

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

The St. Bernard Village Council meeting was held Thursday, February 4, 2016 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Ms. Valerie VanValkenburg-Walden - 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. Mr. Culbertson seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep - I just have a few things here. First of all, thank you to Jonathon Stuchell for his many hours he has been working on the Police Contract. I think it's going to be taken care of tonight.

On a bright note, I'm going to do the first wedding of the year next Monday in the Council Chambers at 7:00pm for two of my former students. I was honored to be asked by them.

The Mayor's advisory, I've been sort of waiting for my sixth person and so I'll tell you who is on that. We have a couple of local people; Mike Viox, Terry Chin, Daniel Cummins who lives here. We also have a couple of business owners; Melissa McManus, who owns a salon here, Steve Rothams, Cincinnati Concrete and Art Reckman who is a former resident and he resides in Madera and is a past owner of Model Management.

Our first meeting will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm, followed by a presentation at 7:00pm by Paul Myers. We're going to try and brainstorm some ideas of what we've done in the past and what can help us move the community forward.

Our second 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm here in Council Chambers. It's sort of a public meeting, I don't think anyone would care if you observed, but we're going to try to keep it to the twelve people on the committee so we can get some things accomplished.

I contacted Sean Donnellon, who is a good friend of Dr. San Ono at UC to see what kind of connection we can make with the marketing department. There is a GAP program or there are a couple of programs up there and I'm waiting for him to get back with me.

I also called for a short meeting this week, it ended up an hour and a half, with Chief Moeller and the Superintendent of St. Bernard/Elmwood Place, Dr. Webb. I asked for those two to meet with me about the behavior of the students in the school and on our streets. We met for a long time, talked about attitude, expectations, respect, role models, choices, things that we see in the neighborhood that aren't so welcome. Out of the meeting we came up with a couple of ideas. I have a list of things for Dr. Webb that she could look at implementing. At least with the Jr. Hi part of the building. The Jr. Hi students is when you're in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and you haven't reached that part of your life where you're really under control and you know how to walk and talk and act in a proper manner. So if you follow these steps we could hear some positive things coming out of them. We also talked with the Principal. She was in a meeting. Ms. Gates was talking about a student advisory committee. Similar to the Mayor's advisory committee, where

she could have students sit with her at a round table and tell her what they expect, what they would like to hear from her.

As a follow up, also, Chief Moeller and myself, volunteered to go in every morning when he's available and I'm available and speak to the intervention class. We started that this morning. We went in from 8:15 until 9:02 and those are the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes and we're just talking to them about rules, role models, who they look up to and why and you can usually judge somebody on what you see and you hear and they agreed to that. And they were very interested. One student was very interested. But the rest of the group was sort of buying into it. So we're going to continue this. Chief Moeller is in training tomorrow but we're going to look into the schedule next week and we're going to do that every morning. At least visit all these Jr. Hi classes every morning for about 48 minutes and try and make some head way with that. A follow up might be to, the three places that we sort of targeted were some improper behavior at the Library, Wendy's, and Subway. We may set up a meeting with the Library officials to see what we can do with them. Maybe we need to put a rule in, no more than two students at a time. Maybe you have to have a parent with you. But we got to change the behavior because it's not being seen in a very positive way in our neighborhood.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg - I would like to thank John for doing that. I talked to him on Monday and they got on it right away because there were a lot of people sending me text messages about the behavior at the Library and out in the streets and I would like to thank him and Chief Moeller for getting right on that.

The first thing I would like tell Council is that I am getting much closer to having our text book on the State Treasurer's website. That was one thing that I promised to do. We're doing some testing and hopefully after passing the test and our reports work and our software that will be happening soon and when it does I want everybody to know basically what this is. There is a website, ohiocheckbook.com and all of our residents or anybody else can go out there and see what we are writing checks for. So they will know what we are spending money on.

Secondly, W-2s were sent out via email January 6<sup>th</sup>. It appears a lot of people don't open their emails, especially summer employees, so they are now calling me and telling me they don't have, why did I not send out the W-2s? So if you happen to forget your password you can call us, we can give it to you. But they were sent out so make sure you go back around January 6<sup>th</sup> and look for your email.

Finally, we closed out January today. It was a little later than usual because it was a payroll week and I will start preparing the revenue and expenditures spreadsheet shortly.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck - Last night we had Mayor's Court. We had 62 tax cases, 28 cases for arraignment, 8 cases for state of pay, 1 contempt of court, 3 sentences cases, 10 cases for the payment docket, 3 pre-trials and four-trials. I'd like to commend Officer Potrafke for his good testimony in a case which was also a conviction after a trial. We had a lot of defendants actually show up for court, which was good. We were able to resolve more cases and it took about an hour and a half to get through that docket. On a personal note, I'd like to thank Officer Moore and Officer Setters for helping me recover some stolen property that was taken from my back yard this past week within in an hour that it had been taken. They did a great job.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe - This evening I have the inventory detail report with 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Securities. Our book value down there is \$1,215,000.00. I have not got a copy from the State yet on the Star Account so I'll have to provide that next Council meeting.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell - I have the year end Fire Dept. Report for 2015. There were a total of 432 fire runs, a total of 1,101 EMS runs, including 662 patients transported. For the month of January, 2016 there were 43 fire runs, with 8 mutual aid runs. We had 73 EMS runs, with 47 patients transported and 12 mutual aid EMS runs.

A reminder from the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency for the monthly testing for the outdoor warning system. There are four basic criteria to activate the sirens The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for all of Hamilton County. The trained weather spotter reports a tornado, a tornado is reported by a public safety official or a dangerous situation occurs which requires citizens to seek shelter immediately. Again this is a reminder. The outdoor warning sirens in Hamilton County are tested the first Wednesday of each month at noon unless inclement weather is eminent.

Also I would like to thank the members of the collective bargaining unit from the Police Dept., especially Derek Setters for all of his time and effort. I really appreciated the open line of communication that we've developed and I really value that relationship. I encourage the passage of Ordinance No. 4, 2016.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul - We will be filing on time the SCIP Grant for Moeller Ave. I have a meeting tomorrow with the Perfection Group to make sure we're on the same page as we continue to progress and move the City forward. I will also be meeting with the insurance group to talk over our contract and coverage and I would like to ask the residents to take a moment and think back on the good memories you have created here and let it bring a smile to your face and then to your heart because we're making improvements.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore - Just a couple of things, we've got the individual mailing out this week. We actually sent 2,105 individual letters to people reminding them that taxes are due for 2015 on April 18<sup>th</sup> this year. You may hear some feed back on that. We also, in the body of the letter, explained some of the changes that are there. Again, to reiterate, we can no longer do their taxes for them. If they want us to fill it out, that's great, but they need to stick around and sign it and we're not going to consider any tax form complete or any tax filing complete until they do sign their return. We're also wrapping up January. We've got a couple of things that we need to do so we should have that done probably by the first part of next week.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte - My first town hall meeting for 2016 will be Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the lower level of City Hall.

I also received an email from the Cincinnati Soapbox Derby Organization and they informed me that they are going to remain in business for the 2016 season. I spoke to Mayor Estep and he is in favor of allowing the event to take place on Tower hill. I will once again cover the cost of the overtime the Service Department incurs doing the event. As soon as I get confirmation on the date I will let everyone know.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson - The next Block Watch meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. It will involve a field trip to WLW-T Channel 5 Studios. We will be meeting in the lower level of Village Hall at 6:30pm and we are trying to arrange travel for those that are interested. If interested, please email Lou Steinert at [blockwatchstbernard@gmail.com](mailto:blockwatchstbernard@gmail.com) that's one word [blockwatchstbernard@gmail.com](mailto:blockwatchstbernard@gmail.com).

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach - I have the Service Dept. Report for January 2016. There were 16 trucks placed at residences, 18 dumpsters placed at residences, 98 special pick-ups at residences and 154.77 tons of garbage taken to the land fill. On the recycling report; there were 37.26 tons of recycling material, 62 pounds of scrap aluminum, 480 pounds of copper and 5,860 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld - No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus - I'd like to thank Tom Paul for assisting me and getting information from Charlotte White Hall from the Ohio Alleycats Resource and Spay Neuter Clinic to bring us up to date on what this resource clinic has done for our Village so far. Currently, OAR will fix both stray/feral and pet cats of St. Bernard residents for free. For pet cats, residents just need to call our clinic at 871-0185 to schedule. The grant covering the free spay/neuter has enough money to last for another approximately 50 cats. For unowned cats, residents may either bring the cat to OAR themselves. Or, if they are afraid or unable to catch the cat, OAR will perform the trapping for them. The grant covering this service should last for all of 2016.

There have been two "hot spots" regarding ferals, as I believe you know. One is on Advance Ave. All cats from this location have been fixed.

The other hot spot is on Delmar. All cats, except one from this location are fixed. She is a crafty cat, so has evaded us so far.

Hopefully this will answer any questions about the program. Please feel free to refer any residents that need assistance to me. Thank you, Charlotte White Hall. Thanks Tom for getting this information for us.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb - I would like to welcome a new restaurant to St. Bernard called My Dads Place. My Dads Place is located at 4501 Vine Street across from Dairy Queen and is open Tuesday-Saturday 8:00am-8:00pm and Sunday 7:00am-3:00pm. My Dads Place features home cooking, daily specials and most importantly a family atmosphere. Dave Roll, it's owner has spent countless hours and money making a dream of his family come true. Let's make him feel welcome and support this new business.

Two local businesses have been nominated in the City Beat magazine for Best of Cincinnati and need our votes. Atmosphere Salon & Lounge is nominated for Best Hair Salon under the "Shops and Services" category and Crosley's Bar and Grill is nominated for best neighborhood burger spot (central) under the "Eats" category. Please go to City Beats web page and click on the 2016 Best of Cincinnati vote for us button on the right hand side of the page and help support these local businesses. Voting ends at midnight on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer - No report.

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

Committee of the Whole

Jan. 28, 2016

Council approved the minutes of the Jan. 21st Council meeting.

Council discussed if the Police and Fire Chief needed to be at either the Council or COW meetings. After some discussion it was decided that if there was

something that dealt with their department then they would be asked to be at a meeting for questions.

There was a discussion on Scout night and because of the low numbers the Boy and Girl Scouts will be combined for one meeting on March 3rd.

Mayor, John Estep

1. Reported that the old library space will be turned into a multi-use room for dance classes, yoga and other classes. Anyone taking classes will be required to sign a waiver before the class.
2. Reported that he is moving forward on the 4th of July preparations for music and fireworks.

Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

1. Gave an update on the 2014 audit and they are still working on the CIC info. That needs to be completed before the 2015 audit can begin.

Law Director, Mike Peck

1. Requested that Council and Administration submit in writing any questions that they need to be answered. That makes it easier for him to give an answer.

Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

1. Said that there will be a new committee formed, and chaired by Chief Meyer, to review worker comp claims.
2. Asked Council to go into Executive Session to discuss Terms of Employment. Council voted 7-0 to do so at the end of the meeting.

Service Director, Tom Paul

1. Informed Council that P&G will be resurfacing their portion of June St. and asked Council if we should do our portion. Council asked to have JMA review and get a cost.
2. Asked Council about the old police station and if we wanted to “moth ball” the building. If we did and there was no water, the work that was done to the boiler might have been a waste. It was suggested to see what the first Duke bill was to see what direction we should take.
3. Reported that the plates on Orchard St., and other areas, should be removed soon. These were there because of the water in the gas line that needed to be repaired.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

1. Said that the 1099G forms were mailed this week.

2. Said that there will be a mailing to all residents to remind them that their 2015 taxes are due on April 15th, but they actually have until Monday April 18th. Also the Department isn't allowed to do anyone's taxes for them. The new tax law also has a penalty of \$25.00 fine for each month they are late. There will be another mailing in March to remind the residents again.
3. Reported that receipts are a little ahead of this time in 2015.
4. Reported that payroll taxes are now received every other week instead of once a month.

Public Improvements, Patty Hausfeld

1. Thanked Tom Paul for having the garbage cleaned up behind Wendy's and Shur-fine.

Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

1. Talked about an old email that was received from the feral cat organization and said she would report more at the Council meeting.

Business & Industry, Andy Kalb

1. Reported that My Dads Place, a new restaurant, opened at the corner of Vine and Lawrence and more details will be given at the next Council meeting.

Council met in Executive Session and discussed Terms of Employment for the Police Department. When we returned a motion was made and seconded to put an andon the table for their contract.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by to Mrs. Schildmeyer to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2016. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND ST. BERNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND LEIUTENANTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. , 2016.

**REMARKS**

Mr. Asbach - I just want to officers and everybody in the Department to know that it's nothing personal but I am going back, I know I voted for the Fire Department but sitting here Inauguration Day and listening to Judge Marsh talking about Curtis, I was against the Ordinances at that time because we were told by the Law Director then and I'm going back to the way I felt before. So I will be voting no on this.

Mr. Tobergte - I would like to thank Jonathan Stuchell for all his hard work picking up in the middle of the negotiations.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No., 2016 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Asbach voted no.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte - I'd also like to thank Peggy for doing the work on the Ohio on Line Checkbook.

And also I would just like to let the residents know I did request an end of the year report from the Building Dept. That will include the building permits, rental inspection and the HIP Program.

Jonathan is it possible to get an update monthly on these instead of waiting for once a year.

Mr. Stuchell - That is possible. I have some time freed up so yes.

Mr. Tobergte - Thank you.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte - This past Wednesday I attended a meeting of a newly formed group, The Village Positive Action Committee. It is made up of business owners and residents of St. Bernard. It will be hosting a number of community events that includes this year's Bunny Fun Run. They're working on becoming a 5013C organization. A portion of the funds raised from the Fun Run will go to purchase a dance floor to be installed at the newly named St. Bernard Fitness and Dance Studio. They are working on it already doing fund raisers to completely pay for a dance floor and other community projects.

Mr. Stuchell - I just wanted to thank Tom Paul. Actually on Saturday morning I was a little amazed at what I was looking at sitting in the yard next to LaRosa's. I was over at St. Clement at 7:00 in the morning and loading some stuff from my car for a corn hole tournament and I looked and noticed in the grass a buried roll back tow truck up to the frame. I called down the Police Station and found out what was going on and apparently a tow truck driver from Hubbard's Towing actually got a little confused and was supposed to respond to Murray Rd. And ended up in the yard at Martin. So anyhow, and he was buried up to the frame, so while I was standing there I walked down to see what I thought I was looking at and I was walking back and about 15 minutes later here came another tow truck from Hubbard's actually and chained up in the middle of the street and in a matter of 3 minutes yanked it out. Took off like they were sneaking out like 15 year olds, running up the street throwing mud everywhere. Anyhow I just wanted to thank Tom Paul for actually getting everything cleaned up, getting the center of town cleaned up and all the mud. He was going to get after them like I was at first and

make them responsible for fixing the damage. So I just wanted to thank Tom for that. But again it was not your normal first thing Saturday morning to see a buried tow truck.

Ms. Hausfeld - I do want to thank Tom because I did notice today how the Girl Scout Lane has been cleaned up and it looks really good for a change. On that note. On another note, this could be under old business or new business, it could fall under both but I had a resident that called me several times and talked to me. He is very upset and apparently he has been talking to a lot of people but he's very upset about a few things. One is how we as Council members always pass things under emergency. He doesn't understand why somethings do have to go emergency and other things should go longer but usually don't on most cases. That was the one concern he had. The other concern he had, and this is where it kind of falls under old business too, he was upset with the way the whole property exchange went over with the CIC up there by St. Clement. That was one thing that he thought should've went longer so that people could come down to express their concerns or whatever. Also he, the thing he brought up to me was, you know, if you're buying a home wouldn't you look at the contract first? And I said yeah. And he asked if we had saw the contract that Paul was talking about and I know I hadn't and that's all I could answer for. And I am assuming and the assumption is pretty good that most of us did not see it and he was just very concerned that we gave property to the CIC when they own so much property and they're not getting anything done with it. That was another concern. I did, just so you guys know, he is aware of all of our phone numbers, all of our emails, and he is one who will express his concerns, I'm sure, to each and everyone of us. But to let the general public know, if you have a concern, if you have a problem, I urge you, as a Council member to come up and speak here at Council and hopefully things will be done in a civilized manner. He has concerns about doing that because certain people that get up and talk, there is a back and forth type thing and he just doesn't feel comfortable doing it. I said to him if you don't feel comfortable coming here and sharing your thoughts with us in person, each and everyone of us you can call or email us, or if somebody does have concerns and they'd rather not be on TV or not express their concerns publically, they can write in a letter to the City Clerk, as long as it's here, I believe by Tuesday, is that correct, Sue?

Mrs. Kathman - Nodding yes.

Ms. Hausfeld - It will be read in open forum here on Council and we can address concerns that way as well. So those are just, I, I, he wanted to make sure that I mentioned that he did have concerns and that I did bring them up at least to Council and let other people know that they will be getting phone calls.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - Along with that Patty, I believe that if it's a correspondence it has to be signed. Correct? It cannot be anonymous. So you do have to publically say who you are when you write the letter.

Mr. Tobergte - Just to add onto that, I did see the contract so I've got no problems with it.

Also I'd like to be placed on the COW agenda with the idea of continuing the Vine St. Streetscape down Vine St. Toward Mitchell. I talked to Paul, I talked to Tommy, I'd like it to be brought up at COW.

Mrs. Brickweg - I was waiting for somebody to announce it but there's going to be a CIC meeting February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. They meet downstairs in the bottom conference room.

**AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

None.

Mr. Asbach - The next COW meeting will be Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.