

**Village of St. Paris
October 27, 2025
Council Work Session**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The invocation prayer was led by Councilor Ervin.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Prince. Present were Councilors Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, Steve Lett, and Drake Huffman. Village Administrator Jay Lewis and Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney were also present.

A **motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the Council agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Dr., stated she could not hear Tim Cassidy's presentation due to issues with the live stream cutting out. She attended the meeting to understand what she had missed.

Work Session:

- Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney explained a conversation she had with Karen Bailey, County Auditor, asking questions about the property tax increase. There will be no increase in the two St. Paris Street Levies following the new property tax evaluations. These levies are fixed, meaning they were passed for a specific dollar amount. Ms. Bailey also stated that if Council decides to pass a resolution reducing the amount of the tax increase it receives, they must do so by the second meeting in November.
- Councilor Ervin noted that this resolution would not provide significant relief to residents and did not want residents to think Council was making a large impact on the upcoming property tax increase.
- Councilor Blair stated he wanted to provide residents with as much relief as possible.
- Brenda Cook was recognized by Mayor Prince. Ms. Cook suggested that the Village consider retaining the funds and using them to provide raises for employees to help retain the hardworking staff currently employed by St. Paris.
- Councilor Huffman discussed potential uses for the increased revenue, suggesting that Council could establish grants to help local businesses with projects to maintain or attract new businesses, benefiting the entire community.
- Mayor Prince stated she felt it was important to give back to residents, even if the amount was small.

Public Comments:

- Gerard Nannarone, 130 W. Lynn St., stated that tax relief is some good news.

There being no further business, a **motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Motion passed.

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date