

**Village of St. Paris**  
**April 20, 2026**  
**Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Mayor Whitman read the addresses that were being rezoned and asked if there were any questions regarding the eleven properties. One person asked whether any of the properties were zoned agricultural; none were.

**Public Comments:** None

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hess to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. Motion passed.

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**Village of St. Paris**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2026**

**Invocation:** Prayer was led by Councilor Ervin.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 Hess to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

Amy Smith, 6500 Runkle Road, asked Council to reconsider eliminating the emergency clause for Ordinance 2026-2, Moratorium on Data Centers in St. Paris. She expressed concern about potential pollution of rivers and streams. She presented a map of waterways and distributed an article supporting her concerns.

**Approval of Minutes:** A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Valdez to approve the Council meeting minutes dated April 6, 2026. Motion passed.

**Mayor's Notes:**

- Mayor Whitman recognized Ben Shuman for 15 years of service with the St. Paris Water/Sewer Department.

**Financial Reports:**

- **Financial Statements (March 31, 2026):** A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the financial statements as presented. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.

- **Bank Reconciliation (March 31, 2026):** A **motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the bank reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.

- **Water/Sewer Account Adjustments (March 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 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.

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

**Administrator’s Report:**

- The Village is in the final stages of completing the Route 36 waterline project.
- The survey for the Well/Waterline Project has been completed and will be presented to the JSP Fire Board.
- Brice Schmitmeyer of Access Engineering is working on the final quote for the waterline.
- O-PCI at the University of Cincinnati is assisting municipalities with cybersecurity plans. The Village plans to present a policy to Council in May.
- Final grading has been completed on Troy Street, with seeding and fertilization remaining.
- Interior cleaning and repairs will begin on the central and east water towers later this June.

**Police Report:**

Deputy Farber provided a summary of police activity for March: 2 court papers served, 5 warrants, 4 animal complaints, 2 non-injury vehicle accidents, 2 domestic incidents, 3 emergency runs, 1 unruly juvenile, 1 theft, 1 missing person, 1 rape, 2 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicles, 14 traffic details, 16 complaint reports, 5 follow-ups, 4 traffic stops, 3 threats, 4 welfare checks, 51 building checks, and 2 civil matters.

**Committee Reports:**

- Finance: No meeting.
- JSP Fire Board: The next meeting will be held May 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
- Parks, Land & Buildings: No meeting. The next meeting is May 1, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- Planning Commission: The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.
- Public Health and Safety: No meeting.
- Street: Meeting on April 24 at 9AM.
- Zoning Enforcement: No meeting.
- Technology Committee: Met on April 2 and discussed cybersecurity information provided by Administrator Lewis.

**Old Business:**

- Ordinance 2026-1, Transfer and Holding of Insurance Proceeds, had its second reading.
- Ordinance 2026-2, Moratorium on Data Centers in St. Paris, had its second reading. Councilor Huffman requested revisions to certain language to allow developers the opportunity to ask questions. Councilor Valdez spoke in favor of reinstating the emergency clause.
  - o A **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Valdez to reinstate the emergency clause. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 4-1 in favor. Motion passed.
  - o A **motion** was made by Councilor Hoyt and seconded by Councilor Valdez to pass Ordinance 2026-2 as written. A roll call vote was taken; Council voted 5–0 in favor. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

- The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) provided information regarding a letter campaign to non-filing taxpayers, followed by administrative subpoenas. The Village must enroll by June 1 to participate. • Ordinance 2026-3, Rezoning Eleven Properties. Mayor Whitman conducted the first reading.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a **motion** was made by Councilor Huffman and seconded by Councilor Hess to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Motion passed.

**Signatures:**

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Gina Verlaney, Fiscal Officer

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Anthony Whitman, Mayor

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Date