

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2017**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, April 20, 2017 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mrs. Valerie Van Valkenberg - The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed that six members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, 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 6-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I have a few items and I'd like to begin with a short article from the Hamilton County Dispatch about one of our officers, Ron Hausfeld. On 3/19/17 Hamilton County Dispatch called us and said that an elderly man had called asking for help to find his glasses. Hamilton County dispatcher said the man sounded very confused and upset. PO Ron Hausfeld was dispatched to this man's house. Ron helped him find his glasses. Ron realized the man was having issues with hygiene and upkeep of his home. Ron found phone numbers of two nephews. He was able to make contact with them and told them of his findings. Ron followed up the next day with the elderly man. Ron found the man in a lesser state than the day before. As Ron was attempting to call family members again, they arrived and Ron filled them in on the family member's decline within one day. Family is taking the elderly man into their home to care for him. I know Ron wouldn't want to sound his own horn to this kind act and follow through, but Ron really cares about this community and its citizens. He is a credit to the Police Department.

We have a few more guests here who will be participating in our Memorial Day Parade. I'm proud to announce that Queen Janeen Coyle and her husband Chris O'Brian from WGRR 103.5 will be the Grand Marshalls of the parade. Mike Kelsey from Kelsey Chevrolet has been kind enough to loan us a nice convertible to escort them in.

Dr. Hans is in the process of having his plans approved and he would like a verbal approval from Council to give him a 6 foot portion on the east end of the park to be used as a buffer, similar to what we did for Mr. Wilking. He'd rather do this than ask for trees or bushes to be placed there by the City or even a privacy fence. He

would like to set up something on his own. So before he would follow through if Council would just give a verbal OK on the contingent that if his plans are approved if we would give him the back side, it's on the east side. It's on a little bit of a downgrade. There's not much of it in the park actually and it's 6 feet that he would use as a buffer along the east, it would be the west side of his house but the east side of the park.

Ms. Hausfeld – Are we talking Tower Park?

Mr. Estep – Yes, the same park up there. And I would like to add that I think it would be a missed opportunity because I don't know how many people are going to line up to put a \$260,000.00 home in that alley. So he just wanted to know if Council would approve the 6 feet once his building plans are approved by Paul Meyers and his builder.

Mr. Culbertson – Does that 6 feet affect any of the park equipment, any just open space right now.

Mr. Estep – To my knowledge it doesn't affect it. There might be a bench close to there but it's just 6 feet at the very far edge of it. It's nothing with the play-ground equipment or anything.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Peck, that has to be done by Ordinance does it not?

Mr. Peck – I'll have to take a look at it but I can.

Mr. Estep – I think you're right. He just wanted to know if we get a verbal approval, if Council was in favor of that provided his plans do go through so he was rest assured that he would get that 6 foot on that side as a buffer as we did for Mr. Wilking.

Mr. Kalb – Is this something that we could bring to COW with some drawings and that? I don't want to give a yes or no without seeing the property and the map and everything else before I would give a yes or no answer on that.

Mr. Estep – I'll get some plans, I think I gave you a plan of his house, didn't I? Ok, well I have a copy of it in my office for everybody. I should have brought it tonight but I'll bring it all to the COW and I understand that. Moving on with just a couple of more things, more than I usually have, mostly positive though.

The ladies from the PAC group had a fairly successful Bunny Fun Run which followed our Easter Egg Hunt at Vine St. Park. We gave out over 400 treat bags and it was a great day for all who attended. I would like to thank the Service, Police, Fire and Recreations Departments for the great job they did before, during and after the event.

We had a Department Head meeting yesterday to discuss the budget and things are looking a little better. I think everybody left with a smile on their face which is very unusual.

We also had our initial Charter Committee meeting to discuss how we're going to move ahead with the Charter. We haven't formed anything solid yet I'll say. Don Tobergte is, he has agreed to Co-Chair that Committee with me and I'll let him expound on that if he cares to.

I would like to ask Steve Asbach if I could meet with him and his Committee and I did before the meeting to discuss, and maybe put it in the next COW, to discuss a small fee for garbage pick-up and to discuss an increase on the fees for the dumpsters being used by the businesses.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to elaborate, things were looking better from the meeting because we were coming up with ideas. We're still overspending and still bringing in less revenue. I just wanted to explain that so people don't think that that changed. But we're coming up with some more ideas like the Mayor just said and possibly taking money from other line items to make ends meet.

On Monday we meet with the summer employees. They all have received their packets. The packets are due back to my office by May 5th. If anybody has any questions they can contact me at 242-7774.

Also I received an email from Hamilton County that said we need to start working on the summer budget that we will be voting on in June. So I will start getting that together.

I'm going to have another part of a report tonight because I've had quite a few people contact me on something so I want to read it.

Tonight I've provided Council and the Administration with information in regarding the City of Cincinnati Chronic Nuisance Premises Ordinance. I am requesting this be placed in the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee and be put on a fast track to get it done. I received this information from a resident who is beyond frustrated with properties that continue to have problem tenants and require multiple weekly and sometimes even daily police and ambulance calls. One property in particular actually has tenants that panhandle from the neighbors as they get out of their cars to go into their homes. I have had contact with many homeowners with regard to this property and they are beyond frustrated. They have tried to work with the Village but they keep being told that the Village can only do

so much with their current laws. I have had some contact today with Mr. Paul and apparently the Building Department is trying to work on something with this particular property, but the Ordinance we have does not say anything about renters. So they're going about it a different way. So I still think we really need to look into this Ordinance.

I applaud the residents who care so much about St. Bernard to do all this legwork to help make the Village a better place. The Village of St. Bernard has to do something to hold landlords more accountable to who they rent to. As we have seen in the past many lifelong residents have moved out of St. Bernard because of issues with rental property. If the Village does not do something now I fear this flight will continue and continue growing faster. Mark Manning who wrote the City of Cincinnati Ordinance said he is more than happy to assist the Village with an Ordinance. I believe it is time we hold people accountable. The people that brought me this information own multiple rental properties and as we discussed, the Ordinance we both agree, no landlord should have a problem with these laws unless they know they are renting their property to people that will cause problems. One suggestion that I add to this is that the Ordinance possibly needs to add up to the rental of a single or two family home. Basically the Cincinnati deals more with multiple families but we also have many issues with two families that are renting and even a single home. So I would like that be added to it but I would like that to go into the Laws, Contracts and Claims.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Last night we had Mayor's Court. It lasted about two and a half hours. There were actually five trials scheduled, two of which resulted in a plea, three trials went forward but one was simple fees trial and the other was a menacing charge resulting from a road rage incident. Finally there was a disorderly conduct charge resulting from the near riot incident that came after the amateur boxing match at Roger Bacon. All three trials resulted in a conviction and I would like to commend Lt. Ungruhe and Officer Marconi for their professional testimony and their investigation in those matters.

Additionally, it also led to address what the Auditor addressed. I also received communication from several concerned citizens and law enforcement. Chief Moeller and Lt. Bill Ungruhe, principally, concerning various properties and I am in the process of preparing nuisance letters that we have prepared in the past and delivered these letters to the property owners.

We're also were discussing renewing the nuisance property committee. Apparently it was around before but it kind of comes and goes depending on what it takes for the Committee to get the properties under control then they're gone, then the Committee kind of goes away and then when these properties come back as we're seeing now the Committee gets swarmed again. I think we're at the process now

where we need to get that Committee ready going. And we're going to do that. And we're going to get members of that Committee with representatives from each area of the Administration so we can address issues from all different directions. I'd like to add I think we're also going to put property owners who own some of these rental properties on the Committee as well. So I and'm actually going to advise that this Ordinance which I've also been made aware of independently into that Committee and we can all address it. And I think we're going to have that individual who drafted that Ordinance come and talk with us so we're going to get that going as well. I will note that State Law addresses that particular issue and we have means through the State Code to address these issues and we're going about that right now with the new letters but I think it does behoove us to have a specific chronic nuisance Ordinance of our own. So that's what we're going to be doing.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the monthly Treasurer's report. Receipts for the month of March totaled \$ 1,285,940.03
Receipts for the year through March totaled \$ 2,687,168.30
Also I received a statements after our last meeting. From the Star Ohio Account balance at the end of last month was \$2,023,876.14. And in our First State Savings Account for the upkeep of the Memorial out front here, \$5,636.24.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – First off I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Easter Egg Hunt and the Bunny Run. The Recreation Department did a great job organizing the Easter Egg Hunt, the PAC and all of their volunteers did an awesome job coordinating the Bunny Run. I also really appreciate the participation of the Fire, Police and Service Department who were out during the event.

I also ask for the support of Council in the passing of Ordinance No. 6, 2017 which approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of St. Bernard and St. Bernard Firefighters Local 450. This MOU allows for an alternative staffing plan which utilizes the current staffing in lieu of hiring either full-time or part-time firefighters to fill the current vacancy and that of future vacancies until it's determined that this system is at capacity. This system will alleviate overtime as the personal filling the void will be working for straight time.

I have the Run Report for the Fire Department for the month March, 2017. There were a total of 85 fire details. Mutual aid given once to Elmwood, twice to Norwood and once to Delhi, sounds odd but. Mutual aid received twice from Norwood, twice from Elmwood, twice from Springfield Twp., twice from Wyoming and twice from Golf Manor. Details of interest; there were three structure fires, one brush fire and one bomb scare. I have the EMS run totals for "March 2017; there were 85 EMS details as well with 47 patients transported.

Mutual aid was given four times to Elmwood, once to Norwood. Mutual aid received, once from Norwood. Details of interest; 5 unconscious patients, 4 auto accidents, 4 psych emergencies, 2 non-breathers and 1 overdose.

I'd like to congratulate the St. Bernard Police Department for achieving "Full Compliance" Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Status. This honor was achieved through the efforts of Lt. Bill Ungruhe with the assistance of Lt. Mike Simos. Gov. John R. Kasich established the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board to oversee implementation of recommendations from the Ohio Task Force on Community Police Relations. For the first time, Ohio's law enforcement agencies now have a set of minimum standards for the use of deadly force, use of force, recruitment, and hiring and are required to recertify each year. I am very proud of this achievement and all of the officers in our department.

There is currently a fraud alert from the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General's Office. They are issuing a fraud alert to warn citizens of reports that the DHS OIG Hotline telephone number has been used recently as part of a telephone spoofing scam targeting individuals throughout the country. The perpetrators of the scam represent themselves as employees with "U.S. Immigration" and can alter caller ID systems to make it appear that the call is coming from the DHS OIG Hotline telephone number (1-800-323-8603) the scammers demand to obtain or verify personally identifiable information from their victims through various tactics, including by telling individuals that they are the victims of identity theft. Many of the scammers reportedly have pronounced accents. DHS OIG takes this matter very seriously. While we investigate the situation, we would like to remind the public that DHS OIG never uses its Hotline number to make outgoing calls – the phone line is only used to receive information from the public. Individuals should not answer calls purporting to be from 1-800-323-8603, and should never provide personal information during calls purporting to be from the DHS OIG Hotline to report fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement within DHS components or programs. Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of this telephone spoofing scam is urged to call our Hotline or file a complaint online via the DHS OIG website www.oig.dhs.gov. You may also contact the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint and/or report identity theft.

Now that spring is here I have noticed more and more door to door solicitation in the village and I would like to give a reminder that anyone who solicits or peddles in the village is required to register with the police dept. This includes Energy/Power Companies, lawn services, alarm companies, and other door to door services. All solicitors and peddlers are required to do the following.

Complete the required application and pay the \$25.00 non-refundable application fee.

Get the required background check from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Dept.

Obtain a \$1,000.00 surety bond

Upon successful completion of the above, the applicant will receive a photo ID badge from the village.

If someone comes to your door you are not obligated to answer but if you choose to do so please ask to see that they have registered with the village. If they have not I would ask that you kindly report it to the Police Dept. Any individual who solicits and is not registered with the village is subject to a \$1,000.00 fine and 6 months in jail. I can say this personally as I care for a disabled neighbor who I am power of attorney for who never even answered her door because she is not capable but somehow had her both electric and gas supplier changed without her approval. It was actually the individual who come door to door actually had the Duke Energy account number, they mis-entered it and switched her provider without this even happening and because the individual was going around door to door was not registered in the village I couldn't track it. But just to be aware, again, this is for everyone's protection, so if you do see door to door solicitation please report it and we can always go by and check the individual.

Also in closing I am making a commitment to the residents for dealing with the nuisance properties as well and we're working to reactivate the nuisance property committee and we do appreciate the residents speaking up and informing us and I definitely am sympathetic to what you're dealing with.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Vine St. Park has been repaired. Some places they had to dig down 8 inches to get to dry soil. We sent two men to school to care for our fields. We should have less rainouts. I think it looks pretty nice.

With a little luck and barring anything else from going wrong, the pool should open as scheduled. We have replaced the filtration media and a u-drain that was damaged by the flood, then the water main broke. People are asking me "what's up with the baby pool?" Well it had the wrong filtration system in it and we are looking into a squirting play area. The hold-up is the first bid was over \$100,000.00. Two more bids to follow.

Grass season is here please can or bag your clippings. Do not sweep or blow them into the street. We have Ordinances preventing things being dumped into our systems. I have had 5 sewer basins repaired and unclogged due to such activity. The money left in that line item are for emergencies. Also we have hired 8 helpers this year instead of 13. We may fall behind but I assure you the jobs will get accomplished.

To my community:

Are we balanced emotionally? Let's look further into it and choose anger. The emotion of anger needs to be analyzed, justified then understood. So do this, then harness it and use it for something positive in your life. Anger causes what I call an ugly wheel to spin. It can spin so fast, that it can overheat. To cool this ugly wheel you need to create snowballs and tink them at it. If you try to ice bucket challenge it you will warp your wheel and you will be useless to anyone including yourself. Enjoy your life, don't shorten it.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – (read by Mr. Paul) I put the March Tax Receipts figures in everyone's mailboxes today. If anyone has any questions, or needs any further information, please see me.

We got through official tax-day unscathed. It was actually spread over two days this year. I would like to thank both Sharon McCullough and Leighanne Helmes for coming in early and leaving late, to insure that everything went as smoothly as possible. I'd also like to thank Bill Gierhart for his cooperation and hard work in helping us set up and dismantle everything that we needed. Thanks to all three of them.

The legislature in Columbus has been on hiatus for the past week or so, so there have been no developments in House Bill 49 and centralized collections. I will keep everyone up to date as the situation moves forward.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – Mayor Estep invited me to yesterdays' department head meeting where the budget was discussed. There are 2 line items in the Service Department that has excess funds in them totaling a little over \$100,000.00. Along with the nurses line item that may not be needed. John wants to pursue the idea of charging residents a small fee for collecting their garbage as Steve suggested. We are also looking into raising the fees charged to businesses for emptying their dumpster to be closer to what Rumpke charges. I would like to place those 2 items in the Service Committee for consideration.

My next town hall meeting will be Tuesday May 9 at 7:00pm in Centennial Hall. As John stated, John, Ray, Jonathan and I met last Thursday to discuss the Charter Committee. We settled on 9 members. John asked me to be Co-Chairman of the Committee. The members are me, John Estep, Jonathan Stuchell, Ray Culbertson, Marge Niesen, Kate McMullan, Mike Wiedmann, Bob Hausfeld and Doug Roll. I want to thank everyone that showed interest in joining the Committee. We will be scheduling public meetings in the very near future.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I have the Police Department report for the month of March. During the month of March, police were involved in 779 calls for service. Of those calls they responded to 16 accident reports and took 22 offense reports. Officers cleared a total of 11 offenses and made 90 misdemeanor arrests. They responded to 58 parking complaints and issued 6 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 34 traffic citations, 2 DUI arrests and 50 warnings. Police responded to 64 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons. I too would like to thank Rick, Sharon and Leighanne for all the extra work that they put in this week and got everything down for the crunch tax deadline. So I appreciate all their extra efforts.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for March, 2017. There were 22 trucks placed at residences, 32 dumpsters placed at residences, 133 special pick-ups at residences and 190.19 ton of garbage taken to the landfill. On the recycling report; there were 39.19 tons of recycling material, 52 pounds of scrap aluminum, 1 car battery, 1.25 pounds of brass, 1.95 pounds of copper and 4,580 pounds of scrap metal. Also I'd like to announce the Service Committee on May 4 at 6:30 before the COW to discuss the garbage fees and increasing dumpster fees.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Mike, with the Park Ordinance that we talked about last week there has been no input. So if we could make copies and get them to all the Council people so that could be discussed at the next COW I'd appreciate it if you would just put them in their boxes.

Mr. Peck – You guys are recommending that it go to COW?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Yes.

Mr. Peck – So you're fine with it? Okay.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – The other thing is, could you clarify with me the bringing back the need for the Nuisance Committee? So this committee will help form the new Ordinance and will that come back to Laws, Contracts and Claims or will Laws, Contracts and Claims be a part of that committee? How is that going to work?

Mr. Peck - I don't think it needs to be but we could. I think it might be complicative but yeah we can talk about it.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Whatever works best and however we need to do it legally, that's fine with me. Just let me know.

Mr. Peck – It works better for a committee that has a larger membership from different areas of government and also the public.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I don't disagree with that. I just didn't know where Laws, Contracts and Claims came into this if they did at all. Just let me know.

Mr. Peck – Okay.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tommy I want to thank you for helping with that field down at Vine St. It does look very nice. I saw it when I was down there for the Easter Egg Hunt. It looks really good. Thanks.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – If a resident or local business would like to participate in either the Memorial Day Parade or the July 4 celebration please either contact myself at 265-7349 or Cheryl Abrams here at Village Hall at 242-7770.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer – Absent.

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

Committee of the Whole

Apr. 6, 2017

1. Council approved the minutes of the March 16th Council meeting.
2. Mayor, John Estep
 - a. Reported that the part-time nurse has been put on hold for now while research is done on what the County could provide. The fire department is helping for now.
3. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - a. Gave Council and other positions, paperwork from the State Auditor to be filled out and returned in the envelope that was provided.

b. Gave Council revenue and expense reports. Revenues are down \$ 244,536.34 and expenses are up \$ 593,592.96 over last year.

c. Said that she is talking to Mr. Peck and Mr. Moore about cross training between the Auditor and Tax departments so the two departments can help each other. The legal piece is being looked into by Mr. Peck.

4. Law Director, Mike Peck(report given by Mr. Stuchell)

a. Recommended passage of a Resolution regarding the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan. This is a Resolution that is passed every five years, and St Bernard has done this in the past. Council voted 6-0 to place the Resolution on the table at the next Council meeting.

b. Reported that he was asked if the Charter limits the Mayor's ability regarding the hiring or lack of a part-time Village Nurse. Per 9.07 of the Charter, our Board of Health became a Commission after we became a Village, but retained the authority under 5.03 to appoint a nurse. There is nothing that requires the appointment.

c. Said that the issue of centralized taxation is still an issue. He is going to retain the services of the Government Strategies Group on our behalf to fight this. It was stated by Mr. Moore that he thought the decision was made not to do this and will contact Mr. Peck on this issue.

5. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

a. Reported about the ground breaking on the Tower Ave property for the new townhomes.

b. Discussed the new MOU, memorandum of understanding, between the Village and Firefighters IAFF Local 450. This agreement was developed to help the Village better manage the budget. This will be done on a six month trial basis and may be renew at the end of the six months. Council voted 7-0 to place the Ordinance on the table at the next Council meeting.

c. Had Mr. Myers address the question on the inspection program. It was stated that the program is still in place and that it could not be self sufficient as it stands.

6. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Reported that there is a tank being removed, by the pool at Vine St Park, that belongs to and is being removed by St. Bernard-Elmwood Pl Schools.

b. Said that he received another grant for the Moeller Ave street project and the bids will be in May.

c. Reported that the restrooms in the parks are closed until the beginning of April. Someone left people use one at Ross Park and since there was no water turned on it left quit a mess. This will be addressed so that it doesn't happen again.

7. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Said he would have the March reports at the next Council meeting.

b. Reminded everyone that taxes are due on April 18th. Everyone over the age of 18 must file a tax report unless you are retired or are an exempt person. If you have questions please call the Tax Department at 242-7770.

c. Reported that centralized collection is still an issue and there might be a final vote on the matter by June this year.

8. Treasurer, John Ungrhue

a. Reported that the total of the 5/3rd Securities is \$1,015,000.00

9. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Thanked Hamilton County Commissioner Chris Monzel for being there last week to meet with the flood victims from last August. His Chief of Staff, Gena Bell, said that she sent a list of submissions to MSD last Friday and was waiting for a status update. He talked to some of the residents and Gena has been in contact with them to give them the updates as she gets them.

b. Reported that his next Town Hall meeting will be Tuesday May 9th at 7pm in the Centennial Hall.

c. Reported that the finance committee met tonight. The Mayor is going to meet with the department heads and service director to see if more cuts can be made.

d. Discussed changing certain committees of Council. It was discussed to change the Transportation Committee to a Marketing Committee. We will put it on the next COW meeting to discuss more.

e. Discussed the pay of elected and appointed positions. It was suggested that the Clerk of Council and President of Council. It was suggested that those two positions be at and participate in both meetings.

10. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Said that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday April 18th at 6:30 at the Safety Center. There will be a firearms training simulator at the meeting.

11. Public Improvements, Patty Hausfeld

a. Thanked Mr. Tobergte and for organizing the meeting with Mr. Monzel for the flood victims. She also thanked Mr. Paul for all his help as well.

b. Reported that there was Planning Commission meeting on March 27th on changing the zoning from residential to business for Leesman Lighting.

c. Asked Mr. Myers about the developer wanting \$64,000.00, which was the amount paid to the Village by the Post Office, for them to provide 31 parking spots for the Postal employees. It was the feeling of Council that us giving them the property was more than enough and didn't think the \$64,000 should be given to them.

12. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

a. Said that the committee met this evening and Mr. Peck recommended that the park Ordinances all go into one new Ordinance. This will be brought up at the next COW meeting.

13. Highways & Transportation, Diana Schildmeyer

a. Reported that during March the Dial-a-Ride had a total of 1150 hours and year to date 3442 hours.

14. A resident asked the Auditor how much the Village bought the shopping center for. He was told 2.5 million. He also said that he had slipped three different times on the new sidewalks on Vine St. and it was said that that was the first time anyone had ever heard of such an issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2017. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UPDATE OF THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND DELCARING AN EMERGENCY .

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with second and third reading of Resolution No. 3, 2017. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adopt Resolution No. 3, 2017 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 6 2017. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND ST. BERNARD, OHIO FIRE FIGHTERS I.A.F.F. LOCAL 450 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2017.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb – I just have a quick question for Jonathan. After the six month trial period, is it something that the Administration makes a decision or does it have to go back to Council for another vote to approve additional MOU?

Mr. Stuchell – It wasn't anticipated to go back for a, I guess, additional approval of Council and then to ultimately after the six months period of time to reassess the actual agreement between Administration and Local 450 as to whether or not it is an equitable situation for both parties. It wasn't intended to come back to have another, I guess, Resolution passed.

Mr. Kalb – So by adopting this this evening we pretty much say it's a permanent part of the contract as long as the Union and the Administration are okay with it. Council would have no more control of that portion of the contract then.

Mr. Stuchell – Unless I'm wrong that's correct.

Ms. Hausfeld – When I asked the question two weeks ago I thought I was told it was strictly a six month trial period and then it would still have to come back to us one way or the other and that's the consensus up here so before I vote on this I want to hear your guys's opinion as far as I know you reiterated it two weeks ago but just to make sure people are on the same page. I also would like to hear from the Union and the Fire Chief because like I said there is some confusion because I thought it came back to us six months from now. Because I asked that question two weeks ago.

Mr. Stuchell – Maybe I misunderstood but if we were to do that whatever we do, if we are coming up to the six month time, I would hate for it to go to be delayed, have to be suspended for a period of time whether or not we could reassess and actually go ahead and if it were to come about whether or not if it did require Council's approval for the next period of time then we could do it so that we could time it so there's not a gap. But as far as my support for this ultimately this was the best opportunity for us to have a, I can't give you the exact figures until obviously for the period of time that it runs but basically to have an equitable situation for both parties involved I also did provide adequate staffing for right now rather than going out and hiring a full time firefighter to fill the void or trying to start a part-time firefighting program from scratch. Again the whole idea would be that we're utilizing the already existing instilled and trained personnel that we already have on staff. The same exact personnel that each of these individuals depend on day in and day out to fill that void. Now when we get to the point where there will be further vacancies in the department and we find out that this alternative staffing program is at capacity then we would definitely have to reassess our program as to how we would go about it whether it would be going back and hiring any full time personnel to fill those other voids. But for right now this is the best possible opportunity that we have to provide the best service to the citizens and also provide the proper staffing in the department.

Mr. Kalb – And I do agree with you to some extent. I'm definitely in favor of this program but I would like to see after six months that it, we can reevaluate it because Council has to fund that line item and if it goes back to being a permanent item inside the contract and it's not working or it's costing more than we expected then I've tied my hands to getting on something that I don't even have a figure for. Short term I do agree. We definitely need to put this plan in place to help increase staffing to help save some money on the budget but I don't want to necessarily slam the door into other ways of possibly saving money down the future and if it

doesn't come back to Council then it's pretty much I'm voting for a new portion of their contract and I would have to trust either, not to say Union, but I would have to trust the Administration to do Council's wishes. If it's an Administration decision they don't necessarily have to do. So I'm in favor of the program but I don't want to necessarily be tying my hands, you know, four or five years down the road, I want to be able to reevaluate just like the Administration is and be like this worked, this didn't work and move on but if we can't, if it doesn't go back to Council then I'm not in favor of passing this this evening because I think that a contract decision should be made by Council, not by the Administration

Chief Meyer – I'm not sure if we can do it this way as just an idea. I mean I agree with Jonathan I'd hate to see that a couple of months down but I also see what you're saying. Could we possibly make it so that it continues unless the Council discontinues it instead of saying you have to continue it, how about just giving you the ability to discontinue it if you choose.

Mr. Kalb – Without talking to Mike Peck, I don't think that can be, you have to involve the Union and bargaining, you can't single handedly change something in their contract by just voting on it. No, that's part of the contract. It ties our hands and it ties their hands. So I think, I mean, without knowing for sure, that would be a Mike Peck question. But I don't think you can just add that language.

Mr. Asbach – What I was thinking was, this is the end of April, so we're going to have a COW at the beginning of October. We will be able to talk about it in the beginning of October and we could put something on the table or if we had to have a special meeting the week we're off. Then have a special meeting but I hear what everybody is saying because I was under the same understanding that after the six months we would see if it was working or not working and go from there. I think that's the impression we all had up here.

Mr. Peck - I'm reading the um in Section B it does say after six months the length of time that the MOU shall be six months at which point it may be extended or modified by an agreement of both parties. So it would have to come back to Council now that I look at it. An MOU has to be approved by Council. But I would suggest to keep this thing going without interruption to revue it maybe a month prior or two months prior.

Mr. Kalb – Just to be 100% clear. It's your understanding by reading this that because that we have to approve the MOU that after six months it would have to come back to Council to get approved.

Mr. Peck – As I read it it's six months' time limit for this.

Mr. Kalb – I got something different than the way I kind of understood (inaudible).

Ms. Hausfeld – Well I know how Jonathan feels. I just wanted to make sure that the other parties had a chance to speak on their behalf. If they wanted to speak and let us know anything more to the way they feel.

Brian Young, President of Local 450 - I think what my (inaudible) whether or not it should be voted on and of course we're fine with that. I think both parties have an in or an out at six months and I would assume that if Council thought it wasn't a good idea for the Administration to bring that back and we would sit down and either renegotiate or it would be over. But I agree I don't think we can afford to have a month or so gap while we work out this thing or maybe if you want to meet at three months and then make it five months. We'll sit down and start those talks crunch the numbers in and at the six month point we can bring it back to you so there's no interruption. I think the Union would be fine with that.

Mr. Asbach - I think it could be put on the September COW to discuss the (inaudible).

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I would hope that we would constantly get updates since this is a new program and that we wouldn't hear five months from now how it was working. So through Jonathan maybe every month to give us an update on how it's working. Not in depth but to give us an idea of what we can expect.

Mr. Stuchell – That was our intent as well. I mean obviously you know this will be a learning process for all of us to see and I will keep everyone updated as well so I will make that commitment to see it.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – Yeah I have a question but I think Mike Peck is the one who can say the Village is either Council or the Administration.

Mr. Peck – The Village has to approve it the MOU and that's what they're asked to do tonight. The Village approves it so in that respect Council is the Village.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – Okay, that's all I need to know. It's the Village and Local 450. It's not the Administration or the Committee that worked on it, it's

Mr. Peck – Well it's everybody. But everybody (inaudible) in the process.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – I just wanted that clarified. Thanks.

Motion failed 5-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

Ordinance No. 6, 2017 will take its regular course.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Asbach – The two things for the Safety Director, there may have been Officer Young at the COW or something, is there anything more going on with the smoke detector blitz that we talked about for April 29, is that happening, not happening, I mean did I miss that in anybody's report?

Mr. Stuchell – It is still happening.

Brian Young – My understanding is it is still happening. Captain Mirick is actually in charge of that. I just went to the meeting and filled in for him. That's why I said it that night. There's still stuff to go on the website and there should be some door hangers and flyers going out and I will follow up. I'll see him Friday morning and I will, Saturday morning, sorry, and I'll share with him to make sure that he gets that stuff to you guys so you can post it on the website and things.

Mr. Asbach – Secondly, I guess Jonathan, I don't know how you feel but would you like to have a special Council meeting before the next COW to discuss Ordinance No. 6 again? Instead of waiting until the end of May?

Mr. Stuchell – If it's possible I would like to do that. I hate to wait that long for this. Ultimately it's a worthy program to start for a money thing and staffing if you're willing to do that I certainly be appreciative.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to have a special Council meeting on May 4th before the COW meeting at 7:00. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Kalb – This is probably a question for Paul Schildmeyer. I was going over the weekly expense reports and I was going through just looking at different line items and under the Recreation Dept., the umpires, we've already spent \$4,050.00 of the \$5,000.00 and I know we're just getting into baseball season, is that something do we know as far as payroll goes, is that something we're going to have to address for

the Council meeting next month and then the same thing with softball and Knothole we had \$1,500.00 in both of those and we spent \$1,476.00 and \$1,418.00 (inaudible) they're just getting awfully close and we're in baseball season. It's more of a Paul question but I was going through.....

Mrs. Brickweg – They get a check and they pay the umpires with that money. They take out the whole season so it's the umpire fee for that season for softball and Knothole.

Mr. Tobergte – They write one big check and cash it and pay the umpires in cash as the season goes.

Mr. Kalb – Well I was looking at that and saying if we've already spent that much money we're probably going to need more and I don't want to see any payroll problems, okay, cool.

Ms. Hausfeld - I talked to Tommy Paul yesterday and Tommy you can elaborate on this. I've had some complaints and he knows about this about the trees and the lights on Vine St. and he assured me he was taking care of it. I just wanted him to let the residents know if he had anything more to add to that.

Mr. Paul – I can't add anything to it yet but as you know three or four of our trees have been taken out by vehicles and they escaped. So that being said each tree originally was \$700.00 so to get those at that age you would probably be a little bit more than that. The special lights that we have in for the Streetscape are on order. That's why 5th 3rd still looks a wreck because the van that took out two of those trees took, also took three poles with them. That intersection is taking a beating. The lights on the trees, we're having trouble. I've given Eddie permission to go once a week or so to make sure. Lots of times what happens, people walk by and they unplug them. But if they're not that or the timer then the lights will be replaced. So with that we're going to start that up so because I kind of like them on and I get positive feedback about it so that will be addressed also. But the trees, I'm going to have to think that through. It's just, we thought about bushes, we thought about some of the big rock that we own but I'm not real sure yet. I think we're going to go back with trees but that's where we're at.

Ms. Hausfeld – Like I said yesterday Tommy I've had some complaints about it. I do agree and I know it's an expense but it definitely has to be because that's our main street and that's the, it just looks crappy for a lack of a different word, if somebody has a better word, I'll use it now but um it's kind of known that I'll tell

you how I feel. Okay. The other thing is I had some complaints on the Senior Housing. And I also discussed this with Tommy yesterday because I know somebody ran their car into it or whatever several months ago but like these residents are telling me if it's resident's property the city would be on it like now to get it fixed but I think it's been enough time to get that fixed and Tommy knows how I feel. Tommy knows how the residents feel because I did address all this with him so I just wanted to let the residents know that is being addressed. I also got some complaints today and I don't have the address for you yet Tommy. Grass and garbage. Grass not being cut already, believe it or not. And garbage not being put out when it should be and the person that called me and complained it was like the second hand thing so the only thing I urge the residents that if they have neighbors that are not cutting their grass or not putting out their trash, especially their trash, that's disgusting, please call the city and let them know because we do have a few things in order so that we can those taken care of. 242-7770 and, sorry Tommy, ask for Tommy Paul, he will take care of you guys.

Mr. Tobergte – Along with that Jonathan, I've asked Paul when we first bought Long John's, can we take that "For Sale" down? It's still sitting up there.

Mr. Stuchell – I would say we could go grab it now.

Mr. Tobergte – You're giving me permission to? I'll grab it as I leave tonight.

Mr. Stuchell – Let's go get it done.

Mr. Tobergte – I'll take it down tonight. And Tommy these telephone poles on Church St., or actually Tower where Duke replaced them, the cement still hasn't been replaced. Are they going to do that or not?

Mr. Paul – I have been in touch with Cincinnati Bell, they are responsible, they have not responded. I can try again but I also have some volunteers that would like to do it. That way we'll have to pay for the concrete so I would rather go through Cincinnati Bell one more time to have them fix it. They also have one up on, by Errun Ln. that they just put a patch in and never came back for that and I've got three calls in on that also. I'll try again. Maybe I'll have the Mayor do it. He seems to be wonderful at things like that.

Ms. Hausfeld – On the same token as Long John's property, I did have a call about that. I actually asked Donnie and he had not heard anything so while he brought it up I'm just going ask. Rumors, I know how rumors get started but I'm going to ask

all you guys. Have you heard anything about, as far as selling it or doing anything with the Long John's Silver's property as of yet? Just curious. Cause, cause this is coming from citizens that are telling at least me and I'm sure other Council members and like I told them, it's a rumor, I, I don't know anything about it, but if there is something going on I would like to be informed so that when the citizens do call us we know what's going on. I don't need to know details just that there is something going on.

Mr. Stuchell – As far as any organized plan, there is not. I would like to think I would know but ultimately the initial plan, the initial plan is that the fact that we'll be getting the property back from the fire house once that is completed and that there would be some type of organized development with that corner not just that specific location itself. So as far as any negotiation with an individual in a deal that is getting ready to be signed, I would like to think I would know. So if you want to, squash that rumor for right now.

Ms. Hausfeld – I did, but I just wanted to reiterate it because I'm sure if I've heard it I'm sure that there are other people that are hearing it too and that way the residents know that there is nothing as of yet going on. That's the only reason I brought it up after you mentioned it.

Mr. Tobergte – I realized when I called you back, when you called and told me about it I checked with John and checked with Paul and there was no sale.

Mr. Culbertson – This is directed to John or Tommy. Do you have an update on Girl Scout Lane and enclosing the dumpsters? I know you're doing a lot of work down there, it looks great.

Mr. Paul – It's actually going wonderful. I met with Rumpke who is very cooperative and then met Rumpke down there and told him my idea and the driver came back with a better idea. So then I came back to the office and I got a hold of Republic who came immediately. I spoke to them, we walked down there with him, the Rumpke driver's idea and he thought it was excellent, so that will be straightened out and organized and the dump trucks can actually pull in off of Vine St. Goes straight back and empty, turn right and get out. So with that being said, yeah and David Stevens and the Broham family have not gotten back to me about the fences but I think he fully intends to enclose them so it will be neater and to keep people from dumping freely into their dumpsters. We're also speaking again to Dollar Tree but corporate isn't too cooperative. We want them to be emptied more than once a month or once every two weeks, whatever it is it's not enough

because it gets stacked way high and they can't close them and then it blows all over so we are on that. That will be taken care of.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Just one more clarification. So the Family Dollar, I've heard two different things. One is that the Family Dollar is going to be totally gone, but then I also heard that the Family Dollar as it is, is going to be gone. There will be another business in there that has bought out Family Dollar. So can somebody clarify that?

Mr. Stuchell – So basically what came about was this that the fact that the Dollar Tree Corporation of course was initially bought the actual Family Dollar Store, they were required to sell off so the FCC required their percentage to be sold off in with roughly 300 stores so a new corporation formed. So basically what happened with that here most recently that the Dollar Express Corporation which was formed was purchased by Dollar General. It's a vicious cycle with the dollar stores. So basically what happened here is that that particular store was slated to close for renovation. While it was still in the Dollar Express Corporation that it was then going to be converted into a Dollar Express store to express proper size, products and their merchandising system. The store itself was going to be renovated on the inside. The permits for the new signage were all submitted to the Village then of course this announcement comes along that Dollar General purchased their corporation. As of right now the FCC has not approved the sale so and we have reached out and communicated with Dollar General but their response to this is that we are just like the other 300 other approximate locations being property owners that are municipalities that are concerned because they want to know what is going to happen. They don't have an exact answer for it because the sale has not been approved and at this point they have not had an opportunity to evaluate the particular property to determine whether or not they want to make the conversion to a Dollar General store. But currently our lease does protect us, they are still obligated to pay that until and there would be a set point where they decided that they would want to try to negotiate but at this point we don't have an exact answer about any other type of business going in as of right now they're still obligated to the lease.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess this is directed at John or Don, can help me with this one. Originally when the Charter Committee was suggested, I was asked if I would participate in it because I'm the only one that has ever amended or put something on a ballot before. And the Auditor has always been on it and I said yes I wanted to be on it. I'm just curious why I wasn't included.

Mr. Tobergte – I never knew you asked to be on it. You didn't ask me. You told me you wanted to be on it. I brought your name up.

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay.

Mr. Tobergte – Nobody else wouldn't say a word about it. We had nine members, four of us were there.

Mrs. Brickweg – Were where?

Mr. Tobergte – We had a meeting last Thursday.

Mrs. Brickweg – Thanks for inviting me.

Mr. Tobergte – You're welcome.

Mrs. Brickweg – So you're not going to have the Auditor on this Committee? Can I ask to be added to the Committee since I am in charge of all the finances? Can we have ten members on it?

Mayor Estep – Well we were trying to keep it to an odd number. Madamn President, I didn't say that. And we tried to look at representation from every department and in this building.

Mrs. Brickweg – So who is the representation from this building?

Mayor Estep – Well, myself and then Jonathan Stuchell from the Safety and then we have the Police, Fire, Service.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay, my question is, who financially is on that Committee? That makes no sense to have a committee with nobody financially on it. That makes no sense to me. It always has been.

Mayor Estep – I'll bring it to the Committee. I'll ask them.

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm just very shocked at that. It seems pretty um kind of obvious.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Estep – I want to thank Heidi for coming in at short notice and helping us out tonight. We appreciate that. Thank you

Heidi Culbertson – You're welcome.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just to reiterate that. As I was coming down here at ten minutes until seven, Heidi was walking up by my house on Tower Ave. so literally we pulled her from walking her dog to come here so we all thank you Heidi.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Marge Niesen – I have lots to tell you about an exciting event coming up on May 21 at Ross Ave. Park, 2:00pm. It will be the old time red stockings baseball team vs. St. Bernard Police, Fire and Service Department. The idea is, we had an offering from the red stockings team since 1869. It happened at the meeting of the Historical Society had been an office for the Cincinnati Reds and that the Eagles (inaudible) he says he may be (inaudible) to think that the community could get together (inaudible) and have some fun. So I thought I'd talk about fun tonight. I am grateful because Recreation (audible) Paul Schildmeyer. He has said that he can have this wonderful baseball game. Of course it's going to be the old time rules. No gloves, you can't over run first base and a few other interesting rules (inaudible). Recreation will provide concessions, (inaudible) sandwich. They might pass the hat (inaudible) the organizations. But the idea is something for the community, it's May 21st a Sunday afternoon at 3:00 at Ross Park so you can have a really great baseball game. What's better than baseball? (inaudible) but anyway we hope that we will get the signage out and information and I hope everybody will come out and be part of the fun.

Ms. Hausfeld – Marge, I just, or Mrs. Niesen, I just want to thank you for doing that because it sounds like a lot of fun. Also and I'm not sure if you have the dates for this, the Women's Club Luncheon?

Marge Niesen – You're right. That's May 6th. Saturday, coming up. We have a Women's Club Scholarship (inaudible). We have two \$1,000.00 scholarships to local residents students who are going on to advanced education. Whether it's Trade School, College, whatever. The names are pretty much pulled out of a hat at this luncheon. We've got about a hundred (inaudible) to have you. The guest speaker will be Dr. Odell Owens and because he is well know it will be a great program. Lots of prizes, and it is Derby Day and we are encouraging the women to wear their Derby hats. Get in the spirit.

Ms. Hausfeld – Marge, what time is that luncheon?

Marge Niesen – 11:00 come between 11:00 and 11:30. It starts at 11:30.

Ms. Hausfeld – And if people want to get tickets?

Marge Niesen- Heidi has some and I might have a couple.

Ms. Hausfeld – Okay thank you.

Marge Niesen – Thank you very much I appreciate you mentioning it. I have it on my list. Thank you.

Karen - I almost wish I would have gone before her because that was a great message and what I have to say is something different. My name is Karen and I live on Minmore. It's hard being on this side of the room because as a citizen, you know, we come here and it's the only way the we really know anything is to come to the meeting and get involved. We're not here day to day and we don't know the department meetings and we don't know those kind of things. So I've been coming to a lot of different meetings and one of the things I want to say is I think we all share in this is St. Bernard being a great wonderful place. I grew up here, moved away, came back a few years ago. My son also lives in St. Bernard so my reasoning for this being such an important thing to me is more for my son living here too because hopefully I'll have grandchildren some day and they will have a great place to grow up like I did and have the memories of St. Bernard that I have. So with that being said um the issue that I have is um and I don't even know if this is the right venue, but I would like for the Executive Director of the CIC to either resign or actually resign. Um, one of the reasons I think there is a conflict, I mean he is a paid employee of the City of St. Bernard with the Building Department and he is also Executive Director of buying the buildings, giving away property, selling property, building permits and I just think that that is a conflict and I don't want to speak ill of anyone but I've gone to the CIC meeting, I went to the CIC meeting, the last one, and the things that were said, it's just unreal and I took (inaudible) and I learned the shorthand so I've seen pretty quickly from my notes and the things that were said some of the things are not true, and um I think the citizens deserve better than this. I'm not asking that someone be removed from the Committee entirely. I think more like an advisory role, but certainly not executive director. And if anyone really wants to see my notes I can say what they were. I don't like to speak of ill of people though and especially when they're not here to defend

themselves so but if anyone would like to see my notes that's fine. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Mr. Stuchell – In response to that I would actually like to meet with you to discuss your concerns. Again we do still need some professional direction but I would like to talk to you about that and I mean I take that seriously. For someone to come forward with that kind of concern or request it needs to be discussed so I would like to meet with you if you will.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – This is probably to Jonathan, but I got a text today from a non-resident that works at P&G and says why is that old wrecked car been sitting on Tennessee for a week? Right by the cemetery. It's got a flat tire, no license plates, it's just sticking out in the street and it's on the sidewalk. It's been there for a week.

Mr. Asbach - I was actually coming home, I think Sunday night, from Easter and there was apparently a two or three car wreck up there. I don't have an answer, I was actually glad you brought it up because I forgot to write it down. I'm assuming that, I don't know if the person that was in it was injured and that's why it's still sitting there. I don't have a clue. I meant to ask the Police Chief and I forgot to do that also.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – I talked to Tommy Paul and he is working on it and he's gotten complaints but I'm just wondering why it's still sitting there I went there before the meeting, the plates are off of it, it's wrecked, it's got a flat tire, it's sitting out and now we got people coming up, coming into work from out of the City and we have this car that has been sitting there wrecked, half out in the street, half on the sidewalk.

Mayor Estep – I called the Police station this morning and asked them what was going on with that. They came back after about ten minutes after they checked with the other officers. The person who caused the accident supposedly only has liability and they're working with the insurance company to get it towed and they were working on it today and if it is not moved they will move it and we will move it ourselves by the end of the week. I think the accident occurred Sunday and they said they that they would give them until the end of this week to get it moved or we will move it.

Tom Rolfsen – Well I think it needs to be moved because there are no plates on it so it's illegally on the street and a safety hazard. You can't see it at night, it's two

lanes going down and normally when I talked to Tommy, when he was in the Fire Department the wrecked cars were taken away as soon as the report was done and now this has been sitting half out in the street.

Mayor Estep – I'll call the station tonight. It is in one lane. It hasn't gone in another lane because I drive past it twice a day on the school bus. I know it's tight. I get a school bus past it and I don't have a problem. I'll call the station as soon as the meeting is over Tom.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm sorry, I realize nobody answered my question. Who picked the committee for the Charter? No one answered that.

Mayor Estep – Well we didn't pick the committee. It was formed. The four of us met originally and then Mike Wiedmann was added. That was five. And then I brought up the fact that one party or one department was represented. What are the Police and Fire going to say? So we called both Chiefs and we asked them to, their idea or they give us a representative and they gave us that and I think that made it to seven and then we had a resident on there, Kate McMullen, and that was eight and then Marge Niesen, we would never start anything without Marge Neisen, she's nine

Mrs. Brickweg – Because I would like to go on record for this because if I seem upset it's not because it's the whole Charter thing but I wasn't told because I went to voice this on Facebook that my job is the first one that is going to go for. I just wanted to share (inaudible) but I was not even chosen to be on it when I asked to be on it so I guess time will tell if that's the first one on it so I just want to put that on record but it just seems like a coincidence that nobody from the finance would be on a committee like that and since I've been threatened with my job I guess that's why I'm a little bit concerned so I guess time will tell if you guys do that.

Ms. Hausfeld - I know you said you wanted an odd number and if you want to include Peggy, I don't have a problem volunteering my services to be on the committee as well. So it gives you an out if you want two more people on it. Just to let you know.

Mayor Estep – I'll bring it up to the committee. I wasn't in the favor of having nine. I wanted to keep it at seven. I think nine is plenty. We already have a Council person Patty, so I'll bring it up.

Ms. Hausfeld – Silly question, um is a, and it doesn't really matter to me because I'm an independent person anyway but do you have representation from both political parties?

Mr. Tobergte – There's two green people, two orange, two independents and three department people. Police, Fire and Service. Me and Kate McMullens, Ray and Marge are orange, John and Jonathan are green.

Ms. Hausfeld - (inaudible) That way no party can blame each other's party for doing things shady is what I'm saying.

Mrs. Brickweg – Who are the two independent candidates?

Mr. Tobergte – Kate McMullens and me and Tom are independents.

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay, she's a resident, she's, are you just saying people are at positions that are.....

Mr. Tobergte – Marge is not in a position she's just qualified in some different.....

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm just curious how you do it if you're asked to be on it?

Ms. Hausfeld – No but that's why I brought up the political aspect of it because I know when things are going to be decided it's going to come down to, well I didn't have a say so. Not me personally I'm just saying a party member of an individual party and I just didn't want it to go into all kinds of crap later on when, I'm sorry, I'm not allowed to say that word, I'm sorry, I, I, I, just don't want it to go into a circus later on. I'm not trying to make it a circus now, I'm just trying to say if you guys are willing to have Peggy on there as you're tenth, I volunteer my services. That's all I'm saying.

Marge Niesen – Patty, Patty the reason I'm on here is because I was on the original Charter Committee. Not because of political affiliation. Because I am a former member of the original Charter Commission and we had quite a number in that day. It has held over all those years so we hope that whoever is on it, it's not about politics, it's making sure that each department and each section is carefully considered in order to protect the public and it's not for the.....

Ms. Hausfeld - I understand that Marge and I fully, fully agree with having you on there because you have so much wisdom when it comes to what has happened to the City. I'm not disagreeing with that at all. Um did anybody look at the original Charter paper work? Yes, I mean, because whether there is something there that named a number of people that had to be on it, if I remember correctly.

Marge Niesen – That was a selective number. But I would have to go back, I did not get the book out because I've only just been assigned again but I will get it out and at that time we decided how many people were going to be on the commission.

Ms. Hausfeld – And if I remember correctly and I may be totally wrong at this, no, I was thinking that when we selected a Charter Commission it had to be voted on by the people but that's just after all everything is done and said, correct?

Marge Niesen – Well the people (inaudible).

Ms. Hausfeld – Thank you Marge.

Mr. Tobergte – Marge, if I'm not mistaken, the original Charter Committee was voted on. There were a number of people but then as it went on you replaced people as people resigned or whatever and that was not voted on again.....

Marge Niesen – What we had (inaudible) and then they voted on the Charter that we came up with. I don't recall having more than one election with people on the Commission but I can go back and look.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Actually there were two because if you remember correctly the first commission wrote the Charter and then the lawyer dropped the ball and didn't get it done and they had to do it again even though we basically it was the same thing. But they had to have another election to have another Charter Commission. But I agree with Marge 100% and that's what I'm saying, there was nobody on this committee from the finance department. Nobody. And that's why I say it makes absolutely no sense. You have nobody from the Tax Dept. Nobody from the Auditor's dept. Who handles all the money. And I agree with here 100%. But yet we have like Jonathan who is part of the Fire and the Police. I just don't understand how you have a committee like this and you have no finance on it at all.

Marge Niesen – Well I was the Tax Commissioner at the time but I was the Secretary for the Charter Commission at that time and we didn't worry about that, we just had a job to do.

Mrs. Brickweg – But, so what I'm saying that there's no representation from the finances of the city which makes no sense to me.

Marge Niesen – I did not, I was not in on that decision.

Ms. Hausfeld – On a more personal note um you know I was born and raised here, grew up here, I know how great our services are and thank God I don't have the fortunate chance of using them all the time but I will say on Easter Sunday my mother really, really, really did not feel well to the point where she was going to take herself to the hospital but my brother being a fireman of course he would not allow that so he called the ambulance and I had the unfortunate but fortunate of using the new ambulance and kind of getting a firsthand tour of things that the new ambulance does and I want to thank Brett for sure, I believe the new guy was Brian but I'm not 100% sure because he was in the back of the ambulance with my mother but just as a thank you to all of us, I know the firemen are really appreciative of, I've even seen the new lift thing a –ma-top thing, whatever you call it and it was actually kind of cool to get to see it firsthand being used unfortunately even though it was on my mother. I didn't like that part but she is home, she is doing well and she just wanted me to make sure that I thank the two guys and like I said I know the one was Brett and please forgive me I think the other one was either Brian or Ryan and I'm not sure but thank you to all three of our departments because I do know without the three major departments including the smaller departments our city would not be as good as it is and that is what makes our city so much different than other cities and I know we have our problems, I know we have our differences and I know we like, even me, I'll sit up here and I'll bicker once in a while, no comment John, but as far as the community itself and the departments we....there is no comparison and I am just very thankful that I was born and raised and I live here still today and I just want to thank all the departments.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to excuse the absent member.
Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW will be Thursday, May 4th at 7:00pm. Preceded by a Special Council meeting.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.