

# VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

## COUNCIL MEETING

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson, and Mr. Schildmeyer.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to dispense with the reading of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

### REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This evening of course we have Officer Worland Compress and Chief Michael Simos here this evening to give us a brief presentation on the potential of creating a canine unit for our department. I know this was brought up in the past and at the time that I was brought up, we were not in a position that we could even handle that based on our manning situation. So now we're fully staffed, and this is a time that I told them we could move forward with maybe looking at that. But again, this is something we had to present to council. So, I'm going to turn this over to officer comparison Chief Simos.

Chief of Police, Mr. Simos- As mentioned, we floated this idea about a year ago and timing wasn't right. There were other priorities to accomplish and thanks to many of you, we have cleared a lot of those hurdles. Officer Compress has done a lot of research and working and compiling facts and figures. And I don't even want to call it justification because this would be a very good program for the Village and this department. I believe you've all received a packet of most of that information. And if there are any questions feel free to ask them. I will defer to officer Compress.

Council Member, Mr. Ray Culbertson- How many? I see some of the numbers in here with the top 25 requesting agencies. Is my understanding right that we utilized the canine one time this year?

Officer Compress- Our department has not utilized a canine frequently. I know Lockland has come out several times for article searches and pursuits that have ended up happening a couple times. We also contacted the city for a canine team, which the city was not that helpful and were hesitant to let us use that.

Council Member, Mr. Ray Culbertson- So the city and Lockland are the only two that can help us right now?

Officer Compress- Those are the only ones that typically come out. We mainly get a response from Lockland.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- Also Amberly Village, correct?

Officer Compress- Correct. I have used them one time since I have been here. I am not sure how many other shifts have used canines. Amberly Village came down one time, and it almost broke the scope that we are allowed to detain someone. We very seldomly use Amberly just because of their distance to us.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- If you have only used them once or twice in the past year, how many times will you be called out of the village to work elsewhere and make us a man short?

Officer Compress- That would be determined by the Seargent, and we would have to be full staff to be able to release that canine team elsewhere. It would be a situation where the Seargent and Lieutenant would feel comfortable enough sending that manpower out. We are working on strengthening our bonds with other departments and I know this program would help us out.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- So, when you do go to another area, is that relative to mutual aid?

Officer Compress- Yes ma'am, it is all part of mutual aid.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- If I remember correctly. I don't think it was you last time it presented, I thought they were saying something about they could only or one person was trained specifically with the dog. My concern is we invest this money, pick an individual and train them, how do we prevent turn over?

Officer Compress- I can speak for many departments who have had canine handlers. Getting that position, you don't typically leave and that's one of the positions in the Police Department where you could hire new potential and they'll stick around 5-6 years, however long it takes for a new handler to be picked. That was my case before I was offered this amazing job here in. I stuck it out for a few years with Woodlawn and was going to be the next handler and you know, that kept me there for quite some time, but I just couldn't turn down the job here. This is a great recruiting tool and great for retention.

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- There is no guarantees of retaining anyone. As he said, officers in that position tend to stay. This administration had done a lot to increase our ability to retain, but in this case specifically, the canine handler typically does not move on.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- So, on the shifts that this canine is not working, would they be on call?

Officer, Compress- That would be up to the Chief on how they would want them structured. Our intent originally was to have a canine handler opposite Lockland and Amberly Village's structure so there would always be a canine available. The mutual aid agreement would still be in effect.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- From an insurance standpoint, with a dog, does that increase our insurance risk or liability? Or are we covered under our current policies?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Since we do not currently have a canine so it may not be covered. I would anticipate a slight increase, but we would have to talk about that with our insurance carrier.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone else on Council have any questions? We will have to add an ordinance to the agenda for the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the cost and what we have you for this. You still have the floor, Mayor.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So today I attended the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners meeting where a resolution was passed for the joint agreement between Hamilton County, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and the Village of Saint Bernard for the \$339,000 community revitalization grant for the demo of the shopping center. I'd like to thank the Hamilton County Board of Commission for their consideration in bringing this generous grant so that we can clear this blighted property to make way for a new opportunity. This grant was almost designed for Saint Bernard as it allows for the awarded municipality to partner with nonprofits and private entities on revitalization efforts. So again, thank you. We now have a replacement for Call Command. The village is now being serviced by a company called Dial My Calls and in fact the first broadcast went out today. We are also in the process of setting up the text feature which also includes a 2-way text option and e-mail portion of the service for our residents as well. This company was the easiest and most effective service that we could get up and running immediately and there is no contract. However, we do hope to find a company in the future that we can work with that offers geolocation so that isolated areas can be notified if necessary. But for the most part, call command pretty much went down, and we needed to make an immediate replacement, and this worked out very well. So, the full features will be up and running soon. We're also working through the bidding process on two grants that we were awarded for paving and street projects, the first being Vine Street, which will be a major repair to all the areas that have settled and a complete milling and repaving. The village was awarded approximately \$325,000 for this work and we are waiting for the overall bid to come in. So, we ordered \$128,000 for additional paving projects that must be used in areas that demographically qualify. So, you might be shocked as to the areas that they told us that we could actually qualify to pave, which doesn't totally make sense, but we are going to be getting some work done. The bidding will go out immediately for both projects, but the milling and paving will not be able to be done until spring. Also, I have instructed our engineers to look at doing a full-scale rehab of Greenlee for next year as well. We were given a bid for Greenlee, but it did not include any curbs or driveway aprons, which in many cases are nonexistent or almost destroyed. So that wouldn't have been a great idea to just do the paving when there's a whole lot more work that needs to be done, and also the potential for sanitary and storm sewer separation. Lastly, today I had the pleasure of running into Ben Pedigo from Rumpke. He informed me that Rumpke was the

recipient of a \$200,000 grant from the Ohio EPA to upgrade the recycling equipment. They asked for a letter of support early in the year and they were recently informed of the grant. So great congratulations to Rumpke and thanks for being such a great community partner. Sorry, one more item. In my call command this evening, we announced this was the first of the open house walk throughs Down Memory Lane for the St. Benard Elmwood Place schools. There will be another opportunity on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm. This will be your last opportunity to go through the schools.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- Do you have an eta for the demo of the shopping center?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- The contract will be sent out to me hopefully tomorrow. We have to go out and use the competitive bidding process so we will start that immediately. We have to give a 90 day notice to our tenants. We are probably looking earlier next year. We want to make sure everyone has a chance to relocate properly.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I have a few things tonight. First being that I would like to request for the next council meeting that we have a Resolution 3 for accepting the county rates. I'm assuming everything will go. They're meeting in the beginning of mid-September so if they get accepted and I'll have the resolution ready for that meeting. I would like to congratulate the police and fire departments. They went out for an ARPA grant, and they were awarded it. This is money that will be paid to the employees that worked during COVID. I'm still waiting to get some of the final information on what line items to use. I'm assuming it's going to be 20-19, but we will have to do an additional appropriation to pay this money out and the money will just go right back into the bank. I've prepared Ordinance 25 for tonight. That is for the cost of the demolition. I have it going into O5-MP-10-A demolition for \$339,000. And then ordinance 27 for capital improvements, the \$65,000 for the camera, this is Ordinance 26 that you'll be discussing tonight and just so you know, the Police Department got three different quotes. This one here for 65,000, quote number two was \$230,000 and quote number three was for a perpetual cost that it would keep going and we didn't know where it would end up. So, they're recommending this one.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- I met yesterday with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee. It was a follow up conversation about changes to chapter 923, the waste collection. We discussed changes being made due to concerns people have had with people setting trash cans out too long or in the wrong areas and not removing their cans when they are done. You should have been emailed by Heidi the ordinance. I just want to touch briefly on some of the changes. We did include in 923.02 the waste and recycling collection schedule. That way people will know when they can set things out and when their pickup will be. One of the changes we are proposing is that police officers will be able to issue a citation when people are in violation and because we have had so many repeat offenders. We do have a violation schedule in our current ordinance we will continue to follow that and that is listed under section 923.12. Please take a look at that. It does also set the times which we discussed in our more recent meeting. You can bring your things out to the curb at 4pm on the day before the regular pickup and no later than 7:30am on the day of pickup. That is the time of day the crews are out and starting. It will not be picked up later if it has been missed. All cans must be returned by 8pm on the regular waste

collection day. I would like to add this to the agenda for the next COW meeting. I would like to go into executive session after the meeting to discuss pending litigation.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I just have a question for Valerie, on 923.02 is that where we put the schedule? I have the old one in my mailbox.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Yes, that was for the meeting yesterday. I forgot to tell Heidi to put the new one in the mailboxes.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- This evening I have the statement from First State Bank, which is our Fourth of July Memorial Fund. Our total at the end of July was \$5,681.67.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- We have three storm sewers that need work. Zetta, Greenlee and E Ross. This will start at the end of next week. Storm sewers are the village's responsibility. Today I can confirm that Greenlee, Baker, Lower Ross, Upper and Lower Alpine parks are completed. Touch up work and mulching are all that is left to do on Franklin and Vine Street. This was as painful as waiting for trash cans to arrive. Thank you for being so patient. Council chambers need audio and video with new lighting in the Dome area. This all starts next week. If maneuvers go properly, we will be back there by the next cow meeting. Our HVAC system received a third bid which was the lowest bid from Wyoming Air. I would strongly recommend we appropriate the funds to upgrade our system. To my community: My thoughts turned to motivation, that which drives us in our behavior. A good place to start is to list your goals now. When you hit a certain age, your first goal should be to try and remember where you put your list. When you find it, this should lift your mood and give you momentum to work through the things you put down. This is when you question why you wrote what you wrote. Hopefully you will recall if not reward yourself anyway, for it is all about being kind to yourself and others, as kindness is a motivator.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Just to kind of finish things off to that Mr. Paul stated. I would actually like to have an ordinance put on the table for awarding the contract to Wyoming Air. My intent is also to ask to have a special council meeting immediately following the next cow meeting so that we could actually do the trash can placement and garbage ordinance as well, along with awarding the bid to Wyoming Air.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I did not realize we were doing the storm sewers so we need to look at that line item because most of that money is being used for the water works project.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- I am hoping that is will not be much. As soon as I get the estimates that I'll get with you. We may need an additional appropriation for that.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes-

July 2023 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for July 2023: \$662,400.
- July 2023 is down -6.84% from July 2022.
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1,662.12
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$11,969.20.
- Taxes paid through the e-file portal: \$2,882.84.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- No report.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- I have a monthly report for the fire department for July. There were six structure fires. There were nine other fires. There was one vehicle fire. Five auto accidents, 0 Hazmat incidents, 5 Service calls, fire alarms 14, CO alarms one and EMS assist 12 for total of 53 fire incidents as far as mutual aid given under Fire Norwood 2, Elmwood Place 6, Springfield Township 1, Reading 1. Mutual aid received Norwood 2, Reading 2, Wyoming 1, Lockland 2, Springfield Township 2, and Green Township 1. Rumpke recycling has seen an increase in fire due to customers not disposing of lithium-ion batteries properly. Please dispose of these batteries properly.

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- Tonight I have the service department report for the month of July 2023. There were 29 trucks placed at residence, 18 dumpsters placed at residence, 111 special pickups at residence, 155.96 tons of garbage taking the landfill. There are also 7 30-yard roll offs and 2 30-yard yard waste roll offs. Recycling report There was 22.03 tons of recycling material and 6880 pounds of scrap metal and a waste collection fee for the month of June, it was \$27,195. This amount was remitted to the village.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- The next CIC meeting has been rescheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Ms. Bedinghaus- Thank you Valier for giving a summary of our committee meeting last night. There is one addition I would like to bring to everyone's attention. Under yard waste, it is not really a change, but it is not something well known by many. When they do the fall leaf program, the leaves must be placed in what is called the road verge. That is the space between the sidewalk and gutter. Some are grass and some are concrete. That is where your leaves go, not in the gutter.

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- The Village will host Family night at the Aquatic Center this Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 6 to 10pm. There will be a DJ, games, and a grill out. This year's St. Clement Festival in Pig Roast will take place on Friday, September 8th from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM, Saturday, September 9th from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM, and Sunday, September 10th from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This event will take place at Vine Street Park and the Pavilion.

Business and Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- The mayor was nice enough to invite me to an update from Alloy yesterday. Alloy Development, who's been helping us. He already mentioned the

\$339,000 Community Revitalization Grant for the demo, which is a big deal obviously for us to get that underway, they also gave us an update on BASF. If you remember, they had an expansion they were planning and there was a decision to be made by them between their plant here and their plant in Singapore. Luckily for us, they've selected the expansion that happened here, so it's a \$70 million expansion that started. They've been approved for the real property tax incentives. They're planning to double their current building operations from 20,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet. The total new investment for that project will be \$70.5 million and it should increase jobs from 31 to 40. They also let us know that Remote Vans has relocated to Saint Bernard. And been awarded a \$50,000 state inclusion grant. They announced plans to relocate its office to Village Saint Bernard mid 2023 from their current facility in Cincinnati. If you don't know what they do, they customize high end Sprinter vans for recreational use.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Minutes for the last council meeting, we're submitted August 23rd and I have no communications.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 26 and Ordinance 27 on the table for this evening. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2023  
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2023  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT  
WITH PROLINE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Motion passed 7-0.

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- I just wanted to shed a little light on this. While the cameras have been in need for some time now. This is a need and desire for the village. This is not just a police department driven project. These cameras will be village wide. Focusing mainly on egress and ingress to the village to aid in apprehensions. These cameras will be very beneficial. The reason to accelerate this is the initial bid was \$70,000 and we have an opportunity to get an upgrade on the style of cameras at a lower price. There is a limited number of these left. We are desiring to speed this process up.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- So are these cameras that are going cheaper, are they last year's model? Do we run a risk of if they break, are we going to have a hard time getting them fix or replaced?

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- This company warranties everything and will go over and above to replace anything if it goes bad. They are not going to be obsolete. They have a newer model out now. The cameras we were going to get we not even of this quality. So, we are getting a better camera at a discounted rate.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- So, who will monitor these cameras? Will someone be actively monitoring these cameras day and night?

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- No one will monitor all of these cameras 24/7. But they will be 25 extra set of eyes. No one will sit and watch all 25 cameras along with the 26 cameras we already have. We could not monitor them around the clock. They will be great assistance when we need the extra set of eyes. They are accessible via cell phone so all officers will have access.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Do they have the ability to record?

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- Yes, they record and store up to 45 days. You can also download and save footage we want to keep.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- On the license plate reader cameras, they will throw and alert, correct? They other cameras that we would pay a rate every year, those had the ability to give alerts. So, if a wanted suspect was passing through, I thought that the cameras would throw an alert to notify us of the suspect.

Chief Of Police, Officer Simos- They can, and we can set up that capability. But it is recording a saving every plate that drives by. There is debate as to whether or not we need to be alerted every time. It does invite the potential for pursuits. We might be interested in chasing every car that comes into town. They do have a search function and we can link into their system's database of anyone who has this system.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Would these be public records? Or can someone make a records claim to see the tapes?

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- If it becomes evidentiary, I can only assume it would become public record. It would not automatically be public records, not to my knowledge, but I can check.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I can look into that also. It is a little different than the records we create, like police reports, which are public records.

Chief of Police, Officer Simos- It is a good question. All of our body cam footage is subject to public records. We do have a retention schedule for that also, I think it is 90 days.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- We should have a retention schedule. As long as we are compliant with that, and we dispose of it in accordance with our retention schedule, we don't have to recreate that if someone comes and asks for it later, as long as there is no legal hold on it.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE 27 2023  
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to have a special council meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- Just curious, what's going on with the second part of the front yard gardens?

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- We have not set up a meeting for that part yet. We will be having another Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting but we first have to tackle the short-term leases then we will discuss the gardens.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Tommy, just an update, how has it gone the last few weeks with the revised grass and weeds ordinance?

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- There is some language that we might want to take a closer look at. For the 5 days, I told Robert, in that ordinance, it states that we can't start within those five days, so we will still be out about 2 weeks. As of today, everyone has paid and everyone that has been written up is in compliance.

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave.- About St. Bernard school on knock down?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I cannot give you an exact date or an answer. The move in date for the new building is going to occur between Thanksgiving to Christmas break. We will determine from there how long it will take to vacate the old building. I would estimate early next year. I can try to have a better answer for you in the next days or two.

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave.- About Chicken Scratch? Will they open in September?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- We were told it was going to be next month sometime. I am going to reach out to them because their front yard is looking a bit rough anyway. I will reach out to them and get a more accurate date. I'll get back with you on that.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Special Council Meeting will be held Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm in Council Chambers.

Council met in executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Council returned from executive session.

Motion made by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned.