

**Village of St. Paris**  
**March 18, 2024**  
**Council Meeting**

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

Mayor Prince asked all in attendance for a moment of silence in honor of former Mayor Sam Ronicker.

The invocation prayer was led by Pastor Jeremy Spence of the First Baptist Church St. Paris.

Mayor Prince asked Chief of Police Smith to make a statement to all in attendance. Chief Smith stated that there was an incident at the last council meeting, after the meeting had adjourned, and if there are any disruptions or cursing at council meetings, then that person(s) will be asked to leave the meeting and possibly charged with disorderly conduct.

Mayor Prince was ceremonially sworn in by Stacy Larmee with the reading of the Mayoral Oath of Office.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Prince. Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt and Steve Lett were present. 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 Hoyt to approve the Council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:** none

Mayor Prince asked for Council President Pro-Tempore to be elected. **Motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Lett to elect Councilor Hoyt to serve as Council President Pro-Tempore. Councilor Hoyt accepted the nomination. Motion passed.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council meeting minutes dated March 4, 2024, as amended. Motion passed.

The presentation of financials dated February 29, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated February 29, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated February 29, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Appropriation Supplemental dated February 29, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Appropriation Supplemental. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

**Police Department:**

- For the month of February, the department had 27 recordable calls for service, 5 arrests for 10 criminal charges, and 12 citations issued.
- The new police cruiser was delivered and in use.
- Sergeant Pennington has resigned from his position as Police Officer. Chief Smith noted that K9 Thorn will be retired and signed over to Sergeant Pennington for a cost of \$1 as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code 9.62. Village Solicitor Daniel Bey stated that any real property under \$1,000 can be sold without a council resolution/ordinance to do so.
- The St. Paris police department assisted the Village of Russell's Point with tornado damage that occurred on March 14, 2024.
- Solicitor Bey noted that the selling of an old police cruiser needs to be done through the competitive bidding process.
- Mayor Prince stated that with Sergeant Pennington resigning from the police department, the police department will remain at 3 full time officers (including Chief Smith). The attrition of personnel and canines was discussed at the February 26, 2024, council meeting.

**Administrator:**

- The water department is purchasing new software that allows the village to continue to read water meters and purchasing a new meter reader as well. The old software is no longer supported by the vendor.
- A part-time, season position has been posted to assist the street department. The position will be 25-30 hours per week and was budgeted for in the 2024 permanent appropriations.

- Access Engineering did some camera work on the storm sewer issue on E. Elm Street. Administrator Mitchell is coordinating with Access Engineering to schedule the necessary repairs. To date, the village has spent over \$10,000 to have storm water pumped out of E. Elm Street.
- Updated proposals for the street lighting projects on Huffman Drive, at the Graham Youth Athletic Association park, at Wick Court and on US Hwy 36. The projects will be coordinated and scheduled with AES and Miami Valley Lighting.
- Administrator Mitchell is working on zoning issues involving junk vehicles, trash and other various violations.
- Councilor Curran asked about the storm drain issues on E. Elm Street. Administrator Mitchell stated that Access Engineering is doing an engineering study on the issue. The study will include the scope and cost of the project.

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget:** no report

**JSP Fire Board:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.

**Land & Buildings:**

- The committee met on March 18, 2024, and discussed the coordination of the Pony Wagon Trail project. Councilor Curran explained that the grant received for the project is a reimbursing grant and the net expenditures of the project for the village is \$0.

**Park & Trees:**

- The committee met on March 1, 2024 and both Councilor Blair and Councilor Lett were presented with the Harmon Park playground improvement proposal and renderings for the project. Councilor Lett stated that it is the perfect use of the Evilsizor Trust money to be used for permanent improvements to Harmon Park. Councilor Blair and Councilor Lett both recommend accepting the bid from Mid States Recreation for the playground improvements.

**Planning Commission:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the council room.

**Old Business:**

- Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) is requiring the Village to appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate for the Regional Council of Governments. A motion was made at the last council meeting on Marcy 4, 2024, that included Mayor Ronicker as the delegate. Council agreed, that with Mayor Ronicker's recent death, that a new delegate and alternate delegate be selected. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Curran to appoint Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire as the delegate and Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell as the alternate delegate for the Regional Council of Governments. Motion passed.
- Councilor Hoyt stated that he recently attended the 2024 Newly Elected Council Members Training Program sponsored by the Ohio Municipal League. Topics included home rule and local control, open meetings and public records, council powers and procedures, economic development as well as other topics. Council Hoyt noted that the seminar was very interesting and informational and was an excellent opportunity to meet peers from other villages similar to St. Paris.

**New Business:**

- **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Ervin to authorize Mayor Prince and Fiscal Officer McGuire to be signatories on the village bank account and safe deposit box held at First Central National Bank. Motion passed.
- Only one bid was received for the Harmon Park playground improvements with the base bid price of \$121,368.00. The bid was from Mid States Recreation. It is the recommendation of Administrator Mitchell, the Park and Trees Committee and Access Engineering to accept the bid as presented by Mid States Recreation. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to accept the base bid of \$121,368.00 from Mid States Recreation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

**Public Comments:**

- Jim Reed, 211 Maple Drive and owners of property on E. Lynn Street, stated that he talked to Rick McKenzie, a property owner near the Elm Street storm drain issue, and stated that the property has been built up leading to the flooding problem in the area. Mr. Reed noted that this has been an issue for several years and it needs to be fixed.
- Gaye Carafa, owner of St. Paris Pharmacy and involved in Our Town – St. Paris Association, noted that Our Town – St. Paris has money set aside specifically for Harmon Park, approximately \$5,000. The association also asked if all the playground equipment that was purchased by Our Town – St. Paris had been delivered.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Curran to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Motion passed.