

Village of St. Paris
May 6, 2024
Council Meeting

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

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

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Blair approve the Council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated April 15, 2024. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Councilor Blair asked for an update about the questions given to the Village Solicitor in regards of the bike trail. Mayor Prince noted that there is no update other than the Village Solicitor is suppose to meet with the attorney representing the Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail to discuss the bike trail. Councilor Blair asked if there was a deadline to meet in spending the bike trail money. Councilor Curran stated he was told that the deadline has been extended.

New Business:

- Council discussed the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) letter offering the opportunity to address non-filing taxpayers through its non-filing delinquency program. The program consists of 2 parts, a letter campaign to non-filing taxpayers followed by the issuance of administrative subpoenas to those who do not respond to the letters. There is no cost for sending the letter, but there is a cost of \$1 per subpoena issued. The Village can participate in just the letter campaign and not issue subpoena's, if so desired. Council agreed that letters should be sent out to non-filers, but questioned the need for subpoena's and what action is taken if non-filer does not respond to the subpoena filed by RITA. Fiscal Officer McGuire will contact RITA get clarification on the process and will inform council at the next council meeting. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve RITA sending only the letters to non-filers at this time with a decision on whether to enroll in the administrative subpoena program which is to be determined at the next council meeting on May 20, 2024. Motion passed.
- Mayor Prince explained the need to fill the vacant council seat and how the Champaign County Board of Elections and the Village Solicitor explained that, according to Ohio Revised Code, there is no municipal election in the 2024 calendar year because municipal elections are only held in the odd number calendar years. Mayor Prince stated that she will serve as Mayor until December 31, 2025 and the special election for mayor will be at the general election in 2025 and the newly elected mayor will complete the 2 years remaining of the four-year term for mayor. With Mayor Prince remaining as Mayor until December 31, 2025, she explained that council has 30 days from this date (May 6, 2025) to fill the vacant council seat. Council asked that letters of intent for those residents interested in the vacant seat be submitted to any elected official or the municipal office. The need for letters of intent will be posted on the village Facebook page, the marquee in front of the municipal office and can also be included in the water bills being mailed in the month of May. Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, stated that the village is not under a charter for villages and is not a municipality and a special election is required for the election of a mayor in the 2024 calendar year. Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Drive, stated that the village is indeed not under a charter but follows statutory law and is guided by Ohio Revised Code and the village is a municipality. Councilor Ervin asked Mayor Prince to have the Champaign County Board of Elections draft a letter stating their decision that the next municipal election is in 2025 and when the village needs to provide information to the BOE for a special election.
- Mayor Prince noted that there were 4 sealed bids received for the W. Plum Street improvement project and the bids were opened on Friday, May 3rd. The bids received were submitted by M&T Excavating, Tom's Construction, McGuire Farm and Excavation and Ranger Earthworks. Access Engineering will submit their letter of recommendation and it will be provided to council at the next council meeting.

Public Comments:

- Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Drive, spoke on behalf of the Evergreen Cemetery Board and stated Graham Local Schools held their annual in-service day on May 1st and 12 students helped clean the cemetery.
- Councilor Blair noted that on Sunday, May 12th, at 1:30 PM flags will be placed at Veteran's grave sites in Evergreen Cemetery prior to Memorial Day. The public is invited to come and help with the flag placements.
- Joyce Bowlin, 274 W. Poplar Street, stated that council did a good job in asking for more information before filling the empty council seat.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, asked for an update on the drainage issues on Troy Street. Mayor Prince stated that she would have to ask the Village Administrator on the status of Troy Street. Ms. Hess also mentioned that another community breakfast is set for Saturday, May 11th and all should come to celebrate Mother's Day and to celebrate the community.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date