Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2026

Invocation Prayer
Led by Councilor Ervin.

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
Roll call was taken by Mayor Anthony Whitman. Present were Councilors Tony Hoyt, Terry Ervin II, Drake Huffman, Charlene Hess, Denise Beall, and Shelley Valdez. Also present were Village Administrator Jay Lewis, Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney, and Sheriff's Deputy Tim Taulbee.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items
None.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the work session minutes dated July 20, 2026. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Beall to approve the public hearing minutes dated July 20, 2026. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the tax revenue hearing minutes dated July 20, 2026. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the Council meeting minutes dated July 20, 2026. The motion passed.

Mayor's Notes
- Pony Wagon Days is September 11–13. An agenda is available in the Municipal Building.
- A dedication ceremony for Thornton Park will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- Old Souls is having a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM.
- Mayor Whitman asked if everyone had finished the cybersecurity course.

Financial Reports
Financial Statements (July 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the financial statements as presented. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 6–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Bank Reconciliation (July 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the bank reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 6–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Water/Sewer Account Adjustments (July 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the water/sewer account adjustments. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 6–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Supplemental Appropriations (July 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Beall to approve the supplemental appropriations. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 6–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Police Report
Tim Taulbee provided a summary of police activity for July, including: 6 details, 6 court papers, 2 animal reports, 2 non-injury motor vehicle reports, 3 domestic reports, 4 emergency runs, 2 juvenile complaints, 1 missing person, 2 rape reports, 1 stolen vehicle, 4 suicide attempts, 22 traffic details, 5 follow-ups, 8 harassment reports, 1 alarm drop, 3 traffic stops, 19 reports on complaints, 5 911 calls, 114 building checks, 4 civil matters, and 2 welfare checks.

Administrator's Report

- It has been determined that we should budget $250,000 for the new well at the well field. The new waterline is estimated to cost the Village $1,100,000.
- An OPWC grant is being sought for W. Troy Street. This will include a waterline replacement.
- Several companies are coming through St. Paris to lay fiber cable in our right-of-way spaces. Our engineers have suggested that these cables run on Ashland Ave. to Walnut St., across to High St., and up to US Hwy 36 instead of running straight across US Hwy 36.
- Village Administrator Jay Lewis will be in a grant-writing online class August 18 and 19 from 8:00 AM–4:00 PM.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee:** No meeting. A meeting is being planned before the next Council meeting.
- **JSP Fire Board:** The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
- **Parks, Land & Buildings Committee:** Councilor Hess suggested that two handicap parking spaces be added to the downtown area.
- **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is September 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building. Council began a discussion on data centers and what would be asked of the Planning Commission. Mayor Whitman suggested requiring conditional-use approval rather than prohibiting data centers outright. A conditional use was determined to be the best approach.
- **Public Health and Safety Committee:** A meeting was held July 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building. The topic was children riding homemade e-bikes around town. The committee would like to create rules to be followed.
- **Street Committee:** No meeting.
- **Zoning Enforcement Committee:** No meeting.
- **Technology Committee:** No meeting.

Old Business

- Mayor Whitman went over the cost of installing one tornado siren in the Village of St. Paris. The cost will be $62,300. The Budget Committee will put this item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mayor Whitman will meet with Terry Howell and Old Souls Farm to see if they are still going to help with 50% of the new waterline now that an estimated cost of $1,100,000 has been established.

New Business

- **Resolution 1405 – *Participating in Public Works Capital Improvement*:** A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to declare Resolution 1405 an emergency. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6-0. A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve Resolution 1405. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6–0.
- **Resolution 1406 – *Establishing A Section 125 Premium Only Plan*:** A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Beall to approve Resolution 1406. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6–0.
- **Superior Dental Plan Renewal:** The Superior Dental Plan renewal was presented with no increase in premiums. A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Ervin to accept the renewal. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6–0.
- **Ordinance 2026-11 – *Right-of-Way Space Openings*:** Mayor Whitman conducted the first reading.

Public Comments

Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Dr., asked if the new waterline would need a water tower. The answer was no. She asked where the new water well would be placed. The answer was that it would be placed in the well field. She also expressed appreciation for the signs placed at Harmon Park and on the streets directing people to Harmon Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Hess and seconded by Councilor Huffman to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. The motion passed.

Signatures:

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Anthony Whitman, Mayor

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Date _____