Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 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, Charlene Hess, Denise Beall, and Shelley Valdez. Absent was Drake Huffman. 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 Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hess to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items
None.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the Council meeting minutes dated September 7, 2026. The motion passed.

Mayor's Notes
- Beggar's Night will be on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- Another successful Pony Wagon Days was held last weekend. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help next year's event, the meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at Harmon Park at 7:00 PM.

Financial Reports

Financial Statements (August 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Beall to approve the financial statements as presented. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Bank Reconciliation (August 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hess to approve the bank reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Water/Sewer Account Adjustments (August 31, 2026) – A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the water/sewer account adjustments. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. The motion passed.

Police Report
Tim Taulbee provided a summary of police activity for July, including: 3 details, 1 court paper, 3 animal reports, 1 non-injury motor vehicle report, 5 domestic reports, 4 emergency runs, 2 juvenile complaints, 2 unruly juvenile reports, 2 patrol areas, 1 funeral escort, 1 stolen vehicle, 3 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 2 traffic details, 7 follow-ups, 2 vandalism reports, 3 harassment reports, 1 mental health crisis, 1 false alarm, 1 alarm drop, 2 abandoned vehicles, 43 traffic stops, 13 complaint reports, 8 911 calls, 66 building checks, 2 civil matters, and 6 welfare checks.

Administrator's Report
- Two companies are planning to bury cables through St. Paris. One is coming from the west, the other is coming from the east. They have been told to coordinate the project.

Committee Reports
- **Finance Committee:** No meeting. A meeting is being planned before the next Council meeting.
- **JSP Fire Board:** The next meeting is on October 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
- **Parks, Land & Buildings Committee:** Councilor Hess suggested that the Community Garden plots be cleaned up.
- **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is on October 1, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building. The discussion on data centers continues. The LUC will have its information ready by the end of the year.

- **Public Health and Safety Committee:** The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM.
- **Street Committee:** The committee met in August to discuss committee responsibilities with new member Denise Beall.
- **Zoning Enforcement Committee:** No meeting.
- **Technology Committee:** Jay Lewis requested a meeting in October.

Old Business

- Ordinance 2026-11 *Right-of-Way Space Openings*: Mayor Whitman conducted the third reading. Council Ervin made a motion, seconded by Councilor Valdez to adopt Ordinance 2026-11. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.
- CEDA Update: Mayor Whitman asked if anyone had any questions. Councilor Hoyt asked for an extension. Mayor Whitman informed him that there was no hurry. Old Souls may not be operational until the end of 2027.
- Mayor Whitman asked if anyone had any questions about the contract with the Champaign County Sheriff's Department. Councilor Valdez asked why they weren't bringing back the St. Paris Police Department. Mayor Whitman explained the amount of money it would take to make that happen.

New Business

- **Ordinance 2026-12 –** *Vacating Easement at Wick Court***:** Village Administrator Jay Lewis explained why an easement at Wick Court needed to be vacated. Mayor Whitman explained why it is being passed as an emergency. Councilor Hess made a motion, seconded by Councilor Valdez, to adopt Ordinance 2026-12 as an emergency. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0. Councilor Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Councilor Beall, to pass Ordinance 2026-12. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.
- **Resolution 1408** – *Authorizing the Village Administrator to purchase a Tornado Siren* Councilor Valdez asked if updates were an extra cost. Mayor Whitman explained updates are free for the lifetime of the siren. Councilor Hoyt asked about the lifetime of the siren. Mayor Whitman said the siren does not require any maintenance. A motion was made by Councilor Valdez and seconded by Councilor Hess to approve Resolution 1408. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5–0.

Public Comments

Doug Baugher, 221 N. Springfield St., asked if E. Elm Street could have the potholes repaired.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. The motion passed.

Signatures:

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Anthony Whitman, Mayor

_____ _____

Date _____