

**Village of St. Paris**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**

**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 Anthony Whitman. Present were Councilors Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, Drake Huffman, Frank Blair, Charlene Hess and Shelley Valdez. Also present were Village Administrator Jay Lewis and Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney.

**Approval of Agenda:**

After several amendments were made to the agenda, **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council Meeting minutes dated December 15, 2025. Motion passed.

**Mayor's Notes:**

- Mayor Whitman congratulated the newly elected council members and the reelected.
- St. Paris Connect was launched today. Everyone should have received a text message from the Village. Those who did not should contact the Municipal Building.

**Old Business:**

- Mayor Whitman announced he and Village Administrator Jay Lewis would be attending the JSP board meeting and asking for an easement for the new waterline.

**New Business:**

- Mayor Whitman announced the new committee assignments.
  - Budget - Tony Hoyt & Drake Huffman
  - JSP Fireboard – Terry Ervin
  - Parks, Land & Building – Charlene Hess & Shelley Valdez
  - Planning Commission – Terry Ervin
  - Safety – Charlene Hess & Frank Blair
  - Streets – Frank Blair & Tony Hoyt
  - Zoning Enforcement – Drake Huffman & Shelley Valdez

Mayor Whitman asked each committee to decide when they are going to meet each month.

- Selecting a new council president- **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin to nominate Tony Hoyt as council president for 2026 and second by Drake Huffman. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hess to nominate Frank Blair as council president for 2026 and second by Shelley Valdez. A roll call vote was taken for Tony Hoyt. The vote was tied 3-3. A roll call vote was taken for Frank Blair. The vote was tied 3-3. Mayor Whitman broke the tie and Tony Hoyt is, again, council president.
- The Miami Valley Lighting contract is up for renewal. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin to enter into the new contract with Miami Valley Lighting and Councilor Huffman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed 6-0.
- Martin Luther King and President's Day are holiday's that land on council meeting day. Council agreed to keep these dates as meeting dates.
- Mayor Whitman brought up the idea of hiring a part time zoning officer. He stated that our Village administrator has too much on his plate and could use some help with zoning. Once the budget is looked at, it will be brought up again.
- Councilor Ervin discussed the rates with STAR Ohio vs First Central National Bank CD rates. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin to move 150K from STAR Ohio to a CD at First Central National Bank and Seconded by Councilor Blair. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed 6-0.
- Councilor Ervin brought up creating a technology committee to handle cyber security, cameras and other computer issues. Motion was made by Councilor Blair to establish an IT Committee and seconded by Councilor Ervin. Motion passed. Councilor Ervin and Councilor Huffman will serve on the Technology Committee.
- Mayor Whitman brought up adding another deputy to the St. Paris contract with Champaign County Sheriff's Dept. Councilor Ervin suggested asking community members how they feel about adding another deputy. Another deputy would add approximately \$100,000 to the contract. Councilor Huffman suggested talking to the Sheriff's Dept. and getting their input.
- Village Administrator Jay Lewis announced that Christmas trees would be picked up January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilor Ervin asked the community to make the Village aware of any broken tiles so it can be put in the upcoming budget.
- Mayor Whitman talked about the OML conference for council members. He suggested letting Gina Verlaney know if they plan to attend so she can register them.

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Hess to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Motion passed.

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Whitman, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date