

Village of St. Paris
December 18, 2023
Council Meeting

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

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

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 7:30 PM. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Mark 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. 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 December 4, 2023. Motion passed.

The presentation of financials dated November 30, 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 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Bank Reconciliation dated November 30, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Bank Reconciliation. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of Water/Sewer Account Adjustments dated November 30, 2023 was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the Water/Sewer Account Adjustments. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

The presentation of the Appropriation Supplemental dated November 30, 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 5-0. Motion passed.

Mayor's Notes:

- The Village office's will be closed for Christmas on December 22nd and December 25th. For the New Year's holiday, the office's will be closed on December 29, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

Police Department:

- For the month of November, there were 42 recordable calls for service, 6 arrests for 22 criminal charges, and 20 citations issued.
- Council discussed the reasoning of the need to issue a \$65,000 check for the new police cruiser without knowing when the vehicle would be ready and delivered. Chief Smith noted that the cruiser is still on the assembly line. Council decided that more information is needed before the village can issue a check for the cruiser.
- Speed signs have arrived.
- At the request of Chief Smith, **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Miller to pay part time police officers time and a half for hours worked on a village holiday. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Prince voting against. Motion passed.
- December 23, 2023 is the Santa Sleigh Parade at Dayton Children's Hospital.
- Full time Officer Christine Mercado has put in her resignation.

Administrator:

- Administrator Mitchell asked Council to vote on giving him authority to enter into a contractual agreement, on behalf of the Village, with Access Engineering. This would allow Administrator Mitchell to consult and oversee the US Hwy 36 waterline replacement project. The project recently received a \$1.5 million grant from the Ohio Water Wastewater Program. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Smith to give Administrator Mitchell authority to enter in a contractual agreement with Access Engineering. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Conversations with downtown property owners (the B-3 district) regarding zoning violations. There are multiply buildings in violation of the zoning ordinance due to residential use occurring without a conditional use permit.
- The Administrator is exploring utility aggregation for the Village residents. This would be a ballot issue to be voted on by Village residents. With utility aggregation, there are some potential savings opportunities on electric and gas. More information is being gathered.
- Administrator Mitchell thanked the village employees who helped in getting Christmas decorations out for display.
- The Administrator is currently working with Rural Community Action Partnership (RCAP), on a proforma basis, to evaluate the village's water and sewer rates and if a rate increase is needed.

- Administrator Mitchell presented an end of year recap with some of the improvements/projects completed in 2023. A partial list includes completing the West Lynn Street reconstruction project, the paving of 4 streets (W. Lynn St., Park Ave., Feathers Dr. and S. High St.), the concrete replacement project at Harmon Park and the purchase of the village Christmas tree.
- Administrator Mitchell extended his appreciation to Councilor Lynn Miller, Councilor Randy Smith and Mayor Brenda Cook for their public service.

Committee Discussion:

Budget: none

JSP Fire Board:

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse.

Land & Buildings: none

Park & Trees: none

Planning Commission:

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the council room.

Safety: none

Old Business:

- Ordinance 2023-8 – Amending the Municipal Income Tax Ordinance. Due to Ohio House Bill 33, the state’s biennium budget bill, changes were made to the Ohio municipal income tax law and these amendments need to be adopted by municipalities to existing income tax ordinances. The Regional Income Tax Agency, (RITA) asks that these amendments be adopted and in effect prior to January 1, 2024. Ordinance 2023-8 does not repeal the existing St. Paris income tax ordinance, it only makes amendments as outlined by RITA. Mayor Cook conducted the third and final reading of Ordinance 2023-8. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Curran to approve Ordinance 2023-8. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Council discussed the contract for Village Prosecution Services between the Village of St. Paris and the City of Urbana. The contract is for services provided by the Urbana Director of Law. The contract is for 3 years beginning January 1, 2024 and ends December 31, 2026. The cost of the contract in 2024 is \$20,800, and increases to \$21,632 in year 2025 and to \$22,497.28 for year 2026. **Motion** was made by Councilor Ronicker and seconded by Councilor Miller to table the discussion regarding the village prosecution contract with the City of Urbana. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted to a 3-3 tie with Councilor Ervin, Councilor Prince and Councilor Smith voting against. With the tied vote, Mayor Cook voted against the motion. Motion failed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Prince and seconded by Councilor Ervin to approve the contract for Village Prosecution Services. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted to a 3-3 tie with Councilor Curran, Councilor Miller and Councilor Ronicker voting against. With the tied vote, Mayor Cook voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.
- **Motion** was made by Councilor Ronicker and seconded by Councilor Prince to schedule the next Council meeting for January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the council room. Motion passed.
- With Councilor Ronicker being the Mayor elect beginning January 1, 2024, Council was reminded that an empty Council seat will need to be filled for Councilor Ronicker’s empty seat.
- The St. Paris Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) has an empty seat to fill. Resident’s interested should submit a letter of interest to the municipal office.

Public Comments:

- Frank Blair, 203 Dugan Street, wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Gina Verlaney, village employee, gave a farewell to outgoing council members Lynn Miller and Randy Smith as well as Mayor Cook. Cupcakes and cookies were available for everyone to enjoy.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:04 PM. Motion passed.

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Cook, Mayor

Date