

Village of St. Paris
March 4, 2024
Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The invocation prayer was led by Pastor Mike Miller of the Madison Avenue Church of God in Piqua, Ohio.

Roll call was taken by Council President Pro-Temp Susan Prince. Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt and Steve Lett were present. Mayor Sam Ronicker was absent. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Betty Smith, 127 S. High Street, stated that council needed to look at other budgets to be cut.

Motion was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated February 26, 2024, as amended. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Resolution 1376 – 2024 Permanent Appropriations. Councilor Lett stated that he does not want money (\$14,000) taken away from the GYAA ballpark noting that it was an investment in families of the village. Councilor Lett also stated that he is against the Pony Wagon Trail and the purchase of a new police cruiser. Councilor Ervin noted that storm sewer repairs are costly and the appropriations for these repairs just scratch the surface. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Curran to appropriate \$50,000 to the Pony Wagon Trail. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 3-2, with Councilor Lett and Councilor Blair voting against and Councilor Prince abstaining from the vote. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to keep the purchase of a new police cruiser in appropriations. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 3-2, with Councilor Lett and Councilor Curran voting against and Councilor Prince abstaining from the vote. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Curran to put back into appropriations \$14,000 for the GYAA ballpark. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0, with Councilor Prince abstaining from the vote. Motion passed. Councilor Blair distributed a proposed contract between the Village of St. Paris and The Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail. The contract outlined that it should not exceed \$50,000, must be completely reimbursed by 12/1/2024, the village not being responsible for anything to do with the bike trail, the Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail providing accident insurance for the trail, The Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail reimbursing the village if original reimbursement request is not approved by the State of Ohio, The Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail (moving forward) must get their funding anywhere else other than the village, no business for the bike trail is to be completed on Village of St. Paris time and money, and the village is not responsible for any upkeep of the bike trail. Council agreed that Councilor Prince should present the proposed contract to the village solicitor for review. Councilor Prince read Resolution 1376. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve Resolution 1376 with the proposed changes as motioned earlier. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 3-2, with Councilor Lett and Councilor Blair voting against and Councilor Prince abstaining. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Blair to authorize Council President Pro-Temp Prince and Fiscal Officer McGuire to sign loan documentation for the purchase of the new police cruiser. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) is requiring the Village to appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate for the Regional Council of Governments. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to appoint Mayor Sam Ronicker as the delegate and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire as the alternate delegate for the Regional Council of Governments. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, stated she was disappointed that council gave money to the bike trail and called the trail a path to nowhere.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 7:29 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Council President Pro-Temp

Date