

Village of St. Paris
August 21, 2023
Council Meeting

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

The invocation prayer was led by Pastor Jeremy Spence of the First Baptist Church St. Paris.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Brenda Cook. Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Lynn Miller, Susan Prince, Sam Ronicker and Randy Smith were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Mark McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

Motion was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council agenda. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the Council meeting minutes dated August 7, 2023. Motion passed.

The presentation of financials dated July 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated July 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated July 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Appropriation Supplemental dated July 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Prince to approve the Appropriation Supplemental. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Mayor Cook presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Champaign Cruisers Car Club for their donation of 10 tables to the Village.
- Mayor Cook presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Brad Penrod from Roberts Brothers Comfort (located in St. Paris) for resealing the blacktop on the basketball court at Harmon Park.
- The Urbana Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution sent Mayor Cook a proclamation stating that September 17th – September 23rd is the annual Constitution Week Celebration. Mayor Cook read the proclamation urging citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American. The proclamation was signed by Mayor Cook and will be mailed to the Urbana Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Elizabeth Carine, Vice President of the Pony Wagon Day Committee, provided updates of the upcoming Pony Wagon Days festivities. The parade is September 7, 2023, with the basket auction immediately after the conclusion of the parade, a barbershop quartet will perform on September 8th at the St. Paris United Methodist Church and The Pony Wagon Festival is September 9th. The festival will include games, a bake-off, a home-grown contest, a pizza eating contest, a dunk tank, a local poker run, a kid's highest round up run and a DJ with live music, and food trucks. Ms. Carine announced that Mary and Paul Wheeland will serve as the Grand Marshalls for the parade. Mayor Cook read a village proclamation proclaiming September 7, 2023 as "Mary and Paul Wheeland Day" in St. Paris. They have been married for 73 years and have lived on Main Street for over 60 years.
- Brice Schmitmeyer, from Access Engineering, gave a presentation of the Village's completed and future street projects. Over the past 3 years, the street projects have cost \$1,020,000 (which includes grant money received for the projects). The planned projects are estimated to cost \$810,000 (also includes grant money received) and the streets include Plum Street, Troy Street, Springfield Street. The Southwest quadrant of the Village will have an income survey done sometime next year in the hopes of receiving grant money to street paving projects in that area.

Police Department:

- For the month of July, there were 50 recordable calls for service, 3 arrests.
- Chief Smith is looking for a new full-time officer to replace Officer Kimpel who resigned last month.
- Full-time Officer Mercado is picking up a few shifts, but still on full active duty At Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
- Officer Pennington should return from his active duty in September.
- Councilor Ervin asked the Chief if parking an unattended police cruiser along streets would deter speeders. Chief Smith explained that it would slow speeders at first, but people would soon realize there is not an officer in the cruiser and the cruiser could possibly be vandalized.

Administrator:

- Repairs to the west exterior wall of the Police Department is completed. A new roof is currently being installed.
- On September 9, 2023, The Champaign Health District will have their annual scrap tire recycling event from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Champaign County Fairgrounds.
- The village has received a “35 MPH AHEAD” sign that was set alongside the radar sign on US Hwy 36 near Graham Elementary School. In 2024, plans are to purchase 2 additional radar signs to be placed on other streets in the Village to slow down motorists. The signs are helpful in that it tracks and charts speed in the designed area of placement.
- The water department will have the Well #1 rehabbed soon. The rehab ensures the effectiveness of the well and the work will be done by Moody’s of Dayton, Inc.
- A draft version of an Application for Conditional Use was distributed to Council. Completed applications will be reviewed and decided upon by the St. Paris Board of Zoning Appeals. The draft of the application was done with the help of the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission and Village Solicitor Daniel Bey.
- The HVAC system at the Harmon Park building was repaired. Administrator Mitchell is considering having an HVAC contractor provide a cost for a preventative maintenance schedule for routine maintenance. The cost will also include maintenance schedules for HVAC systems used at the other Village offices, treatment plants, street and police buildings.
- There was a water main break today, August 21st, on E. Walnut Street between Lawn Avenue and Washington Street. The crews are fixing the break.

Committee Appointments and Discussion:

- **Budget:** none
- **JSP Fire Board:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
 - Councilor Ervin noted that JSP Fire District will have a renewal plus an additional 2.65 mill levy on the ballot in November. Promotional material will be available soon for distribution.
 - The JSP Fire District is having an open house on September 16, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM to discuss the levy with Fire Chief Vance McCulla.
- **Land & Buildings:**
 - At the last meeting committee meeting, Chief Smith noted that there is not enough space for the police department. There needs to be an interrogation room and a larger evidence room. Chief Smith proposed moving the police department to the Municipal Building and moving the administrative employees to the police department building. Chief Smith is to put together a plan of action for his proposed move.
 - Also discussed at the last meeting was that the Our Town – St. Paris Association is developing an economic development committee and their first step is putting together a directory of the downtown buildings. Councilor Prince asked if this information would be shared with the Champaign Economic Partnership (CEP). Councilor Curran noted that the economic development committee would partner with the CEP.
- **Park & Trees:**
 - Mayor Cook asked if the Park & Trees Committee would want to review the Harmon Park playground equipment bid package or just have it taken to Council. Councilor Ronicker noted to just take the bid package to Council.
 - Councilor Smith voiced his concern about the weeds around Harmon Park and how it needs mowed.
- **Planning Commission:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the council room.
- **Safety:** none

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Council discussed whether or not to have a council meeting on Labor Day, September 4, 2023. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to cancel the September 4, 2023, Council meeting. Motion passes.
- Councilor Prince asked other members of Council to verbally announce a motion and a second and not to just raise a hand. A verbal response is appreciated and easier to record for the council meeting minutes.

Public Comments:

- Elizabeth Carine, Vice President of the Pony Wagon Day Committee, asked that Harmon Park be mowed prior to the Pony Wagon Day Parade being as it is a meeting place to begin the parade.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Motion passed.