

**Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026**

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.

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, Fiscal Officer Gina Verlaney, and Sheriff's Deputy Jacob Farber.

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated March 2, 2026. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Mayor Whitman announced that US Highway 36 will be closed on March 28 and 29 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Ranger Earthworks will complete tie-ins to the new waterline.

Financial Reports:

- **Financial Statements (February 28, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the financial statements as presented. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **Bank Reconciliation (February 28, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Huffman to approve the bank reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **Water/Sewer Account Adjustments (February 28, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the water/sewer account adjustments. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **Supplemental Appropriations (February 28, 2026):** A motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the supplemental appropriations. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.

Administrator's Report:

- Jay Lewis reiterated that US Highway 36 will be closed March 28–29.

Police Report:

Deputy Farber provided a summary of police activity for February: 2 court papers served, 1 warrant, 2 animal complaints, 1 theft, 1 suicide, 2 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 14 complaint reports, 20 follow-ups, 9 traffic stops, 1 threat, 3 vandalism reports, 5 welfare checks, 31 building checks, and 1 civil matter.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance:** No meeting.
- **JSP Fire Board:** The next meeting will be held April 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
- **Parks, Land & Buildings:** A meeting was held March 6, 2026, at 3:00 PM. The committee discussed the garden plots at the well field. Councilor Hess suggested removing the grass surrounding the plots to address mowing issues and using lot rent revenue to fund improvements. The next meeting is April 3 at 3:00 PM.
- **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.
- **Public Health and Safety:** A meeting was held February 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM. The committee discussed hiring additional police coverage from the Sheriff's Department and what it would take to reestablish the Village's own police department. They also

discussed the CEDA and suggested holding a work session with JSP and Johnson Township. The committee is also exploring installation of a tornado siren for the Village.

- **Street:** No meeting.
- **Zoning Enforcement:** A meeting was held March 5, 2026. The committee discussed the CEDA.
- **Technology Committee:** No meeting.

Old Business:

Mayor Whitman asked Council if there were any questions regarding the FBT Gibbons contract. Councilor Hoyt asked about the statement “no estimate because there were too many variables” and said he would like to see an estimate. Mayor Whitman stated it would be approximately \$7,000–\$10,000.

New Business:

- Mayor Whitman asked Council if there were any questions regarding the eleven proposed zoning changes. Councilor Ervin stated there were several meetings with the LUC before deciding on the final plan.
- A motion was made by Councilor Huffman to hold a public hearing to discuss the rezoning with the regular Council meeting to follow on April 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hoyt. Motion passed.
- The public hearing has been advertised in the *Urbana Daily Citizen*.

Public Comments:

Joyce Bowlin, 274 W. Poplar, suggested that any new community garden plots be placed on the north side of the area, as other areas tend to be very wet.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hess to adjourn at 8:02 PM. Motion passed.

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Anthony Whitman, Mayor

Date