

**Village of St. Paris
Council Meeting Minutes
April 06, 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, 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 Ervin to approve the Council agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Approval of Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated March 16, 2026. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- The Community Breakfast is April 18, 2026, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

Old Business:

- The survey and easements for the new waterline going out to Wick Court are going well. Unfortunately, there are no grants for this project. Terry Howell committed to paying 30% of the cost for the waterline.
- The FBT Gibbons contract was reviewed. The contract has no retainer fee. It is a pay-as-you-go agreement with no estimates. A **motion** was made by Councilor Ervin to accept the FBT Gibbons contract and seconded by Councilor Hess. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed, 4-2.
- The rezoning for 9764 W. US HWY 36 will go from M-2 Township to M-2 Village. When the Village purchased this land years ago, the zoning remained as a township instead of moving to a Village zoning. A **motion** was made by Councilor Blair to have a Public Hearing for rezoning 9764 W. US HWY 36 and seconded by Councilor Huffman. Motion passed.
- The Planning Commission sent a recommendation to Council. Our current zoning has no language for curbs, sidewalks, or driveways for industrial buildings. Councilor Huffman asked about responsibility for damage. No answer was available. A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman to table the Planning Commission recommendation and seconded by Councilor Blair. Motion passed.
- The issue of dog control enforcement was discussed. Residents need to call the Sheriff's office to report dog issues instead of posting on social media or going to council members. The Sheriff's office has a dog warden who needs to be contacted. Councilor Valdez suggested updating the Village's current ordinance regarding dogs.

New Business:

- Ordinance 2026-1, **The Holding of Insurance Money Proceeds for Fire-Damaged Structures**. Mayor Whitman held its first reading. Mayor Whitman explained this ordinance would require structure owners to not leave without completing required cleanup after receiving insurance funds. A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman to vote on the emergency for Ordinance 2026-1 and seconded by Councilor Blair. Motion failed. The emergency paragraph will be removed.
- Ordinance 2026-2, **Temporary Moratorium for One Year on Accepting a Data Center within St. Paris**. Mayor Whitman held its first reading. Mayor Whitman explained this ordinance would prevent someone from backdooring a data center into the Village. Councilor Huffman suggested having more discussions before passing a moratorium. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of this ordinance, a **motion** was made by Councilor Blair to consider the emergency for Ordinance 2026-2 and seconded by Councilor Valdez. A roll call vote was taken. Motion failed, 2-4. The emergency paragraph will be removed.

Public Comments: None

During public comments, a motion was made by Councilor Hoyt to have a public meeting on May 18th for the Zoning change at 9764 W. US HWY 36 and seconded by Councilor Ervin. Motion passed. The public hearing will be held before the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Also, during public comments, Village Administrator Jay Lewis announced that the HWY 36 Water Line project is done with the waterlines and will begin replacing the sidewalks.

Adjournment:

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

Signatures:

Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

Tony Whitman, Mayor

Date