastly noted that she is working with the Our Town – St. Paris Association to get hometown hero banners that will be placed along the streets in St. Paris.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Councilor Blair stated he is not comfortable entering into an executive session if the village employee has not been talked to. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to enter into an executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-1, with Councilor Blair voting against. Motion passed and Council entered into the executive session at 8:20 PM. At 8:42 PM, executive session ended and council resumed the open meeting.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 8:42 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date