

Village of St. Paris
October 2, 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 Councilor Ervin.

Roll call was taken by Mayor Brenda Cook. Terry Ervin II, Lynn Miller, Susan Prince, Sam Ronicker and Randy Smith were present. Joe Curran arrived at 7:34 PM. 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 Miller to approve the Council agenda, as amended. Motion passed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: none

Motion was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Council meeting minutes dated September 18, 2023. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- The Graham homecoming parade is October 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The parade begins at Irish Meadows and ends at Graham Middle School.
- Beggar's Night will be held on October 31, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- The Safety Committee meeting that was scheduled for September 27, 2023, was cancelled and rescheduled for October 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM.
- Meet the Candidates is October 8, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the JSP Fire District building. The event is for the candidates appearing on the November election ballot.
- Vance McCulla, Fire Chief of JSP Fire District, was not able to attend the council meeting to discuss the JSP fire levy that is on the November election ballot.

Old Business:

- Per the request of Council, Fiscal Officer McGuire reviewed current Certificate of Deposit (CD) rates from local banks. The CD rates are still relatively low as compared to the STAR Ohio rates. The current STAR Ohio rate 5.714% APY. The village currently invests in STAR Ohio.
- Councilor Smith distributed to the public in attendance the Chief of Police's salary requests for the police department, and Councilor Smith noted that the village had a police levy on the ballot previously and it failed. Councilor Smith questioned if the village needed 24-hour, 7 day a week coverage and if the village needed all these officers on payroll. Councilor Prince noted that there is currently 1 Police Sargent on payroll but the established village wage scale only lists police officers, not ranking police officers, and Councilor Prince noted that the current officers were recently given pay increases. Councilor Prince stated that Chief Smith is asking for 2 new cruisers and it was suggested that Administrator Mitchell bring other village needs to Council for Council to determine what needs could be appropriated in 2024. Councilor Prince mentioned that Council needs to look at the big picture and not just the needs of one department. Councilor Ronicker raised the questions of what the 2024 appropriations are for the police department and stated that there is crime in St. Paris and police protection is needed. Councilor Ronicker noted that for 24/7 coverage, it is estimated that there be 5 FTE's (full-time equivalent) on the police department. Councilor Ervin reiterated that the St. Paris community said that they wanted 24/7 coverage and that they wanted a police department, but the community did not support a police levy as it failed at election time. Mayor Cook suggested that Council review the resolution establishing pay rates and ranges for village employees and make changes, if needed. Councilor Ronicker and Councilor Smith agreed that Council's focus should be on establishing pay ranges and salaries. Councilor Curran noted that pay raises should be looked at on how it affects the overall budget, including retirement and other benefits. Councilor Prince asked that a resolution for pay rates and ranges be brought to the next Council meeting.

New Business:

- Ordinance 2023-7 was removed from the agenda as it is not yet complete.
- Health Insurance rates for village employees had an increase of 19.7% from last year and the renewal begins December 1, 2023. The Village's health insurance representative is checking into other health insurance plan options and once that information is gathered it will be brought to Council for review.

Public Comments: none

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Miller to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Cook, Mayor

Date