**Village of St. Paris**

**October 7, 2019**

**Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Brenda Cook. Terry Ervin II, Steve Lett, Susan Prince and Julie Urquhart were present. Ben Hackley and Niven Jester were absent. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council agenda as amended. Motion passed.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council meeting minutes dated September 16, 2019 as amended. Motion passed.

**Mayor’s Notes:**

* The Champaign County Health Department is having a scrap tire disposal day on Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Scrap tires can be taken to the Champaign County Fairgrounds for disposal. Cost is $1.00 per tire. At the same time, there will also be a drive-thru flu clinic in which county residents can get their flu vaccination shot.
* Mayor Cook stated that Beggar’s Night for the Village is Saturday, October 26th, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. There will be a “trunk or treat” in the parking lot of the Municipal Building.
* On November 6th, 2019 there will be a Champaign County Local Government Officials meeting held at Harmon Park beginning at 8:30 AM.
* Mayor Cook requested that Council pay for the new Purple Heart Village signs from the general fund totaling $356.00. The 4 larger signs will be placed near the main corridors leading into the Village with the 2 smaller signs being placed at Harmon Park and at the cemetery. The Village will be declared “A Purple Heart Village” during the Harmon Park Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2019. **Motion** was by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Urquhart to pay for the new signs. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.

**Administrator:**

* Administrator Mitchell noted that the phase 1 survey at the old Jr. High Building is complete and has applied for a “brownfield” grant thru the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Core samples were taken through the building and the results will help in determining the demolition cost of the building.
* The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on November 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM to discuss a zoning variance that has been requested by a Village resident.
* Administrator Mitchell stated that the Village’s fall cleanup of yard debris began on October 7, 2019 and will continue on thru the week. Residents are asked to put their yard debris out to their curb and the Street Department will pick up the debris free of charge.
* The Wi-Fi connection is up and running at Harmon Park. The 8 security cameras directed toward different areas of the park are operational and recording.
* Administrator Mitchell noted that, in the spring of 2020, the central water tower will need maintenance and will be budgeted for in the coming year. He is working on cost estimates.
* Administrator Mitchell thanked Councilor Ervin and the students at the Upper Valley Career Center for making personalized business cards and notepads for the Village.

**Old Business:**

* Mayor Cook conducted the 3rd and final reading of Ordinance #863 – Amendment. The amended Ordinance amends section 7 titled Account Responsibility and section 10 titled Adjustment for Leak. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve Ordinance #863 – Amendment specifically relating to section 7 and section 10 of the Ordinance. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0. Motion passed.
* Mayor Cook asked for council to un-table the previous **Motion** made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Prince to purchase a Merry-Go-All using the Evilsizor Trust Money that is in the park budget. This motion was made at the September 16, 2019 Council meeting with the cost of the Merry-Go-All being $6,846. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Prince to un-table the motion made previously by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Prince. Motion passed. After much discussion amongst Council and those in attendance regarding the need for repairs as well as the need for new playground equipment, a roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 4-0 to purchase the Merry-Go-All. Motion passed. Mayor Cook noted that the purchase kicks off the fund raising drive for the Our Town, St. Paris organization in hoping to raise additional money to be used to purchase more playground equipment as well as a splash pad for Harmon Park. Our Town, St. Paris is orchestrating the Harmon Park Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2019 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Music, children’s activities, “touch-a-truck” (firetruck provided by JSP Fire District) and food (with help from the Lion’s Club and many other local organizations) are part of the festivities. Invitations will be placed in the Village resident’s October water bill. All our welcome to attend the 100-year celebration of Harmon Park.

**New Business:**

* Councilor Urquhart distributed information about Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity may possibly be building another house in St. Paris for a local family. There is an empty lot on Dugan Street that may be a possible site for the new house. Mayor Cook added that this would be the 3rd house built in St. Paris by Habitat for Humanity.
* Councilor Urquhart also distributed a handout regarding the Brock D Comer Memorial “Pride in Our Park” on October 16, 2019 from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Brock Comer was the son of Councilor Urquhart who was tragically killed in a car accident. The handout reads “Come join us at Harmon Park for a day of clean up and fun, decorating and making our park look great for the upcoming Centennial Celebration” and “bring your neighbor, a friend, or family member and let’s bring “pride” to our community!”

**Motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Prince to enter into a Work Session to discuss the employee health insurance renewal and the employee handbook. Motion passed and Council entered into the Work Session at 8:26 PM.

Health Insurance Renewal – the health insurance rates beginning December 1, 2019 had a 0% increase from the prior year. Options discussed by Council and those in attendance included a) staying with the current plan as is, b) moving to a Health Savings Account (HSA) that will provide substantial savings to the Village, or c) staying with the same current plan as is but incorporate a spousal exclusion in which a spouse may not be covered on the Village’s health care plan if their employer offers health insurance. After much discussion amongst Council and those in attendance, Council recommended that there be an employee meeting with the Mayor and 2 council members present to gather employee opinions and concerns.

Employee Handbook – Mayor Cook stated that the Village Solicitor is putting together the final draft on the handbook and once that is completed, a copy of the handbook will be given to council members. Then at a future council meeting, Council can vote on approving the handbook.

**Public Comments:** At this time, no public comments were made. However, public comments were heard during the meeting as allowed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Lett

to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Motion passed.

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Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer Brenda Cook, Mayor Date