

**Village of St. Paris
February 12, 2026
Council Work Session**

The invocation prayer was led by Shelley Valdez.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Anthony Whitman. Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, Shelley Valdez, Charlene Hess and Drake Huffman were present. Frank Blair was absent. Village Administrator Jay Lewis and Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney were also present.

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the Council agenda. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Work Session:

- Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney explained the financial worksheet with the proposed 2026 permanent appropriations. Council discussed the 2026 permanent appropriations. Councilor Hess discussed other ways to compensate employees for weekend water rounds. The need for a new leaf vac was discussed. Councilor Hess suggested looking into renting one. Councilor Ervin discussed looking at the Village's needs again in July. He also suggested the need for a police vehicle fund. It was determined that \$20,000 would be put in this fund each year. Councilor Hess discussed having another officer from the Sheriff's Dept. assigned to St. Paris. Councilor Valdez discussed bringing back our own St. Paris police department. Councilor Ervin spoke about needing a levy for that to happen and felt this wasn't the right time for that with our current financial climate. At the end of the meeting, the only changes made to the budget was adding a police vehicle fund.

Public Comments: None

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Ervin to adjourn at 7: 36 PM. Motion passed.

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Anthony Whitman, Mayor

Date