

Village of St. Paris
May 20, 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 Prince. Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II and Steve Lett were present. Tony Hoyt was absent. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council meeting minutes dated May 6, 2024. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Memorial Day will be celebrated on May 27, 2025 at Harmon Park beginning at 9:30 AM.

The presentation of financials dated April 30, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated April 30, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated April 30, 2024 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Blair and seconded by Councilor Lett to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

Police Department:

- For the month of April, the department had 36 recordable calls for service, 0 arrests and 4 citations issued for 7 charges.
- Chief Smith is waiting on an Ordinance in order to advertise and sell the 2 oldest police cruisers. An Ordinance is needed if the value of the vehicle is greater than \$1,000.
- Chief Smith attended the Ohio Association Chiefs of Police In-Service and Annual Conference in Columbus.
- The police department received an Axom body camera contract. The 5-year contract is at a cost of \$24,099.80 and a grant will be received for \$10,800 to cover part of the expense. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to authorize the Chief of Police to enter into a contract with Axom for \$24,099.80.

Administrator:

- Administrator Mitchell will discuss the W. Plum Street improvement project in old business.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the municipal building. The 2025 Tax Revenue Budget will be discussed.

JSP Fire Board:

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.

Land & Buildings:

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the municipal building.

Park & Trees: none

Planning Commission:

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the council room.

Old Business:

- Council was given a sample Administrative Subpoena for Records letter from the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). The subpoena letter is only sent to non-filers who do not respond to the original delinquent letter from RITA. At the previous council meeting on May 6th, motion was made and approved by Council to approve RITA sending only the original letters to non-filers and Council would decide at a later meeting as whether to enroll in the administrative subpoena program or not. Council discussed the administrative subpoena program and opted not to participate. RITA will only mail the non-filing delinquency letters.
- Mayor Prince distributed a letter from the Champaign County Board of Elections stating that the next Municipal Election is November 4, 2025 and a special election in 2024 cannot be accommodated to the Village of St. Paris because St. Paris is not a Charter Municipality. Therefore, the next mayoral election for St. Paris will be in November 2025. Also discussed was the vacant council seat. 1 letter of interest has been received for the vacancy and Council agreed to set a deadline of May 29, 2024, to receive letters of interest for residents interested in filling the council seat. Council has 30 days from May 6, 2024, to appoint a resident to the seat. If the council seat is still vacant after 30 days, it becomes the Mayors responsibility to appoint a resident to the vacancy.
- 4 sealed bids were received for the W. Plum Street improvement project and the bids. The bids received were submitted by M&T Excavating, Tom’s Construction, McGuire Farm and Excavation and Ranger Earthworks. Access Engineering reviewed the bids and recommends that the Village accept the bid presented by Ranger Earthworks, LLC in the amount of \$789,619.30. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to accept the recommendation of Access Engineering and approve the bid of \$789,619.30 from Ranger Earthworks, LLC and authorize Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell to enter in a contract with Ranger Earthworks, LLC for the W. Plum Street improvement project. Administrator Mitchell noted that the project will begin in the Fall of 2024 and will end in the Spring of 2025. Notifications will be sent out to residents affected by the project and public meetings will be held with the property owners to answer any questions.

New Business: none

Public Comments:

- Betty Smith, 127 S. High Street, stated that she has heard rumors about Council getting rid of the police department. Ms. Smith wants Council to act responsibly and keep the police department.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Councilor Blair stated he is not comfortable entering into an executive session if the village employee has not been talked to. **Motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Curran to enter into an executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 3-1, with Councilor Blair voting against. Motion passed and Council entered into the executive session at 7:42 PM. At 8:30 PM, executive session ended and council resumed the open meeting.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Curran and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Susan Prince, Mayor

Date