

Village of St. Paris
January 21, 2025
Council Meeting

Invocation Prayer was led by Councilor Ervin.

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 Susan Prince. Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, and Steve Lett were present. Frank Blair and Linda Julien were absent. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Village Solicitor Daniel Bey were also present.

Motion was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the council agenda. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the council meeting minutes dated January 13, 2025, as amended. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes: none

The presentation of financials dated December 31, 2025 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Ervin 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 December 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett 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 December 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett 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 December 31, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Appropriation Supplemental. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

Administrator:

- Surveillance cameras have been installed at Harmon Park.
- The St. Paris Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on January 23, 2025, to hear conditional use permit applications submitted for 126 S. Springfield Street and for 311 W. Main Street.
- Zoning letters have been sent to property owners that are in violation of junk/disabled vehicles and trash.
- Administrator Mitchell will be working with a company to update the software used for tracking/monitoring zoning violations as well as permits.
- Progress on the W. Plum Street Improvement Project has stopped due to the weather.
- Administrator Mitchell has worked with Ohio Department of Natural Resources on a plan to evaluate trees that are in vicinity of the street and pose a risk to public safety. The Park, Land and Buildings Committee will discuss the next steps and more information will be shared with council.
- A new light pole for Lafayette Park will be installed with an installation date to be determined.
- New LED wall pack lights have been installed on the outside of the municipal building and the street department building.
- Administrator Mitchell has contacted owners in the area of W. Troy Street affected by the ongoing issues of flooding that occurs are significant rainfalls as an existing storm tile has failed. It has been proposed to those affected that a new storm sewer be installed and Administrator Mitchell is needing property owners to agree to an easement agreement. The Village Solicitor has been consulted on this matter.
- A salt box was purchased for the street trucks. The salt box allows for additional salt spreading capabilities when the primary salt truck is not functioning properly. The salt box does allow the street department to salt the streets quicker by having 2 capable trucks working simultaneously.
- A storm tile collapsed in the area behind Feathers Drive and it has been repaired.
- The cost of renting the Harmon Park building has been raised from \$75 to \$100. The rate increase is due to the increase in costs of electricity and cleaning fees. The rental rate is still below other rental options and the goal is to provide a quality and efficient space for the community to gather.
- Administrator Mitchell has been asked by the Champaign County Commissioners to continue serving on the Champaign County Tax Incentive Review Committee. It is Administrator Mitchell's third year of serving on this committee.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

- The committee met on January 13, 2025 and Councilor Hoyt reviewed the 2025 permanent appropriations and the available resources.

JSP Fire Board:

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.

Park, Land & Buildings: none

Planning Commission:

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the council room.

Safety:

- Councilor Curran noted that he gathered and passed information regarding estimates on Police of Chief salaries.
- Councilor Curran stated that the committee discussed putting a police levy on the ballot and noted that he spoke with the Champaign County Auditor in regards to the dollar amount each 1 mill of a levy would generate.

Street:

- Councilor Hoyt stated that the committee was working on a short-term plan for streets based on the street levy renewal issue to be on the May ballot. A 5-year strategic plan for streets is also being developed with the help of Access Engineering. A town hall meeting will be scheduled in late April to discuss the progress of the streets in the last 5 years and future needs for the streets.

Zoning Enforcement: none

Old Business:

- Council received and reviewed the revised Council Meeting Policies and Procedures. Council discussed the idea of not including public comments as part future agendas as it is not mandated to be incorporated into the agenda. Council Curran noted that he would like to remove public comments from the meeting policies and procedures due to the concern of the public's disruptive and combative behavior during a council meeting. Council agreed that the enforcement of the manner of which the public makes comments should be handled by the Mayor. Council asked the Village Solicitor to research if the Mayor and Council could restrict public members, who are disruptive, from attending council meetings. Councilor Hoyt noted that to establish a boundary of public comments, only those who on the sign-up sheet for public comments should allowed to speak. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to approve the Village Council Meeting Policies and Procedures with the revision date of January 21, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 3-1, with Councilor Curran voting against. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Resolution 1388 – A Resolution to Certify the Current Tax Valuation from the Champaign County Auditor for a Street Renewal Levy. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1388. Resolution 1388 is asking the County Auditor to certify a 4.0 mill, 5-year levy. Councilor Lett noted that this levy is a renewal, the village is not asking for new money. Councilor Ervin stated that the passage of this levy is important to secure grant money available for street improvements. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve Resolution 1388. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.
- Council was given a spreadsheet for 2025 permanent appropriations to review. Fiscal Officer McGuire stated that he was available during the day to discuss permanent appropriations with any council member.

Public Comments:

- Tony Whitman, 340 E. Main Street and downtown business owner, questioned Councilor Curran if he met with the Sheriff Department and what was the result of the meeting.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, thanked Councilor Lett, Councilor Ervin and Councilor Hoyt for keeping public comments as part of the council meeting and stated the public has a right to be heard. Ms. Hess asked why there are no rules established for council behavior and there is no transparency and the lawsuit should have been settled. Ms. Hess also noted that council does not have a goal list as there has been few accomplishments over the last several years.
- Eric Smith, 6532 N. State Route 235, stated that council failed him and he was not offered COBRA insurance since being laid off. Mr. Smith asked if it was the Mayor or Attorney Drew Esposito who did the internal investigation of him.
- Lovina Berger, 210 E. Main Street, expressed concern about the flooding on Lynn Street.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to adjourn at 8:06 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date