

**Village of St. Paris**  
**February 5, 2024**  
**Council Work Session**

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 Scott Barger of the St. Paris First Church of God.

Roll call was taken by Council President Pro-Temp Susan Prince. Frank Blair, Joe Curran, Terry Ervin II, Tony Hoyt, Steve Lett were present. Mayor Sam Ronicker was absent. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell, Fiscal Officer Mark McGuire and Chief of Police Eric Smith were also present.

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

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, stated that the Council meeting held on January 15, 2024 did not have a quorum and the meeting that was conducted was not a legal meeting and violated sunshine laws. Councilor Prince excused herself from the work session to contact the Village Solicitor. Upon returning to the work session, Councilor Prince stated that she had consulted legal counsel and the work session can continue as scheduled.

**Work Session:**

- Council discussed the need for committees. Currently, there are 2 committees required, the Planning Commission and the JSP Fire Board and Councilor Ervin serves on both. After discussion on the formation of committees, council determined the need for a Finance Committee, a Land & Buildings Committee and a Park & Trees Committee. Councilor Hoyt and Councilor Prince will serve on the Finance Committee. Councilor Curran and Councilor Lett will serve on the Land & Buildings Committee. Councilor Blair and Councilor Lett will serve on the Park & Trees Committee. The committees will meet on an “as needed” schedule.
- Council discussed 2024 permanent appropriations. It was determined that a priority list needed to be established with a common goal and a plan. Council discussed concern over the storm water drainage issues and the priority of fixing the drainage issues. Council also spoke of the Pony Wagon Trail Fund. The Village was awarded a \$100,000 reimbursing grant from the State of Ohio, but the Village needs to appropriate the \$100,000 (advanced from the General Fund to the Pony Wagon Trail Fund) which causes Council concern over whether a bike trail is a need of the village and the strain it temporarily puts on the General Fund. Councilor Prince will invite the Friends of the Pony Wagon Trail to the next council meeting to discuss the plan for the bike trail. After discussion on other priority projects/items for the 2024 permanent appropriations, Council requested removal of requested appropriations. These projects/items included; to remove the purchase of Christmas decorations at an expense of \$6,000, to remove the landscaping and improvements to Lafayette Park at an expense of \$5,000, to remove the parking light installation at GYAA ballpark at an expense of \$3,015, to remove the municipal parking lot upgrades at an expense of \$12,500, to reduce the expense of installing street lighting at Lafayette Park to \$7,000, to reduce the expense of exterior improvements to the municipal building lot to \$20,000, to reduce the expense of upgrading the police firing range to \$2,000 and reducing the expense of the camera system for the police to \$650. Council also discussed the idea of taking a loan for the purchase of a new police cruiser. Chief Smith will contact First Central National Bank of St. Paris for loan details. Also, Council wanted to move the appropriation for security lighting at the street garage location, at an expense of \$2,500, from the Street Fund to the Capital Projects 370 E. Main Fund.

**Public Comments:**

- Councilor Curran expressed concern over the health of Mayor Ronicker. Councilor Curran led all in a prayer asking to restore the health of Mayor Ronicker.
- Joyce Bowlin, 274 W. Poplar Street, voiced her concern on the storm water drainage issue and how the bike trail does not take priority over other needs in the Village.
- Charlene Hess, 240 W. Troy Street, stated that the bike trail is a “path to nowhere” and how the storm water drainage issue is a priority. Ms. Hess stated that the street department needed to be put back together with knowledgeable workers.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Lett and seconded by Councilor Blair to adjourn at 10:07 PM. Motion passed.

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Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

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Susan Prince  
Council President Pro-Temp

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Date