

Village of St. Paris
July 1, 2024
Tax Budget Hearing

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

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

Fiscal Officer McGuire reviewed the 2025 proposed Tax (Revenue) Budget for the Village of St. Paris. The proposed revenue for 2025 is estimated at \$5,125,975.39. Councilor Hoyt noted that the proposed revenue budget is a conservative budget and the revenue is not over estimated. Councilor Ervin stated that the estimated year end balance for the Water Operating Fund is low and is a concern.

Public Comments: none

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn at 7:05 PM. Motion passed.

Village of St. Paris
July 1, 2024
Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Susan Prince. Frank Blair, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, Linda Julien and Steve Lett were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present. Joe Curran entered the council meeting at 7:37 PM.

Motion was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair 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 June 17, 2024. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Mayor Prince asked Council if they wanted to conduct a council meeting on August 5, 2024 due to it being the week of the Champaign County Fair. Council discussed either moving the date to either July 29, 2024 or August 12, 2024. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to cancel the August 5, 2024 meeting and reschedule for August 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the council room. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Resolution 1378 – Street Tax Levy Renewal. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1378. Councilor Lett stated that this levy is a renewal and not new tax money and is needed to continue to upgrade the village streets. Councilor Ervin noted that with the passage of the renewal levy, the village could receive more money in grants to help pay for street projects. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve Resolution 1378. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.
- The Tax Budget Hearing was conducted prior to tonight's council meeting. The proposed revenue for 2025 is estimated at \$5,125,975.39. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the 2025 Tax Budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Resolution 1379 – Accepting Tax Levies and Certifying with the County Auditor. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1379. The resolution provides an updated revenue estimate and the status of each levy in the village. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to approve Resolution 1379. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 1380 – Natural Gas Aggregation. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1380. The resolution directs the Champaign County Board of Elections to place on the ballot the issue of allowing natural gas aggregation to the residents of St. Paris. Bob Snively, of Palmer Energy, was present and answered questions from Council. Mr. Snively noted that Palmer Energy has a partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the Ohio Municipal League to promote aggregation. Council discussed the opt out clause for residents in which they get 2 chances to initially opt out of the aggregation program. Once residents are in the program, they do have the option to opt out at any time. Residents under a current contract with a supplier can stay with their current supplier. It is the resident's decision to either stay with their with current supplier or cancel their contract and be a part of the aggregation program. Councilor Ervin noted that it is Council's responsibility to make the aggregation information available to the village and let the residents decide the outcome at the November election.

Council is not advocating for or against the aggregation, Council is only allowing aggregation to be a ballot issue. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Julien to approve Resolution 1380. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- Resolution 1381 – Electricity Aggregation. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1381. The resolution directs the Champaign County Board of Elections to place on the ballot the issue of allowing electricity aggregation to the residents of St. Paris. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve Resolution 1381. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Hoyt stated that he received an email from the Ohio Municipal League regarding a new requirement for fraud reporting and that training needs to be completed by September 30, 2024 by employees and council. Councilor Hoyt will forward the email to council and more information will be brought to the next council meeting.

Public Comments:

- Doug Baugher, 221 N. Springfield Street, expressed concern about vehicles speeding on N. Springfield Street and asked for more patrol on this street. Mr. Baugher stated that there was a petition signed by residents regarding this issue and given to Chief Smith. Councilor Ervin asked Mr. Baugher to perhaps note the approximate time of day when the speeding persists and pass the information along to Chief Smith to better facilitate patrol in the area.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, noted that the next Community Breakfast is on July 20, 2024 starting at 8:00 AM in the village municipal garage bay. Ms. Hess did ask the village for barricades to be placed in front of the garage bays so that children could have an area to play with sidewalk chalk.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date