

**Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026**

Invocation Prayer:

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 Anthony Whitman. Present were Councilors Tony Hoyt, Terry Ervin II, Drake Huffman, Frank Blair, Charlene Hess (arrived at 7:11 PM), and Shelley Valdez. Also present were Village Administrator Jay Lewis and Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the Council Meeting minutes dated February 16, 2026. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Pony Wagon fundraiser at Coral Lanes Bowling will be held on March 14, 2026. Registration starts at 7:00 PM.
- The Lions Club Pancake Breakfast will be on March 7, 2026, from 7 AM – 12 PM. Presale tickets are \$8 and \$10 at the door.

Old Business:

- **Resolution 1403 – Authorizing Additional Compensation for Salaried Employees Performing Water Rounds.** A **motion** was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Huffman to vote on Resolution 1403. A roll call vote was taken, and council voted in favor 5–0. Motion passed.
- The speed bumps at Harmon Park still need further investigation regarding pricing.

New Business:

- There was a discussion about entering into a contract with the economic development firm FBT Gibbons. This firm will prepare all of the paperwork to assist with the CEDA contract with JSP. Council requested to review a contract before voting on entering into an agreement.
- A discussion about the community gardens was led by Councilor Ervin. He discussed previous procedures regarding assigning plots to residents and stated that guidelines should be established soon, as residents will soon begin requesting plots. There was also discussion about moving and spreading out the plots, as mowing has become difficult with the riding mower not fitting between the raised beds. Former Mayor Cook provided additional history regarding the garden plots.

Public Comments:

- Tonya Hackley, 232 E. Elm St., commented on the downtown businesses' Valentine's Day celebration and how nice it was. She mentioned they would be hosting something for St. Patrick's Day. She then spoke about the dangers of walking her dog around town after her dog was attacked by a loose dog. She asked council to assist with enforcing laws regarding loose dogs.
- Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Dr., asked about the FBT firm and where they are located. She also asked about using a local economic development organization. It was explained that this firm (FBT Gibbons) will guide St. Paris through the process of obtaining a CEDA with JSP.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Huffman to adjourn at 7:47 PM. Motion passed.

Signatures:

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Tony Whitman, Mayor

Date