

Village of St. Paris
February 20, 2023
Council Meeting

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

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

Roll call was taken by Mayor Brenda Cook. Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Lynn Miller, Susan Prince, Sam Ronicker and Randy Smith were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

Motion was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the Council agenda. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the Council meeting minutes dated February 6, 2023. Motion passed.

The presentation of financials dated January 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the financial reports as presented. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated January 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated January 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Appropriation Supplemental dated January 31, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Appropriation Supplemental. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- Council received Village Council Meeting Policies and Procedures Adopted January 17, 2022 with Revisions Approved January 16, 2023. Revisions include changing the start time of council meetings to 7:00 PM instead of a 7:30 PM, that all public meetings will be displayed on the village marquee noting the date and time, adding an invocation prayer to the council agenda, and adding a Budget Committee.
- Second Harvest Food Bank is having an empty bowls fundraiser on February 23, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Champaign County Fairground's 4-H building. Second Harvest Food Bank supports the St. Paris Food Pantry.
- March 11, 2023, is clean-up day at Evergreen Cemetery. The clean-up begins at 10:00 AM.

Police Department:

- For the month of January, there were 43 recordable calls for service, 0 arrests and 0 traffic citations issued.
- Jeremy Hinton was hire as a Part-Time Police Officer and will work a couple of days a month.
- Body cameras have been received by the police department.
- 5 thermal printers were purchased for the cruisers. The printers allow officers to type a ticket instead of handwriting a ticket.

Administrator:

- Advertisements for the bids of the 2023 street paving has been submitted. Streets include S. High Street, Feathers Drive and a portion of Park Avenue. Bids will be opened on February 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Results of the bids will be presented to council at the March 20th council meeting.
- W. Lynn Street will be paved in 2023. Work on this project will resume as weather permits.
- Administrator Mitchell sent an email to each council member for them to consider having a work session to discuss the future plans for the property at 370 E. Main Street, the old junior high location. The work session would allow for some clarity on the intended use and development of this property.

Committee Appointments and Discussion:

- **Budget:** none
- **JSP Fire Board:**
 - The next JSP Fire Board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.
- **Land & Buildings:**
 - The committee is in talks to possibly rent the municipal building kitchen to a catering business. The Champaign County Health Department has done an inspection of the kitchen area and the committee is waiting on their findings.
 - Councilor Curran suggested having a council work session to discuss the future of the property at 370 E. Main Street. Councilor Smith noted that he did not want the village spending money at this site, he wants to use the money for streets. Both Councilor Ronicker and Councilor Smith agreed that fulfilling the promise of street paving should be done before deciding on the future 370 E. Main Street. Councilor Ervin noted that an option for the site is to possibly sell off lots. Mayor Cook called a council work session meeting for March 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the council room to discuss 370 E. Main Street. The work session will be conducted prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting to begin at 7:00 PM.
- **Park & Trees:**
 - Trees have been purchased and planted at the Graham Youth Athletic Association ball park, along select areas of E. Main Street and at Harmon Park.
- **Planning Commission:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the council room.
 - With the failure of Ordinance 2023-2, Councilor Ervin asked if council wanted the Planning Commission to move forward on working on/revising the Ordinance 2023-2. Councilor Prince recommended to not move forward with the ordinance because she did not want to tell residents what they could or could not have in regards to farm animals on their property. Councilor Ronicker noted that residents were not in favor of Ordinance 2023-2. Councilor Ervin explained that the ordinance was a proactive measure to protect residents from the possibility of having farms in the village. Council then decided to not have the Planning Commission pursue the subject any further.
- **Safety:** none

Old Business:

- Ordinance 2023-3 – Village Marquee Advertising. Mayor Cook held the 3rd and final reading of Ordinance 2023-3. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve Ordinance 2023-3. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Councilor Curran noted that non-profit organizations can use the marquee for free to advertise meeting dates and times.

New Business:

- Chief Smith noted that his assessment is finished and will get the paperwork to Mayor Cook.
- Administrator Mitchell was asked by the Champaign County Commissioners to serve on the T.I.R.C. (Tax Incentive Review Council). T.I.R.C. reviews tax abatements for Champaign County. Council did not object to Administrator Mitchell serving on the T.I.R.C. board.

Public Comments:

-Frank Blair, 203 Dugan Street, asked how many streets have been paved. Council and Administrator Mitchell stated that Rupolo Drive and Louise Drive were paved in 2021 and Lynn Street will be paved in 2023. Other streets on the schedule for 2023 to be paved is Feathers Drive, a portion of Park Avenue and S. High Street. Mr. Blair also inquired about how many police officers are on payroll. Chief Smith noted that there is himself, 2 full-time officers that are currently deployed on military duty, another full-time officer that was recently hired and 3 part-time officers. There is not currently 24-hour coverage in the village. The Chief works the 1st shift with the other officers working split shifts. Mr. Blair asked how much money the village has spent in lawyer fees. Councilor Curran told Mr. Blair that he would get the dollar amount from the Fiscal Officer and meet Mr. Blair to answer his question. Mr. Blair then asked why the council meetings were not livestreamed anymore. Councilor Smith answered by noting that the meetings are open to the public and people can come and sit in the audience.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Ervin and seconded by Councilor Prince to adjourn at 8:02 PM. Motion passed.