

ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2014

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, June 5, 2014 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Michael Peck – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mrs. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson and Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – (read by Ms. Van Valkenburg) After receiving several phone calls and questions about the 2014 pool hours I am happy to report we have been able to extend the weekday pool hours to 7:00pm. With Elaine's help, we were able to identify an area where monies would not be utilized this year and provide the needed funds to pay pool employees the additional hour each day for the majority of the summer. I want residents to understand that these decisions that are made are not easy and we do our best to provide the community with all the services they are accustomed to. We have all felt the economic impact over the past several years and I hope people understand that significant changes have been made across the board. We are all doing more with less all while trying to provide a bright prosperous future for St. Bernard.

I am happy to report that we had 25 employees sign up for the FSA program during the "soft enrollment" period. Official open enrollment is now through Thursday, June 12th and the program will begin on July 1. All enrollment forms must be submitted to the Auditor's office before close of business on June 12th to be eligible for the July, 2014 start date. I would like to thank Elaine for all the additional work she did with getting this up running. The Auditor's office is currently completing the enrollment documents for Chard Snyder.

The Health Committee met with Ralph Blackwelder and Associates from Enrollment Management Services last week. They work with municipalities and provide direction on cost saving for healthcare. The committee will meet again in a few weeks once the representatives have had ample time to obtain feedback from their colleagues.

We received a very nice email from Rev. Dawne Sarchet that will be read by Mrs. Kathman during the communication portion of the meeting but I would like to thank the Middendorf family for taking this project on. This type of kindness is what makes St. Bernard special.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Council and the Administration were given the May 2014 Expense, Revenue and Fund reports from our software system along with updated expense and revenue spreadsheets. Copies of these reports are also available at the front door of Council Chambers. In May, the Village received

\$676,844.88 in revenues. Comparing the 2013 to 2014 year to date, the Villages revenues are down \$172,238.65. The expenses for May were \$1,985,286.09. Of that \$215,423.12 was spent on the new Service Garage Building and \$576,378.51 was spent on the new Safety Center. Comparing the year to date 2013 to 2014 expenses with the projects that use bond money removed, the expenses for 2014 are up \$253,256.03.

I also provided all of Council with a spreadsheet to work with for the 2015 Hamilton County Budget. These are the numbers I received from the Administration. It is now Council's responsibility to work on the projected budget and make any changes since they are the ones that vote on the appropriations for the Village. With Council on summer recess in the middle of July this budget will be voted on at a public hearing before the June 19th council meeting. As Council makes their changes to the budget I will input the changes and e-mail the budget back out to all of Council. I will need the budget by the beginning of June 16th because I have to fill out multiple forms and breakout the budget according Hamilton County rules.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – (read by Ms. VanValkenburg) I am sorry to miss Council tonight. I was involved in an auto accident earlier today and am recovering from some minor injuries. This week I prepared a response to a records request which sought confidential information from the Tax Department. I also reviewed the Cincinnati Bell contract with Phil, which will provide St. Bernard with the opportunity for secure storage in the cloud. Since it is a renewal of the prior telephone service contract with Cincinnati Bell it is not a situation where bids are required. Further, no other company Phil spoke to could offer the cloud storage called for in the specs. I also note that the current contract with Cincinnati Bell expires soon, and going out for bids would leave City Hall with no phone service for up to 2 ½ months. Phil urges passage of the Ordinance tonight.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I received a statement from First Safety Bank for the 4th of July Memorial Fund. As of the end of May we have \$5,618.35 in that account.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. VanValkenburg – Since Memorial Day the Building and Planning Department has responded to two records requests from a local reporter seeking information on certain industrial developments in the community. Additionally, the Building Department is currently conducting on-going inspection on \$16 million of commercial projects carried over from 2013. We are also inspecting new permits issued since January 1st for over \$3.4 million.

The breakdown of permits is as follows”

As of June 1st, 2014 we have issued 61 permits: OBC and one, two and three family constructions:

- A. OBC regulated construction: year to date 29 permits were issued
- B. RBC regulated construction: year to date 32 permits were issued.

Inspections and Plan review:

- A. Approximately 110 inspections were made on commercial and residential projects.
- B. 29 plan examinations and reviews.

HIP

- A. May 1st through June 1st, 24 initial home inspections on Church Street.
15 initial home inspections on Park Place.
- B. 35 Follow-up inspections on Sullivan and Vine Street
- C. 29 sets of orders pending.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – The computer board for the pool was this Wednesday in California and was being shipped back today so there should be no problem with the pool opening on Saturday. The repair and shipping cost were around \$1,400.00 which was within the budget.

We are going out for bids on the Vine St. Streetscape Project in the Cincinnati Enquirer on June 9th and 16th and June 25th. I will have more details on the meeting on the pre-construction meeting and meeting with the businesses at the next COW meeting. We also are going out for bids on the same date as the Streetscape for the street lighting project down at the new Safety Center. Sorry I was unable to make the meeting tonight.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – Before Council tonight I gave each one of you a report showing the income for May. The comparison goes back years. As I indicated back in May, April was our largest April on record. And to warn you that May might be small because we processed so much more income into April opening up the mail and I was right. We brought in \$518,000.00 in May and looking back over the years that's the most.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee will meet next Thursday, June 12th at 6:00pm in Council Chambers to discuss the budget that goes to the County in July. I request that all Dept. Heads be at this meeting.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I have the Police Department report for May. During the month of May, officers were involved in 830 calls for service. Of those calls, officers responded to 17 accident reports and took 21 offense reports. Officers cleared a total of 12 offenses. Officers made 69 misdemeanor arrests and 1 felony arrests. Officers responded to 29 parking complaints and issued 9 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 28 traffic citations, 3 DUI arrests and 75 warnings. Officers responded to 119 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons.

I would also like to announce that the next Block Watch Meeting is Tuesday, June 17th at 6:30pm in Centennial Hall.

Lastly, I have a question for Valerie or a request, if with the Safety Report if I could also get the Chief's to start giving me a number of calls to Elmwood for service.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I would like to let all the residents know that within the next couple of weeks you will be receiving a post card and that will be to promote the carton recycling. Hamilton County Recycling and Waste District received a Grant and they will now be able to except cartons and there is a little post card that will be mailed to each home. If anyone does not receive that, please contact City Hall and we will make sure that, I'm assuming that that will be placed on the website as well.

I also have the Service Department report for May: There were 33 trucks placed at residences, 23 dumpsters placed at residences, 291 special pick-ups at residences and 216.57 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. There were 39.04 tons of recycling material taken to the landfill.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS, AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tonight the Laws, Contracts, and Claims Committee met. One of the areas of discussion was an Ordinance No., 1997, Noise and Loud Sound. One of the recommendations that we are going to make for this Ordinance is that any construction cannot start before 7:00am in the morning on week days. We recommend passage.

The other topic of discussion had to do with some closure times of parks. I know that I had asked Curtis to look for some special things and I know he wasn't able to be here tonight. So after discussion, I'm going to get with Curtis and I'll let him know what we need and then we'll get back together. So, that's the only other thing we talked about.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – In the paper today there was an article about RBI solar located in St. Bernard that bought a German based company that develops like a mounting bracket for solar panels to be mounted on residences and businesses. It is always good to see positive news about St. Bernard in the newspaper as well as St. Bernard businesses expanding.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – Tonight I have the totals for the passengers for the Dial-A-Ride. During the month of May which was 6,887.

Mr. Asbach – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole
May 29, 2014

1. Council approved the minutes of the May 15th Council meeting.
2. There were representatives from Cincinnati Bell to go over the new phone system. The proposal went over the services and cost. This system will be under a five year contract and cost a little less than our current one. Council voted 7-0 to place an Ordinance on the table for the new system.
3. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
 - A. Told Council that he was working on a response to the letter sent by Ms. Boehl about the pool not opening on Memorial Day weekend.
4. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - A. Reported that the final reports had been submitted by the State Auditor.
 - B. Said that it was brought up at the department head meeting that everyone should be working on their 2015 budgets.
 - C. Said that the deadline was tomorrow for the FSA accounts. There needs to be 20 people to do the accounts and there are 17 to date, but others were interested.
5. Law Director, Curtis Walden (report given by Cindi Bedinghaus)
 - A. Said that this week he was working on projects with Phil. They investigated a claim about damage from a blocked drain and he drafted a letter denying any fault or liability on behalf of the Village.
 - B. He reviewed the 39 page proposed contract from Cincinnati Bell for the new phone system package. He addressed questions with Phil for the meeting with Bell.
 - C. Said that he attended a meeting last Tuesday with the Mayor and the residents of Cleveland Ave. and they were happy to learn that the project will, slowly but surely, be moving forward.
 - D. Said that he is currently working with Phil and the Safety Director in response to complaints from citizens on Mitchell Ave. about the very early start times for the work on the Friars Club. This matter was placed in the Laws, Contracts & Claims committee for discussion.

6. Service Director, Phil Stegman
 - A. Reported that we had received approval for a 0% interest loan, for 30 years, on the \$434,000.00, which is \$14,470.00 a year, over the 30 years. Water Works has been made aware of the project and will do the work also. Phil would like to be under contract by the end of the year. He is also going after a grant that would pay for the engineering fees for the project. This was placed in the Finance committee for review.
 - B. Said that he has requested money from Duke Energy for the cost of an overlay on Ross Ave. when they are finished with their work.
 - C. Reported that the streetscape bids will be opened on June 25th and will be discussed at the June 26th COW meeting. There will be a meeting with all the businesses on Vine St. to go over the project plans as well as construction process.
 - D. Said that in August we will be applying for SCIP funds to resurface Jackson Ave. and this cost could be funded over 30 years. This was placed in the Finance Committee also.
 - E. Asked for an Ordinance to be in the Hamilton County Block Grant program. Council voted 7-0 to place the Ordinance on the table.
 - F. Reported that the pool couldn't have opened this past weekend even if it had been scheduled to open. There have been a lot of repairs that have had to be made already. The main one is the computer that regulates the chemicals. If it can be repaired it will be about \$1,500.00 and if a new one is needed it will be about \$6,000.00. This money might have to be moved from another line item in the future. Ms. Boehl was at the meeting and talked about how disappointed she was that the pool didn't open for the Memorial Day weekend.
 - G. Said that he has received a lot of calls on the Ross Ave. project. Duke is doing the repairs in blacktop, but whatever was concrete will be replaced with concrete at the end of the project.
 - H. Said that the overtime for the Soap Box Derby was \$ 879.00 and has been paid by Mr. Tobergte. He asked that the money be moved back to the overtime line item when Peggy has an Ordinance that it can be added to. Council approved.
7. Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser
 - A. Gave Council an update on HB 5, which had its first hearing on May 27th and he feels it might be passed after the November elections.
 - B. He also talked about HB 282 which would take away out tax collections from non-residents. This bill would most likely kill St. Bernard.
8. Finance, Don Tobergte
 - A. Announced that the committee will meet on June 12th at 6 PM.
9. Public Improvements, Diana Schildmeyer
 - A. Reported that the CIC met last Wednesday and the next meeting will be August 20th.
 - B. Reported that the Safety Center is a little behind, and will open in September.
10. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus
 - A. Reported that the committee will meet on Thursday June 5th at 6:15 PM to discuss various Ordinances.
11. A resident asked what the HIP inspector did all year since the Safety Director said that the inspections would be starting up again. Mayor Burkhardt said that he does all the inspections at the businesses as well as the HIP inspections.

Respectfully submitted,
 Steve Asbach
 President of Council, Pro-Tem

C OMMUNICATIONS

To Honorable Mayor Bill Burkhardt,

As a life- long St. Bernard resident, I am writing you this letter to express my disbelief and deep disgust of the failure to open St. Bernard pool on Memorial Day weekend, as has been the custom forever, with the exception of the summer it was rebuilt.

Furthermore, limiting the hours from 12:00pm until 6:00pm , makes no sense either. It does not allow use of the pool in the evening hours for working citizens. Surely, once the pumps and filter are up and running each day, the cost saving of shutting them down is minimal compared to the inconvenience to the residents of St. Bernard. The pool is just one of the amenities that I enjoy and has always given the St. Bernard community a warm family-oriented feeling. I'm sure this is a budget-driven decision, but the small amount of dollars saved can only be a tiny percent of the annual budget, yet it comes as a denial of recreational activities to the tax payers.

Lack of communication of the decision by your office, until only a few days before the normal expected opening, was also unacceptable. I have always planned to be at the pool along with my grandkids on Memorial Day. What a disappointment when I had to tell them the pool wouldn't open for 2 more weeks.

I am very upset at the decision by your administration because it seems to punish the citizens, who after all are paying the taxes and the membership fees to belong to the pool!

I am sure there are other ongoing or planned projects that are over-budget. Look at these first before you start taking away from the citizens.

In all my years here I have never complained to the City Hall about anything, but this action of yours has really upset me. I hope to get a reply from you.

Frustratingly yours.

Barb Boehl, a life-long resident
405 Jackson Ave.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to receive and file the communication.

REMARKS

Mr. Asbach – This matter was addressed last week at the COW when Ms. Boehl was here and even if, we could not have opened the pool on Memorial Day as was reported in one of the reports earlier, the pump was down for the chemicals so the pool would not have been able to open on that week end anyway.

The motion to receive and file passed 7-0.

Dear Mayor Burkhardt, St. Bernard Council, Friends and Neighbors,

It has been an extraordinary privilege to live in the Greater Cincinnati area for 35 years and to serve communities as an ordained Presbyterian minister for 34 of those years.

In 1997, while searching for new place to call home, I began to discover the wonderful community called St. Bernard. Initially the appeal was an outstanding location: with proximity to all three interstates, downtown Cincinnati and the major universities, it seemed an ideal place to live. It quickly was transformed into "home": a place where the police and fire personnel are one's neighbors, where neighbors become friends, and friends become family.

After living in Mason for several years to do a development job for a congregation, I received a call to serve as pastor at Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church; and an easy decision was made to return to St. Bernard, a place that I remembered feeling so like a “hometown.”

The memory of a kind and compassion hometown experience was recently reinforced. Last year, after suffering severe symptoms for 13 years, I had neurosurgery to remove a tumor that was essentially crushing the spinal cord and the nerves at L1-3. Although the surgery saved my life, recovery has been challenging and the results thus far have been frustrating. I have been extremely embarrassed because I have not been able or allowed to return to the yard work that I truly long to do. Several weeks ago, I apologized to someone at city hall that my shrubs and flower beds were not what they should be. The next thing I knew, Don Middendorf approached me. He shared with me that his daughter Lily needed community service hours for a competition that she was in. “Would I allow Lily to use my yard for her community service hours?” He asked, as if I were doing his family a favor! I went inside my house and truly wept with relief and joy. The task was far greater than they anticipated, taking several days. Don, his daughters Aurora and Lily, and eventually Sue worked long hours, clearing beds, trimming rose bushes, planting flowers. Although I paid for the flowers which were planted, Don and his family refused any remuneration. Don said that he grew up in a time when neighbors helped neighbors in need and he wanted his children to learn about helping others. I was deeply moved.

The Village of St. Bernard should be proud to have Don Middendorf work as a member of the Service Department and proud to have his family in our “hometown.”

Sincerely and with gratitude,
The Rev. Dawne E. Sarchet

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read this evening’s Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2014. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 24, 2014. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 24, 2014 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2014. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CINCINNATI BELL FOR THE RENEWAL OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND TELEPHONE SERVICES AND INCLUSION OF NEW “ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY” SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2014. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 25, 2014 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – Valerie, two weeks ago Peggy and Patty talked about the fire hydrants situation, since I cannot talk to the Fire Chief directly, do we have any update on what's going on?

Ms. VanValkenburg – I'm sorry, no not tonight. I'll get that for you next week.

Mr. Tobergte – Also going though the PO's, evidently we sent a Police Officer to Washington, D.C. for five days for the ACPA Honor Guard to appeal for their meals. Can you find out if that caused any overtime in the Police Dept.

Ms. VanValkenburg – It did not cause any overtime in the Police Dept.

Mr. Tobergte – So we were short a guy for five days?

Ms. VanValkenburg – It was worked out with other ways of doing it. There was no overtime.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'd like to first of all say after looking at Ed's report, I realized, and I talked to Ed today, there was a misunderstanding. My report is incorrect. I want Council to know that. My assistant, not available right now, so I was not able to ask him a question and when I asked Ed the question I know the misunderstanding happened but I assumed that was a May 31st and a May 30th deposit and that must have been for the whole month and Nick was able, I'm assuming to get on the internet and get the numbers. I would like to ask Council for your permission if I could take out a couple of sentences from the minutes so I don't confuse anybody. But I do want you to know that it does appear that, yes, our revenues are down. I went back and looked at the revenue report and basically it shows that earned income wise that from May to May is down \$116,293.00 and then if you take into account last year in May we received \$93,533.00 when we sold the back of Imwalle. So that was unexpected revenue and we need to take that into consideration. It's not typical revenue we would bring in. So I would say we were down \$172. But it's just what was from last year and I just wanted to see if it was OK if I altered my report. I don't want it to go out that way. I apologize for that and I apologize for not being able to talk with Nick.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – Eddie, are you comfortable with the \$9.5 million projected for the Tax Dept. through next year?

Mr. Geiser – Inaudible.

Mr. Tobergte – We're trying to get close as close as possible. Are you comfortable with that or not?

Mr. Geiser- Inaudible.

Mr. Tobergte – Turn your microphone on please.

Mr. Geiser –. We had the best first quarter ever, we had the best April ever. Yes, we took a dive in May. I came up with a number last year and it was ten. For the Finance Department it was fine but you guys changed it, so.

Mr. Tobergte – The Administration changed it last year.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mrs. Brickweg – Something to consider, it's not a whole lot, but I don't have the numbers for next year yet but the Fire Dept. equipment and interest is always money that we have from the Bonds in the budget right now. It's about \$74,000 in the account and we're taking that from the bonds that we received and I just wanted to throw that in there.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, June 12 at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.