

**Village of St. Paris
November 4, 2024
Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing 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, Tony Hoyt, Linda Julien and Steve Lett were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Administrator Spencer Mitchell spoke of the process on a zoning variance for property at 604 E. Main Street, parcel F20-24-11-18-00-040-00. The Planning Commission has recommended the rezoning of the property.

Public Comments:

- Brenda Cook, 202 Maple Drive, noted that the property is located on the Northwest side of the railroad tracks. Ms. Cook asked what the property is currently zoned as. Administrator Mitchell stated that the property is currently zone M-2 (manufacturing) and the variance is for the property to be rezoned to B-3 (business).

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Lett to adjourn the public hearing at 7:02 PM. Motion passed.

**Village of St. Paris
November 4, 2024
Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

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

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Hoyt to approve the Council meeting minutes dated October 21, 2024, as amended. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes: none

Old Business:

- Ordinance 2024-9 Amending Ordinance 420 to rezone 604 E Main Street from M-2 to B-3. Mayor Prince conducted the second reading of Ordinance 2024-9. The third and final reading of Ordinance 2024-9 will be held at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on November 18, 2024.

New Business:

- Council discussed reorganizing the council committee appointments. Council agreed to a Finance Committee with Councilor Hoyt and Councilor Julien serving, a Park/Land/Buildings Committee with Councilor Curran and Councilor Lett serving, a Safety Committee with Councilor Blair and Councilor Curran serving, a Street Committee with Councilor Blair and Councilor Hoyt serving, and a Zoning Enforcement Committee with Councilor Julien and Councilor Lett serving. Councilor Ervin will continue to serve on the JSP Fire Board Committee and the Planning Commission Committee.

Public Comments:

- Scott Massie, 134 W. Walnut Street, stated that getting rid of the police department is ridiculous, businesses won't come to St. Paris without a police department and council should serve the interest of St. Paris.
- Betty Smith, 127 S. High Street, asked Councilor Curran if he had spoke to any other villages about policing. Councilor Curran spoke about the Village of North Lewisburg, the Village of Mechanicsburg and the Village of New Carlisle and their police model. Ms. Smith mentioned that a public forum be called to discuss the police.
- Tony Whitman, 340 E. Main Street and downtown business owner, said Councilor Curran's math is wrong when it comes to having the Sheriff patrol St. Paris and it will not save the village money. Mr. Whitman asked for the resignation of Councilor Curran.
- Steven Wray, 302 Kite Road, stated that St. Paris has always had a police department and needs at least one police officer on duty. Mr. Wray noted that the issue should be taken to the people and put on a ballot.
- Linda Wright, 116 Rupolo Drive, also stated that the village has always had a police department and people needed to be careful driving through the village knowing that the police were patrolling.
- Irene Short, 209 Dugan Street, stated that she is afraid to drive through the village due to the speeding of vehicles and the safety of children are at stake.
- Kay Schwierking, 266 W. Elm Street, agreed that the village needs police.
- Terri Henson, 237 W. Walnut Street, will always support the police department and thinks there is a vendetta against the police.

- Shelley Valdez, 217 W. Plum Street, stated she has done the research and that council are idiots if we get rid of the police department. Ms. Valdez noted that the village would not be guaranteed a long-term contract with the Sheriff and that Sheriff Deputies would leave St. Paris if they were called out and then the village would be unprotected. She also said that they had “affidavits” from 3 former St. Paris Police Officers stating that they resigned from the position because they were treated terribly.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, stated that council has not done their homework and we need to keep the police and noted that, during the recent village wide power outage, the driving of police cruisers was illegal. Ms. Hess asked for the resignation of Mayor Prince, Councilor Curran and Councilor Lett.
- Star Lear, 6532 N. State Route 235, reiterated the driving of police cruisers during the power outage the Mayor gave an unlawful order to village employees to drive the police cruisers and that was out of the scope of the Mayor’s duties.
- Vella Reeves, 271 W. Walnut Street, questioned Councilor Lett’s comments from a previous council meeting regarding how the Chief of Police is suppose to patrol bus stops at 6:30 AM while his working hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Kim Lear, 111 Rupolo Drive, stated the reason that they live in St. Paris is because there is a police department.
- Jeff Wooten, downtown business owner, stated that he thought the reason that the Village instituted the 1% local income tax back in 2017 was to fund the police department. Mr. Wooten noted that he has security cameras in the parking lot of his business and has a problem with vandalism and people trying to break into cars. He stated that a police department is needed and that a police levy would pass and that the Chief of Police has been cleared of the charges against him from the incident at the Champaign County Fair.
- Patty Watkins, 222 W. Main Street, noted that there are vehicles speeding all day long on Main Street.
- Katelyn Neff, 228 E. Main Street and Subway manager, stated that the employees at Subway are afraid to close the store at night and wants either a police department or Sheriff patrolling in town.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Curran to adjourn at 7:23 PM. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-2, with Councilor Blair and Councilor Hoyt voting against. Motion passed.

 Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

 Susan Prince, Mayor

 Date