

**VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed all seven members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson, and Mr. Estep.

A motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the written minutes of the November 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, council meetings. Motion passes 7-0.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I am ok with proving them but I just got a printed copy today. I was looking at them and there are some misspellings. So, as long as I can get those to Caroline over the next week and she can change it that would be fine.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Ok. Please get those to the clerk so they can be corrected and printed.

A motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, 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- I'd like to start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays. Thank you for helping make 2023 such a great year. Just a reminder, City Hall and the Service Department are closed on both Christmas and New Year's Day. Will be no trash collection on either day. Trash collection for both weeks will be as follows. If you have Monday trash collection, is now on Tuesday. If you have Tuesday trash collection it moves to Wednesday. Thursday and Friday remain unchanged. I'd like to thank the community for cooperating and helping keeping our village clean. I've been meeting with the Recreation Department regarding the yearly events calendar for 2024 that is being finalized. We'll be distributing the information to the residents, along with garbage collection schedules and important contact numbers before the Village Councilman Estep suggested this, so be on the lookout for this to arrive either by mail or on your door. This information will also be incorporated in the digital newsletter as well. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President. On the agenda tonight is Ordinance 43 2023, which is the village budget for 2024. The expenditure is \$15,617,259. This is a little over \$4,000 under budget. Then also on the agenda is the Final Year Ordinance, which is Ordinance 46 2023.

That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to provide additional appropriations to the following: 01-2-K-2 Miscellaneous \$100,000.00 01-2-A-1 Mayor \$50.00 01-36-1 Employees \$1,500.00

That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to decrease appropriations to the following: 01-2-E-3 Refunds \$147,360.00 01-2-E-6 Tax Collection Fee \$17,750.00 01-PS Phone Services \$15,000.00 01-6-A-2 Clerks \$30,000.00 01-6-A-20 Police Pension \$22,000.00 01-2-0-18 Landfill and Composting \$45,000.00 01-58-7A Concerts \$13,900.00 01-58-8 Holiday Activity \$13,800.00 01-59-D P.E.R.S. \$50,000.00 01-61-A Worker's Compensation \$43,752.00 01-66 Unemployment \$10,000.00 02-33-2 SCMR Materials \$25,000.00 05-MP-IB Contract Staff \$40,000.00 05-MP-4 Property Management \$12,000.00 08 Police Pension \$24,652.00 10 C-9 Trust \$50,000.00 15-01 TIF Expenses \$10,800.00

This is over \$500,000 in decreases so as everybody freaks out over the budget every year, I could have actually decreased it even more. I just picked the major ones. We never spend the entire budget. So, this is just proof this is a half million dollars coming out and I could have done more. So, I'd appreciate your support on both ordinances. Thank you.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- No report.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- I'm not sure if I gave this reporter last time or not, but the Star Ohio balance at the end of November for the village totaled \$11,271,788.37. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- President, many of our projects have been completed. Some took a little longer than expected. We continue with our progress this coming year, concentrating on more of our streets. We do keep trying for grants. Kemper, Greenlee and Vine are top on our list. With all the heavy traffic, Vine Street took quite a hit. Rest assured we are paving the way for our future. The pavilion roof is completed. I have given the company permission to wait and move their equipment from the top as it takes a crane, and the crane delivers it to their next job. No harm is being done to my community. I've been thinking about time. You know, lifetime. It seems our entire existence is based on time. It's time to feed the baby. Time for changing, time to get up for school, time for breakfast. Today we are going to have a time test. OK, times up. Recess time. Ohh, first love broke up, did you? Well time heals all wounds. Time is time to earn your keep. Get a job. Don't be late. Be on time. Ohh, good lunchtime. Anyone know what time the meeting is this Afternoon break time. That was a good time. What time is supper? This time of year it gets dark early. Hey time for our TV show. Well, it's nighttime and just happens to be my bedtime. And just so you know that I did not waste our precious time, it is imperative that you find your time of peace to realize that a piece of you is timeless.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- I just want to reiterate what I was able to share last week, we were able to meet with the mayor and the auditor and review ordinances 43 through 46. And the only additional comment I have is that I recommend their passage today. And that concludes my report. Thank you.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- I have the waste collection fees for the month of October 2023. \$25,800.06 cents were remitted to the village for the month of November. The service department had 25 dump trucks placed at residence. 16 dumpsters place of residence. 175 special pickups are residents. 23.7 tons of recycling material collected, and 5,920 lbs. of scrap metal collected furthermore I have completed my sunshine law training course this morning with this training completed I'll begin planning dates for upcoming service committee meetings that year. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- No report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you, Mr. President, for the month of November. I have the Police Department report. They had 715 calls for service, resulting in 476 contacts. There were an additional 457 other services details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 31 total criminal offenses, resulting in 83 criminal arrests, 50 traffic citations and 60 traffic warnings. They responded to 16 accidents as well. News and notes they said the additional cameras to improve safety and security are nearly all installed. The project should be completed by the end of January. The long-awaited new school will be operational after the first of the year. Please be patient while the traffic will. Steps get worked out as it will be fluid ever changing situations for the remainder of the school year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- There will be a marketing committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 PM in Council chambers. Will be discussing the monthly newsletter in the village welcome packet for new residents. Also, I would like to remind everybody that the Pavilion is open daily from 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM for pickleball and basketball. Please bring your own equipment and two would like to wish all the residents and employees a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I'd like to get in touch with Ray Culbertson and Jeff Edwards and talk to them about inviting the new businesses or some of the former businesses into a council meeting and tell us more about what they're doing with their store or business, whatever they have. Also like to thank the mayor for the proclamation for WGRR tomorrow. I'll be taking that over with Ray Culberson and wishing him a good send off. That concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Minutes for the last meeting were submitted yesterday, the 20th and I have no communications this evening.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 43, 2023

### AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND ESTABLISHING NEW LINE ITEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 43 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 43 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 44, 2023

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF DEMOLITION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 44 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 44 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 45, 2023

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF BRINGING THE LAND OR REAL PROPERTY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 905 (TREES AND WEEDS) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 45 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- I'm wondering if any members of council can tell me a little bit more about the problems with this property. What needed to be remedied to the tune of seven hundred \$700?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Is it ok that I answer?

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- I kind of think that if council's going to vote on it, they should know. And I respect that members of the administration have intimate knowledge of this, and I'm not implying that you don't or. But I would like to know if council members know what they're voting on.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- These fees are associated with trash removal. That's what I have gathered from my conversations with some folks in the administration. I didn't really get the details on what type of trash, though I do have to admit.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Just to give additional information and why it may appear to be excessive. So, the property itself obviously had tall grass, noxious weeds, which really wasn't the biggest part of the problem. At the same time, the property when it was acquired, they demoed the garage and basically left it just there. They did not remove all of the debris. They made an attempt. We worked with the property owner and their contractor to try to bring them into compliance and they just basically walked off the job. Leaving the entire area in complete disrepair. The neighbors were upset. It was, I mean, we're talking about we had to move, remove more, I mean dump trucks worth of material, which was not the norm. It's one thing going and picking up some trash, this was rubbish. It was excessive and we could not get ahold of the property owner, they wouldn't respond to all of our mailings and correspondence. And again, we also then no longer could reach the contractor who was acting as their representative, who was

actively filling dumpsters by hand. Swe needed to remove the materials so we could then mow the yard. This was an exceptional situation and not the norm. This was way more involved than just a mowing fee.

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Thank you for the information and I would appreciate it if council knew what they were voting on.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- Just to reply to the request by the person in the audience. A lot of this took place before I was on council, but I was down there with a friend, and we saw the mess and I'm glad the city did what they had to do and took care of that. So, I thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 45 2023.  
Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 46, 2023

#### AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 46 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 46 2023. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on Council have anything under old business?

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I know within the last month I have asked to be put on the agenda to discuss missing meetings, so I would like to be put on the committee of the whole agenda to discuss that. And I do have one more suggestion or comment. I was talking to Tom Paul about this yesterday or the day before. Computers and printers for council people. We have nothing. I mean, in order for us to get anything, we have to use home stuff. I think it would be nice, and this is just my feeling and how council feels about it, if there was a room that we could have here at City Hall that if we need to do village business that we it would be designated for us and it would have a computer and a printer for us as well. Could you put me on the agenda for that and let other council members discuss it at the next meeting please?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- If you are going to look into this, it was not in our budget. The city has never supplied me with a computer or printer at home. But I do think if you have a laptop or possibly an iPad you can bring it down here and print to the printer.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Ok. You can buy me a laptop then. You know I don't have a computer or a printer and if there is going to be stuff that I need to do, city business, there should be something down here for us. We can discuss this at the next meeting.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- We do not supply anybody with their own personal computer or printer. When I was on council, I bought my own with my council money, which is a suggestion. I think most people have a laptop.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- It is on the agenda, and we will discuss at the January COW.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I talked to Cheryl today. I did get all of council's addresses and emails, so if the mayor could put that on her desk, I would appreciate it. So, she can update the new phone list for everyone.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on council have anything under new business?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I wanted to announce that the Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting for CIC has been canceled. We will reconvene in January.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Something that Ray and Jonathan said, it seems like the hot topic on Facebook are these pickleball courts. I think we need to come up with a policy like we don't need to call people in, and just my personal opinion, on Christmas Day to open them up. I know you said that they're open, but it seemed like that was a big thing and we were calling people in to open them. Will they be closed possibly on Christmas and New Year?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, the calling people in, is calling me in. So, it is fine. Just to let you know, we got the issue kind of fixed with getting that open. So basically, what was happening is that during the warmer months while the park crew was working on weekends, was covering the opening of the gate. So as soon as, because it is seasonal, as soon as their schedule changed for weekends, the Pavilion wasn't getting opened, and it was a little bit erratic on scheduling. So, I would see a Facebook post, or I would get called and I would go down and unlock it, which is fine. Now we have the garbage crew unlocking the gate in the morning and the police locking the gate at night. I am not going to let the community miss a day of pickleball since people take it very seriously. I will come down and unlock it on Christmas and New Year's.

The next Committee of the Whole will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Estep, seconded by Mr. Moreton to adjourn. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.