

**Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 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 Tony Hoyt, Terry Ervin II, Drake Huffman, Charlene Hess, and Shelley Valdez. Councilor Frank Blair was absent. Also present were Village Administrator Jay Lewis and Sheriff's Deputy Tim Morris. Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney was absent.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated January 5, 2026. Motion passed.

JSP Yearly Report: Chief McCulla presented the end-of-year report outlining the fire, EMS, and accident coverage provided during the past year. The report is attached. Councilor Ervin stated that JSP is very busy and has many overlapping events. Mayor Whitman thanked Chief Vance and JSP for their service. It was noted that JSP will be holding a breakfast on January 24, 2026, from 8:00–11:00 AM. Ms. Hess stated this is why a pancake breakfast is not being held in January to avoid a scheduling conflict.

Mayor Whitman updated Council on discussions held at the Safety Committee meeting with the Vice President of the JSP Board and Chief McCulla. Topics included the JSP levy and the limitations on revenue due to levy caps. Mayor Whitman stated that pursuing a new levy could result in an immediate loss of approximately \$40,000 and may not pass with the increases required. He expressed interest in exploring ways the Village could assist JSP financially. The possibility of a JEDD and TID/TIF agreements between JSP and the Village was discussed. Solicitor Daniel Bey is researching these options and will report back to Village Administrator Jay Lewis.

Financial Reports:

• **Financial Statements (December 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 in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

• **Bank Reconciliation (December 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 in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

• **Water/Sewer Account Adjustments (December 31, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the water/sewer account adjustments. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

• **Supplemental Appropriations (December 31, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the supplemental appropriations. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Administrator's Report: Village Administrator Jay Lewis provided updates on the well and waterline project, noting that well drilling will be sent out for bid. The salt storage building is completed, pending installation of gutters and downspouts. The new street truck is completed and scheduled for pickup on Tuesday. Mr. Lewis provided three job description options for a new part-time zoning officer for Council review. The Village website is nearly ready to launch, with hopes of going live later this week. Ongoing updates will continue, and training with MidNet Media will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Police Report:

Deputy Morris reviewed the end-of-year report covering April through December 31, 2025, during which time the Sheriff's Office provided coverage for the Village of St. Paris.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance:** A meeting will be held Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 4:00 PM to discuss permanent appropriations for 2026.
- **JSP Fire Board:** The next meeting will be held February 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Fire House.
- **Parks, Land & Buildings:** A meeting will be held February 6, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission is updating the Village zoning map. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.
- **Safety:** A meeting will be held February 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM. Discussion continued regarding JSP funding and coverage. Mayor Whitman stated that if businesses locate in St. Paris and require additional coverage, funding solutions must be considered. This discussion is separate from the Village and JSP easement for the new waterline. Chief McCulla’s end-of-year report was also discussed. Councilor Ervin noted the new fire engine is being paid for (not through a grant) and is the first new fire engine purchased in 26 years. JSP’s current levy is a renewal. JSP has contracts with multiple townships and villages in western Champaign County, as well as Miami and Shelby Counties. Ms. Hess asked about the cost of adding two new employees for coverage, which was stated to be approximately \$315,000.
- **Street:** A meeting will be held Friday, January 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- **Zoning Enforcement:** A meeting will be held Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 7:30 AM.
- **Technology Committee:** A meeting will be held Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Mayor Whitman requested that each committee establish a set monthly meeting date for public attendance.

Old Business:

- Mayor Whitman announced that a First Central National Bank Certificate of Deposit was purchased in the amount of \$150,000.
- A lengthy discussion was held regarding the 2026 Village Council Policy and Procedures. A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the Policy and Procedures as amended for 2026. Motion passed.
- A work session for the 2026 final appropriations was scheduled for February 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

New Business:

- Councilor Valdez requested that the Village begin recording and live-streaming all Council meetings, noting that the equipment is already available. She also thanked Gerard Nannerone for recording Council meetings for the past two years.

Public Comments:

Gerard Nannerone, 130 W. Lynn, suggested looking into Rumble as an option to record and archive meetings.

Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy, announced new dates for the Community Breakfast.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Motion passed.

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Anthony Whitman, Mayor

Date