

**Village of St. Paris
September 18, 2023
Public Hearing**

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 Mike Miller of the Madison Avenue Church of God in Piqua.

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 Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

Public Hearing:

- The public hearing was in regards to amending the zoning ordinance for the Village. In attendance were Aaron Smith of the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission and Alan Bolinger from the St. Paris Planning Commission. Councilor Ervin noted that the Planning Commission has recommended changes to the village zoning ordinance and the changes are to be reviewed by Council. The changes include changing a zoning district from a U1 to Rural Residential. U1 is currently a Johnson Township zoning regulation and therefore could apply to certain areas within the Village corporation limits. The Planning Commission recommendation is to bring the U1 township zoning regulation under the Village's Rural Residential zoning regulation. Another change to the zoning amendment is the explanation/calculation of an animal unit. The Planning Commission does recommend naming roosters as prohibited within the Village corporation limits. Mr. Bolinger noted that the zoning changes are a Council decision. Council agreed that that the U1 township zoning regulation should be changed to the Rural Residential district. Council also agreed that roosters should be included in the calculation of a bird unit, specifically it was agreed that 1 rooster is allowed per 1 bird unit. Mr. Smith and Mr. Bolinger explained that current residents who exceed the animal units would be "grandfathered in" and would not be affected by the new zoning amendment, once passed by Council.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn the public hearing at 7:42 PM. Motion passed.

**Village of St. Paris
September 18, 2023
Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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 Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Gaye Carafa, owner of St. Paris Pharmacy & Wellness located at 122 S. Springfield Street, asked when the next Safety Committee meeting is as how she wants to attend. The committee agreed to meet on September 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the municipal building.

Motion was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve the Council meeting minutes dated August 21, 2023. Motion passed.

The presentation of financials dated August 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Councilor Ervin asked Fiscal Officer McGuire to review local Certificate Deposit rates as the rates might have increased, and check the CD rates as to how it compares to the STAR Ohio rates that the village currently has a deposit account.

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

Mayor's Notes:

- The Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall is in Urbana at Grimes Airport from September 21, 2023 thru September 23, 2023.
- A solar eclipse meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the Champaign County Community Center.
- The Graham homecoming parade is October 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The parade begins at Irish Meadows and ends at Graham Middle School.
- Mayor Cook presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Denise Brecount for landscaping the Harmon Park flower beds all summer. Ms. Brecount was not in attendance to accept the certificate.
- Councilor Smith thanked the Pony Wagon Days Committee for having a very nice parade.

Police Department:

- For the month of August there were 36 recordable calls for service, 3 arrests.
- Officer Pennington and Officer Mercado have returned from their respective active duty deployment and are back to working full-time.
- Chief Smith and Officer Pennington, and the 2 canines, will be at K9 training and re-certification on September 28th and September 29th, 2023.
- Chief Smith introduced Jacob Robinson and Gregory Marlow. Mr. Robinson will fill the open full-time position in the police department and Mr. Marlow will fill the part-time Police Officer position. Mayor Cook administered the Oath of Office to both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Marlow.

Administrator:

- Beginning September 25, 2023, Z&Z Construction will begin the exterior renovation of the Harmon Park building. The work includes removal and replacing the concrete walkway that surrounds the building as well as replacing the pillars. The park will remain open, but there will be no access to the building during the renovation. Other future park improvements could include replacing light posts at the park. The old light posts have been damaged by vandalism and weather. Also, installing a new surveillance plan for the park. Recently, vandalism has occurred and the surveillance cameras being used are of low quality.
- At the last council meeting, members of the Park & Trees Committee indicated that they want to have the playground replacement project submitted for council approval. The plan is to have the project advertised for bid later in September and council having the opportunity to accept/reject bids later this year. Construction for the playground equipment would likely begin in 2024.
- Letters for a conditional use permit were mailed to property owners who expressed interest that their downtown business property be considered for residential use. Each application will be scheduled "first come, first serve" with the St. Paris Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Each application is heard separately by the BZA.
- In September, construction/installation of the West Lynn Street mailboxes will begin. This project is for the residents affected by the West Lynn Street water line replacement project. The locations for the mailboxes will be on North Church Street and East Cottage Street. The mailboxes will be placed within the utility right of way and have been approved by the St. Paris Post Office.
- The village had some storm damage which resulted in some down branches and trees. Village employees Cory Muterspaw, Chris Schaeffer and Ben Shuman assisted in quickly cleaning up the damage.
- Councilor Ervin asked if the mosquito spray expenses will be paid for by the 2023 Mosquito Control Grant provided by the Champaign County Health District. The Village, at the end of the mosquito spraying season, should be reimbursed up to \$2,500 for the cost of mosquito spraying.

Committee Discussion:

- **Budget:**
 - Councilor Prince noted that at the last Budget Committee meeting, the committee met with Administrator Mitchel and Chief Smith and discussed 2024 budget needs, such as an evidence room and new vehicles for the police department and making improvements at GYAA (Graham Youth Athletic Association) ball park, improving street lighting, resolving storm water drainage issues. Councilor Prince explained that all of the police department budget comes from the general fund and, on average for the last 4 years, the police department has received approximately 50% of the general fund appropriations. Councilor Prince distributed the proposed police budget, as presented by Chief Smith, to Council and asked that Council review the proposed budget and discuss at a future Council meeting.
- **JSP Fire Board:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
 - Councilor Ervin distributed promotional material in regards to the upcoming JSP Fire Levy. The levy is a renewal plus an additional 2.65 mill. As explained by Councilor Ervin, the fire district is currently working with and operating on year 2009 funding.

- **Land & Buildings:**
-Councilor Curran noted that the Land & Buildings Committee purpose is to hear ideas and plans on how to develop village property. At the last committee meeting, Chief Smith presented an idea for the police department to move into the municipal building. The plan is to use the whole municipal building as the police department and displace the current offices within the building. Another plan would be for the police department to use on half of the municipal building without displacing the other offices. The plan is still being put together for both options.
- **Park & Trees:** none
- **Planning Commission:**
-The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the council room.
- **Safety:**
-At the last Safety Committee meeting, police pay rates were discussed.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Resolution 1370 – Accepting Tax Levies and Certifying with the County Auditor. Mayor Cook read Resolution 1370. The resolution provides an updated revenue estimate and the status of each levy in the village. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ronicker and seconded by Councilor Prince to approve Resolution 1370. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Notice was received from Superior Dental Care and there is no rate increase for the upcoming renewal date which begins November 1, 2023. Superior Dental Care provides dental insurance to full-time village employees. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the Superior Dental Care renewal. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Joyce Bowlin, 274 W. Poplar Street, mentioned that the Food Truck served approximately 70 families. Ms. Bowling informed everyone that Second Harvest Food Bank will not be in St. Paris during the month of October, but will return in November and December. However, in 2024, the Food Truck will not be returning at all to St. Paris. The Federation of Churches food pantry will still receive food items from Second Harvest Food Bank, but will not receive hygiene items and the pantry needs these items.
- Tamara Martin, 216 Cottage Street, said she is a member of the Citizen Action Committee of St. Paris and she announced that the committee will have a “meet the candidates” on October 8, 2023, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at the JSP fire house. The candidates include those running for Village of St. Paris Mayor, Village Council as well as candidates for the Johnson Township Fiscal Officer.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Cook, Mayor

Date