

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING

April 25th, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on April 25th, 2024, in Council Chambers.

The meeting began with a prayer and 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.

Council Meeting suspended for Public Hearing.

Public Hearing begins.

President of Council, Mr. Schildmeyer- Introduced and welcomed Jennifer Vatter from JMA Consulting to discuss the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Jennifer Vatter, JMA Consultants- Good evening. So, this is your second public hearing as we discussed at the first public hearing. And this is to generate ideas and then formulate what you would like to apply for with the Community Development Block Grant program, which is administered through Hamilton County, for all of the jurisdictions in the county outside of the city of Cincinnati and typically in the last couple of three-year funding cycles and this is just a reminder, it's a three-year funding cycle. So, this funding would be for 2024, 2025, and 2026. The village has received approximately \$130,000 in funding and that's the total. So that's and you usually receive that in one year and you can split it between projects, but our recommendation is usually to do it in one project if you can, if you want to, because you know going through their process, just it makes it simpler, a little more bang for the buck to do it in one project. But certainly, it is up to you. As we discussed, generally the program is to benefit low to moderate income persons and the map that I handed out is from the community development website, they have the link to that. So that shows the census tract and block groups, the block group census tracts that are eligible. In the village and as the mayor I think brought up last time, sometimes it looks like it may not make sense because you may think you know this street you would think is eligible and this one isn't. It's just the sometimes those block group lines as I'm sure you all know just are some somewhat arbitrary, but you know you have to draw a line somewhere. So those are the eligible areas. If you wanted to do a project outside of those areas, you could do an income survey if it was like a roadway project. We've done those in the past. They take a little bit of time, but that's possible. And you can also do some other projects like handicap accessibility or senior citizens. They're a little harder to qualify. So again, we usually recommend sticking to those eligible areas just makes the process a little more difficult and you don't have to go through the other processes but. It is. It is possible so. I'm happy to answer any questions. The applications are due Tuesday, so we will need your you know, if it's not absolutely decided tonight, I will need it by, I would say Monday morning to decide what you know, what you would want to apply for. If you want to apply for roadway improvements, which you've done in

the past, you do not need to name a specific St. We can just say that it will be in an eligible area, or it will meet the income requirements as required by the program. So that is a possibility and if we do that, we will probably apply for funding in 2025 or 2026. We could apply for it in 2024 but it's getting they won't make their recommendations and finalize these until probably June. So, it just puts you a little bit behind the 8 ball to get something out you know out to bid and complete. So, you know we could do it, but it would be a crunch. So, my recommendation would be to apply in 2025 or 2026 if that's what you want to choose.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Personally, I would like to stick with the paving projects if possible. We do have multiple streets identified either way. So, whether or not we you know prioritize, but it was very helpful as to how we're funding exactly with the work that's being done on Kemper and Church right now from the previous round. So, I would like to actually keep going with the street project. Whether council has any other thoughts, but as far as trying to identify if we were to use it for parks, that kind of thing. I would like to have more of a comprehensive plan for Vine Street say you know too; you know estimates on lighting and other improvements to the field and retaining wall and so forth.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Are all the projects we're assuming, are they all within the area already that's approved?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Not necessarily. There are some that we would need to, well there's a couple that, truthfully, we need to work on paying for ourselves. Like for example, Tower Ave. needs to be done that. That does not fall within boundaries and eligible areas could change, but it is identical to the last round. So, we are kind of forced to stay within that area. Yes, I know we can come up with that, but we do have other streets that to prioritize that we would need to pay for on our own.

Public Hearing concludes.

Council Meeting resumes.

Council Member, Mr. Estep introduced Dr. Webb, the Superintendent of St. Bernard Elmwood Place Schools, as guest speaker.

Superintendent, SBEP Schools, Dr. Webb- I want to thank the council and the members of the community for their kindness, for their patience and support through this very, very long process. And it has been a long process and everybody in the school district acknowledges that. But we are in phase two and we can see an end in sight. So, people have asked how does this benefit the students and the community? Well, on the elementary side, our preschool just received what's called five stars. That's the highest award you can get from the state of Ohio for your preschool. It says that we are, we are offering education in the areas of social, emotional and academic growth for our youngest learners. So, we're very proud of that and it's very hard to get and we've worked on it for a long time. Within the new building, we now have daily grade level collaborations during common planning times. This doesn't sound like it's much, but it is. It gives the teachers who have common planning time to specifically work with particular students who might be struggling or students who are advanced. It gives them time to improve instruction. It is sharing best practice. When we were in two buildings this was very difficult because we would

have one third grade teacher in one place and one in another place. The musicals. Our musicals have been wonderful. I hope all of you have attended, but now that we're in one place, the high school students are able to work with us during the day and after school to help the younger kids practice, and it's been really fun to watch that particular activity grow. We also now have opportunities for enrichment. We now have things like common recycling, cheerleading, astronomy club after school, clubs, Girl Scouts and field trips. Having the kids all together for field trips is wonderful. We have also developed a gifted program with a gifted coordinator on sight. This allows students to accelerate at their own speed. We have also accelerated our math programs. Sixth grade students are now taking Pre-Algebra. In the Junior and Senior High School side, we have what's called a STEM lab, which is science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In that STEM lab, we're producing something called the Daily Titans, which our kids do themselves and go out there and talk about what's going on in school and tell each other about events. It's allowing them to use interactive technology and explore careers. We also have Extended Learning Areas. These spaces allow the student to collaborate together. It has been fun to see the children working together. The teachers are using interactive technology to help students with engagement. We did not in the old building have a lot of technology because of when it was built, technology wasn't a big deal. We do now have a lot of technology and it is going to good use. We also have college credit plus classes, and these will be fed by our gifted program which allows children as young as well technically 7th grade to take college credit at no expense to their parents. And interestingly enough, the students have told staff and myself they feel safer, and that's because the school was designed with updated security. We have doors where you will come in, adults on one side there's a glass pane and the students enter on the other side. We will have more technology coming soon. It is wonderful and I will invite you at some point in the late summer or early fall, we will be having a dedication and open house. I hope you will come and see it because the halls are wide, it's bright. We have doors, we have windows, it's. The kids can't thank you enough and, on their behalf, I will thank you.

Mr. Hendricks, Treasurer and CFO, SBEP Schools- First and foremost, I must never delay gratitude. Thanks, John, for inviting us here today. We appreciate the opportunity. Mayor Stuchell, we appreciate your support. It's been invaluable. Mayor Stuchell has been there every step of the way. Offering whatever you can. I just heard as recently as today that he had taken a day off work to be able to speak with our social studies class, which is fantastic. That's great. Thank you. I would like to extend my gratitude to Police Chief Simos and Fire Chief Young. I think within the last year they would say that they were on speed dial quite a few times. I reached out to both of them for numerous things and they came right away. They come to help and have been so helpful. Thank you and your team Chief Young and Chief Simos. We really, really appreciate that. Building update, so progress of the building as many of you have noticed, the elementary and junior and senior High schools are swiftly being replaced. Kind of sore spot for me since I went to both schools, but it's neat. We're super excited for what we call phase two, which is the demo and replacing the buildings with two parking lots, one on the north side, one on the south side, On the south side by the elementary we're also putting in a nice size playground and half-court basketball court on the playground that will be completely fenced in, which is something that I think I spoke and advocated for. Having a playground completely fenced in for our children, for community members that want to come in the evening, they want to play, but maybe they can't chase that kid around that could run off out the park. This will be

completely fenced in. They can come in, close the gate and just let them play. So, we're super excited about that. We are also expanding our board parking lot. Our community provides for our school district, so we want to give back. We want the community to be able to use our parking lots for whatever events are happening in the community. Our motto throughout this move has been "Stronger Together." There are a number of benefits of being stronger together, since moving three buildings into one. We welcome students and staff back from winter break, January 8th. As a tangible reminder of their collective strength. We provided each student and staff member with what I presented to you guys today. We believe that together we can achieve greatness for our youth and empower their potential. It takes a village. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. I see great things happening in the future.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. Estep for inviting these two wonderful people. We have developed a great relationship, the village, and the school system. We have worked very well together, and we are stronger together. We now have the SRO, and you have weather the storm of getting the new building constructed. Everyone should have something to be proud of right in the center of the village.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I'd like to start off by having a moment of silence for William Rebholz, who passed away this morning. He was a longtime police officer for the Saint Bernard Police Department and retired as a Sergeant who faithfully served this community. I'd like to ask again that you please keep Sergeant Rebholz and his family in your prayers at this time. Thank you. I'd also like to thank Jennifer Vatter and John Goedy from JMA Consultants who have faithfully guided us through all of our projects. We have been discussing the Vine Street project for some time and the bids have been received. I am asking that both Ordinance 10 and 11 be placed on the table this evening and I'm asking or hoping that they both be passed by emergency so this project can be scheduled ASAP and take advantage of the summer months when school is not in session. The project will include complete milling of the pavement, repair of the compromised areas, resurfacing, installation of the crosswalks and cushions near St. Clemont. Paving will be done on Vine Street from Bertus to McClelland and Bertus to Orchard and on Leonard to Orchard. I'm also asking for those that have been informed or are going to be informed by the code enforcement officer that their property is not in compliance due to high grass and weeds to please take care of it in a timely manner. I appreciate your immediate attention to this and thank you to those who have maintained their properties. Thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Tonight on the agenda is Ordinance 11 2024. This includes additional appropriations for the following: 05-MP-9 Streets and Sewers \$660,000.00. This is for the portion of Vine Street that we will have to pay for. We did get an OPWC grant of \$245,750 which would be going towards this project. The one surprise was the additional preparation of 01-2-K-1 Elections \$10,000.00. Never seen it this high. It was over \$16,000 this year, but I don't recall seeing one in a while. So, I don't know if they combine them or if elections are going to cost us much. But basically, how this works is we get the property tax money, and they take it out of there. So, they've already reduced our property tax money, but it was like \$15,000 something. We will need Ordinance 11 2024 to pass so we can pay for our portion of the election. I will raise

it in the budget next year so match the same amount. If we find we don't need as much, we can lower it in the following years. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- You should have before you Resolution 3 2024 and Ordinance 12 2024, which we discussed at the committee of the whole meeting. Direct your attention to Resolution 3 2024. Caroline, can you look at the original copy you have in front of you? There was a numerical error. After be it resolved, it shows section 1 section 2 section 3 section 3 section 4. It should be section 3, section 4 and section 5. Caroline can just change this and fix the sections because it has not been read yet. Resolution 3 2024 does address the issue we discussed at the last meeting, which is objecting to the issuance or renewal of a retail liquor permit. Again, if you have any questions about it substantially, I'm happy to answer any questions, but I think it's explanatory on its face. The business stated in the resolution is not paying taxes. Ordinance 12 2024 has to do with the engine braking signs. We didn't actually have a section that other code that I could see or that I saw that applied to engine braking. So basically, the proposed would be at section 339.12 to prohibit engine braking that creates a noise and disturbing the peace and quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood. I did add the verbiage on section C of this section which shall not apply to any motor vehicle responding to a bonafide emergency or avoiding a traffic accident, and that would also include, for example, our fire trucks. If any of those were involved, or if we've actually got a truck that has an actual emergency, you know it needs to make a sudden stop. We will allow for that. Section 2 directs the Safety and Service Director to put appropriate signage at appropriate locations. I wanted to give a little leeway there. I don't know if we were just talking about Ross Ave. or if it's an issue in other areas? Maybe Greenlee, maybe Vine Street? And I thought that would be a better decision by the mayor and the Safety Service Director. Any questions?

Council Member, Mr., Schildmeyer- You mentioned the construction on the Norwood Lateral in here. Are there any concerns that when that construction is done, someone's going to make the argument that this is no longer needed?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Not really. We have had discussions previously about a lot of cut through traffic, even before the Norwood Lateral project. This is something a great number of communities have, with heavy vehicles passing through. Really all we are doing is say, don't do that. Once the lateral work is done, this is still valid. I was trying to articulate that traffic has been heightened by the lateral project.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Thank you, Mr. President. This evening, we received the Star Ohio statements for our investments with them. At the end of March, the village total was \$12,180,199.66. Copies have been given out to council and the clerk. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- Absent.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- March 2024 end of month receipts:

- Tax collections for March 2024: \$1,942,361.
- March 2024 is up 1.63% or \$31,121 from March 2023.
- Refunds for March: \$27,776.05

- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1,454.01.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$88,800.10.
- Our revenues are only up for March due to collections of delinquent tax from the Ohio Attorney General. We would have been down 3.02% without those collections.
- 309 new cases, totaling \$550,471.49, were sent to the OAG in March. These were all delinquent 2022 filing assessments in which we had no compliance from the taxpayer. I want to remind everyone that filing your tax return is required by law.
- Sharon and I want to thank all of the residents who have filed and paid their St. Bernard tax over the past few weeks. Your support of your community is appreciated. Sharon and I should have most of the 2023 tax returns from April 15th audited by the end of June. Letters will be going out if there are corrections or we need additional information.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- The Finance Committee met last week to discuss the replacement of some of the Village's large assets, including a firetruck, unloader, and street sweeper. I want to thank Fire Chief Young, Foreman Middendorf, Auditor Brickweg, and Mayor Stuchell for attending and clarifying our committee's understanding of the urgent need for these expenditures. May's Community Connect has been rescheduled for the following Thursday, May 9th from 5:30-6:30PM in the Lower Level of City Hall. As always, all those who live or work in the Village are welcome to attend and share any questions, concerns, or celebrations. I also encourage attendees to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting afterwards at 7PM. That concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- I have the waste collection fees for the month of February 2024. \$23,304.13 which was remitted to the village. For the month of March 2024, the service department had 29 dump trucks placed at residences, 16 dumpsters placed at residence, 211 special pickups, 167.09 tons of garbage taken to the landfill, 23.7 tons of recycling material collected, 5160 lbs. of scrap metal collected, and 20 tires collected. Lastly, I would like to give a final reminder of our upcoming Cleanup Saint Bernard Day this Sunday, April 28th from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. All participants should be in the Lower lot City Hall prior to start the event. Trash bags and garbage pickers will be distributed for use. At the conclusion of the event, all those interested are invited to come by the Pavilion and find Street Park for Grill. Thank you for contributing to making our community a cleaner place to live. Feel free to bring a chair and a cooler with your favorite drinks. Whether you participate in the event or not, all are welcome. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee meeting this month, but I would like to thank the property owners who are maintaining their yards so well. We're well into spring and I walk around our village. You can see the pride so many residents take not only in maintaining their yards but really putting them on display. Thank you again. I would also like to remind others that they haven't cut their grass yet, it's time. It's disrespectful to your neighbors and village not to maintain your lawns according to the community standards. I would also like to thank and congratulate our service department on how beautiful Vine Street Park, and the fields look. I've been proud when my granddaughter's team

hosted a game in residence from other communities see how beautiful a field can look. By the way, the last two years my daughter's team has been 15-0. Roger Bacon Gives Back Day on May 10th. They're doing community work, they're volunteering to clean up yards, pick up trash, and just do little projects. So, if anyone has any need, they can contact Roger Bacon High School for that. Thank you, Mr. President.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- St. Bernard Fire Department is hosting a car seat technician class next week at the Safety Center in collaboration with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Safe Kids Worldwide. As part of this class, they will be hosting a free car seat check event at the Fire Department located at 4200 Vine Street from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM next Friday, May 3rd. Free car seats are available to those in need while supplies last. Safety Committee Meeting was held April 2nd, 2024. Topics discussed were:

- ❖ Resume Block Watch Meeting
 - Ms. Hausfeld, along with Police Chief Simos and Fire Chief Young are working to resume Block Watch. Currently gathering information.
 - The Block Watch group has disbanded. Looking for new group of volunteers to continue.
 - Would like to be sponsored by Police and Fire Departments
 - Discussing/presenting educational features and/or demonstrations for prevention.
 - Hard to generate interest- need to come up with engaging topics.
- ❖ Discussed current safety issues.
 - Car thefts and break-ins.
 - Car thefts and Break Ins have slowed drastically.
 - Break ins of Shur Fine are being investigated. Possible suspect.
 - Alarms are being delayed.
- ❖ Discussed current and future budgets for Police and Fire Departments
 - Will be discussed also at the Finance Meeting with Mayor.
- ❖ Criminalization of Cannabis.
- ❖ Educational Programs surrounding safety issues and prevention.
 - Programs to include fraud, smoke detectors, CPR, First Aid, FBI, Citizens Police Academy, and gun safety.
- ❖ Picnic Area- Concerns
 - Size of groups renting the picnic areas
 - Unruly groups or crowds
 - Unable to limit a group of renters- may have 10 unruly people versus a larger group of people following the rules and regulations.
 - Eventually employ a person to make sure things are being properly used in our parks/picnic areas.
 - Updating our park/picnic rental agreements
 - Posting all Rules and Regulations in all parks
- ❖ K-9 Unit is put on hold/back burner.

❖ School Resource Officer for Police Department and Schools.

Always call 911 for emergencies and 513-242-2727 for non-emergency. If you see something that is not right or a safety issue, please do not hesitate to call the police. Any safety questions or concerns, please call Ms. Hausfeld at 513-288-6300

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee had a meeting April 23rd. In that we discussed language having to do with short- and long-term rentals, the weed and trash ordinance and the council attendance policies. We advanced all three with the intent of by our next committee meeting, having language that we can then push forward and recommend to council for all three of those. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 22nd at 7:00 here in Council Chambers.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Application for booths at this year's German Luau are now being accepted until May 20th. All local nonprofit schools and other organizations are encouraged to participate and share in the fun and the profits from this year's event. For more information. Please contact Mindy Miller at events@cityofsaintbernard.org. T-ball sign up deadline is next Friday, May 3rd. Feel free to stop by City Hall during normal business hours to sign your little ones up.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton to add Ordinance 10 and Ordinance 11 to the table for tonight's meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I visited St. Bernard Elmwood Place schools talk with Dr. Webb and she showed up tonight did nice job. Would like to thank her and Mr. Hendricks. I'll I'm also in touch with Steve shaded Roger Bacon he's scheduled to come to our next council meeting to give an update what they're doing at Roger Bacon. That concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Committee of the Whole minutes were submitted April 24th and there are no communications this evening.

RESOLUTION NO. 03, 2024

RENEWAL AN RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR PERMIT 0653205 (D5 and D6) TO BEST FRIENDS MANAGEMENT LLC, DBA THE JESTER IN ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REQUESTING A HEARING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Estep, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 3 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Resolution 3 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 09, 2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL

OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 9 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 9 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2024

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEYRA PAVING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Estep, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 10 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Stuchell, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 10 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2024

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

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 11 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson- When will you pave that street? Parking signs?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- The final paving will be completed in a week or two. They are fixing some areas that were compromised on the street and the drains before the final coat goes down. People can still park there, on the street right now, until they go to pave the final coat. We put new signs up before they pave, and we will issue a call command.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to adopt Ordinance 11 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2024

ENACTING SECTION 339.12, ENGINE BREAKING, WITHIN TITLE FIVE OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 12 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 12 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

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

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I mention awhile ago about the signed enter St. Bernard and how nasty some of those looks. I was told it was being worked on, but it has been a long time ago. The signs on Ross Ave coming into St. Bernard are really raggedy looking. We need to either replaced them or take them down. They just look bad.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell-We will take care of it, so it won't be an issue.

No audience comments or participation.

Next Committee of the Whole will be held May 9th, 2024, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Next Council Meeting will be held May 23rd, 2024, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.