

**Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2025**

Invocation:

The invocation prayer was led by Councilor Ervin.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve the council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Char Hess, 240 W. Troy, suggested that changing Lafayette to “Dale Thornton Memorial Park” would help people in the future to understand who the park was named after instead of calling it “Thornton Park”.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the Council Meeting minutes dated November 17, 2025. Motion passed.

Mayor’s Notes:

- Christmas in the Village will be held this Saturday 1-6PM. Vendors will be set up by 10:00 at the Municipal Building and the Evans Purk Building. The Tree Lighting is at 5:30 with the Lighted Parade starting at 6:00. Tonya Hackley, chairperson of the event, invited everyone to attend.
- St. Paris Connect is a new service through our water/sewer billing service that allows messages to be sent via text or voice message. The service launches in January. All residents were encouraged to update their phone numbers in order to receive the messages.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Old Souls Farm, Ethan Snyder, came to speak about their upcoming project. Old Souls plans to build a new facility out on Route 235. The project may take a couple of years, but will bring jobs and revenue to the Village. Mayor Prince added that this is a “big deal” for St. Paris.
- Resolution 1395– Vacation Buy Back, Fiscal Officer. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1395. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve Resolution 1395. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed. Payment will be made with the first payroll date in December.
- Resolution 1396– Vacation Buy Back, Village Administrator. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1396. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve Resolution 1396. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed. Payment will be made with the first payroll date in December.
- Resolution 1397- Renaming Lafayette Park to “Thornton Park”. A discussion was had regarding the suggestion that it be renamed “Dale Thornton Memorial Park Jay Lewis talked about a discussion he had with one of the members or “Our Town”. The intention is to honor Dale and his son, Michael. It was decided that the name would be changed to “Thornton Memorial Park”. **Motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Lett to rename “Lafayette Park” to “Thornton Memorial Park”. Motion passed.
- Resolution 1313-8 – Establish Salaries and Wage Ranges. Mayor Prince explained that each employee would receive a 5% raise. In order to accommodate the raises, the ranges were also increased. Mayor Prince read Resolution 1313-8. **Motion** was made by Councilor Huffman to accept the new wages and seconded by Councilor Blair. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Steve Lett, 129 Dugan, asked Charlene Hess if she was going to investigate all of charges she has made against council once she in on council: corruption, mishandling funds, etc. She retorted “you were appointed”.
- Natalie Frock, 215 N. Springfield, spoke about semi traffic on N. Springfield Street. She is concerned that, with Old Souls Farm growing, so will the traffic.
- Terry Howell, 4433 Briarwood Dr., Urbana, spoke about how he changed his property to M-2 thirty years ago in hopes of something like Old Souls Farms coming along.

- Dave Faulkner, 3424 Cambridge Dr., told the community that everyone involved is very happy to give an update on the Old Souls Farm whenever asked.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Huffman to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Motion passed.

Signatures:

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date