

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, February 05, 2015 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Michael Peck – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mrs. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culberson and Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mrs. Schildmeyer seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – (read by Ms. VanValkenburg) Good evening and welcome to Scout Night: Mayor Burkhardt was unable to attend the meeting this evening but would like to thank each of you for participating in this Annual event. He also would like to present each of you with a pocket tool from the St. Bernard Fire Department that will come in handy on your scouting adventures. Years from now you will look back and remember this night, your fellow scouts, and your friends and family that have encouraged and supported your efforts in becoming exemplary young men. Again, thank you for your participation.

The Mayor's Monthly Court Report Receipts for January, 2015: Mayor's Court Costs/Fines/Fees/Miscellaneous receipts were \$2,452.27. Bonds forfeited \$125.00 and Bonds applied to outstanding tax obligations \$425.00. Total to the City was \$3,002.27. Total to the County was \$15.00. Total to the State was \$981.00. Total Disbursements were \$3,998.27.

The St. Bernard Woman's Club Scholarship Luncheon is Saturday, May 2nd in the main level of the Municipal building. The guest speaker is WGRR radio host, Janeen Coyle, of Chris and Janeen in the morning. This luncheon is the primary fundraiser for the Annual Scholarship Awards. Scholarship applications are available on our website at www.cityofstbernard.org and are due April 24th. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and are available at the Administrative offices (242-7770) or call (513)673-9873.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – In Council's mailboxes tonight are the revenue spreadsheets. I'm still currently working on the spreadsheets but at the end of January the expenditures were \$1,011,877.96. When you compare that to 2014 with the bond money out the expenditures are down \$130,317.55. The revenues with the CIC debt out for 2015 were \$887,739.84. When you compare that number with 2014 our revenues for January are up \$132,925.28. The Auditor's Department are still currently working on the audit and I would like to be put on the agenda for the COW to review the Police Car Ordinance.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – Mayor’s Court ran rather late last night. In addition to the regular criminal tax and traffic dockets we had six trials scheduled. Four of those were resolved before the trials actually took place. Two of the traffic trials took place, one of which involved six witnesses. The Village did win in both of those cases. I spent most of the week working on an Ordinance leasing of the police cars which will be discussed at the next COW. I’d like to thank both Peggy Brickweg and Heidi Culbertson for a great deal of work on getting both of those Ordinances to a position where they could be set.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the report from Fifth Third on the funds that we have down there. As of the end of January we have \$2,195,000.00 with our next CD maturing in June of this year. In addition we have the new account with Ohio Star Plus including \$240,000.00 deposit that the Auditor made on the 26th of last month. That balance now with the State of Ohio is \$725,023.89 as of the end of January.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. Van Valkenburg – Our newest Firefighter is Jason Smith. Jason started with the department on January 31st. Michael Imhoff should begin sometime this coming week. After the Mayor returns and can swear him in.

Applications for police officers test are being accepted through February 13, 2015 for the police officer level. That’s only through next Monday so if anybody is interested they should do this very quickly. This test is to be given February 21, 2015.

The test previously scheduled on that same day is being postponed. We were approached by a couple of current Lieutenants asking for additional time for men to prepare, it’s quite lengthy and there is a lot of material to review, so that will be reviewed and we’ll get that rescheduled at some point. I don’t know when.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – Absent.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – I would also like to welcome all the scouts tonight. I always look forward to this every year and I have three scouts up there watching with a lot of interest. I gave each member of Council a monthly report comparing revenues from last year. You can see we brought in \$789,000.00 in January. We had a very good January. Compared to last year we brought in over \$100,000.00 more than last year for January. As I reported last year, you’ll notice now that the numbers that I report are different from what Peggy reports and Nick. Nick and I work closely with Peggy. We reconcile every month to make sure we’re on track because obviously we the Tax Office is the major income for the City. I want to give you a report that we are now creating every month so you can see the Tax Office records money that is received by the Tax Office, or postmarked and deposited. Those are the two dates we use. The Auditor’s Office uses the date it hits the bank. So you can see in that report, you’ll see the reconciliation of how we receive certain payments in December that didn’t clear to the bank until a couple of days later so if Council would like this report every month I’ll be glad to give it to you. It just gives you an idea and shows that the numbers do add up down to the penny. And again I work very closely with Peggy and especially with Nick. Every month we work together. Just for next week’s COW report, my Deputy Tax Commissioner, Leighanne Helmes wants to be put on the docket.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – (read by Scout Jared) I am inviting our residents to a Clean Up St. Bernard day, Saturday, April 18th from 9:00am until 12:00noon. We will meet in the lower level parking lot by Fifth/Third Bank. We will be picking up trash along the residential streets. I would like to thank the following donors: Scherpie's Deli for a mixture of fruit. JuJu Beans for coffee and hot chocolate, St. Bernard LaRosa's for pizzas and New Shoots Landscaping for bottled water and soft drinks.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – (read by Scout Jyahmeer) The next Block Watch meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30pm and will include a tour of the new Safety Center. For those attending, please meet at the entrance to the Safety Center at 6:30pm.

I also have the February Fire Department report. During the month the Fire Department responded to 97 Ambulance Runs, 13 Mutual aid ambulance runs, 36 fire runs, 5 mutual aid fire runs and taught 1 CPR class.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have a report on the winter salt usage.

2013 – 2014 winter: approximately 1,500 tons

2014 -2015 winter: approximately 140 tons to date 2/5/2015.

That's quite a bit less and we're not complaining about it.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I would like to start out by saying that my email account has been hacked, my personal account, not the Village. So if you sent me an email in the last two months I have not gotten it. You can call me at home, my number is (513) 934-9202. I just want you to know that. If you need me call me at home.

(read by Scout Johnny) The Building Department is currently conducting inspection on \$20 million of commercial projects during 2014.

The breakdown of permits is as follows:

In 2014 we have issued 161 permits; OBC and one, two and three family construction;

A. OBC regulated construction: year to date 55 permits were issued.

B. RBC regulated construction: year to date 106 permits were issued.

Inspections and Plan review;

A. Approximately 200 inspections were made on commercial and residential projects.

B. 36 plan examinations and reviews.

HIP

A. Home inspections on Church Street, Park Place and Tennis Lane have been completed.

B. 29 sets or orders.

The following projects have been completed and Certificate of Occupancies have been issued:

The St. Bernard Service Center

The St. Bernard Safety Center

The Pineapple Project for the Emery Corporation

The Friars Club

The Village in cooperation with the CIC has completed another home remodel and is pleased to announce that there is a contract to purchase.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – (read by Scout Jaylen) The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss revising the Village's Solicitation Ordinance. The Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio (PUCO) recently revised several rules regarding competitive retail and natural gas services. The rules became effective on Dec. 1, 2014. The main revising that the committee will be discussing is the hours that someone can go from door to door for the purpose of solicitation. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio states that the hours of solicitation must be between 9:00am and 7:00pm. The Law Director will be meeting with the Police Chief to see if the Village solicitation hours should be consistent with the PUCO's rules.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – (read by Scout Alex) Last week at the COW meeting we had some residents and business owners offer suggestions and ideas about how to get new businesses here in town, as well as many other productive ideas. I will be meeting with the Mayor and putting together a Town Hall Meeting in the near future to further this discussion. I would also like to thank everyone that showed up and gave their suggestions to make St. Bernard a better place.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – (read by Scout Jake) Dial-A-Ride daily bus passengers for the month of January, 2015 were 1209 riders.

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

Committee of the Whole
Jan. 29, 2015

1. Council approved the minutes of the Jan. 22nd Council meeting.
2. The names were drawn for the winners of the lottery for the County grant for the weatherization program.
3. After a discussion, and explanation from the Law Director that the Village would not be liable if the property at 4433 Greenlee Ave. was not demolished. Mr. Walden also said that if we did demolish the building we could try to recoup our money through a civil suit against the property owners. There was a question on whether we needed a motion to table the Ordinance. That will be done at the next Council meeting.
4. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
 - A. Gave Council a financial report on the 2014 healthcare plan from USI. As you can see, we came in under budget, \$1,374,852 was budgeted and \$1,156,121 was spent. He thanked the Health Care Committee members and the employees for working with him on the changes. There were compromises made on both sides and the changes have worked. If the numbers are consistent over the next year or two, we could then be considered to become part of a larger pool, which in turn could reduce costs to the employees.
 - B. Thanked everyone that came to the meeting to discuss the future of St. Bernard. He apologized for not being at the meeting, but asked anyone that wanted to discuss their ideas to please call him. He would be more than willing to set up a town hall meeting for the residents to voice their opinions or suggestions. He congratulated the winners of the lottery for the weatherization program. This program will help with heating and cooling cost while improving curb appeal.
 - C. The updated service department contract was emailed to Council, with the grievance language changes, and since he didn't receive any calls, he assumed that it was good to move forward. Council voted 5-0 to place it on the table.
5. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - A. Reported that her office had invested the \$240,000.00 from the CD that had matured.
 - B. Said that W-2's had been sent out and some were mailed to the summer help.
 - C. Is continuing to work on the audit on the Village.

6. Law Director, Curtis Walden
 - A. Said that he had not been able to get with the Police Chief to discuss changes to the Solicitation Ordinance and asked that it be moved to the next COW meeting.
7. Safety Director, Valerie Van Vulkenburg
 - A. Said that the interviews for the fire department positions were complete and that they were waiting for the results of the physicals before making offers for employment.
 - B. Gave the December Police Department report. During the month of December, officers were involved in 585 calls for service. Of those calls, officers responded to 24 accident reports and took 19 offense reports. Officers cleared a total of 10 offenses. Officers made 66 misdemeanor arrests and 0 felony arrests. Officers responded to 28 parking complaints and issued 3 citations. Officers issued 13 traffic citations, 2 DUI arrests and 23 warnings. Officers responded to 60 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles, or persons.
8. Service Director, Phil Stegman
 - A. Reported that the Village received \$29,000.00 from ODOT for the Safety Center. The money will need to be put into his line item the next time that an Ordinance is on the table. Council agreed to this request.
9. Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser
 - A. Said that the department has sent out 300 1099 G forms for refunds or credits. If anyone has questions on these he asked that they call the office.
 - B. Said that the online tool is up and running and is a good tool for the department.
 - C. Reported that the Governor has signed HB 5 and some of the tax changes will take place right away, with some not taking effect until 2016. An update to the Tax Code might need to be done later in the year.
10. Finance, Don Tobergte
 - A. Said that he had talked to Phil Stegman about the trench on Vine St for the streetscape project, and that they are in compliance with OSHA regulations.
 - B. Reported that his next town hall meeting will be Tuesday Feb.10th at 7 PM in the lower level of City Hall.

A resident that had passed out fliers to the businesses addressed Council about things that the Village is doing right, but thinks that we need to market the Village better. Andy Kalb will get with the Mayor and get together a town hall meeting.

11. Asked if a business owner owed money to a tax payer or the Village, does the Village give any assistance in this type of situation? The Law Director said that would have to go thru small claims court.
- 12.
13. Melissa McManus, owner of Atmosphere Salon & Lounge at 4732 Vine St., agreed that we need to market the Village. She also said that the safety is the main reason she wants to stay in town. She said that the Building Department needs to have a packet or handout to give to anyone wanting to open a business here. She said we need a restaurant that offers healthier options.
14. The owner of AY Design Art on Vine, talked about the business chamber should become active again. We need to get this back up and running to help attract new businesses to St. Bernard. She agreed that the marketing is needed and the need for an upscale restaurant, not fast food, is needed and that once the streetscape project is done it's our time to shine as a Village.

Respectfully submitted
 Steve Asbach
 President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Elaine and St. Bernard,

Thank you on behalf of the troops in Cincinnati for allowing the use of the Village hall space for our cookie rally. We were truly in a bind and had nowhere to go. We are so thankful that you opened your space and at no cost to us. If you ever need anything, let me know.

There are so many reasons why I love St. Bernard. This is just one more.

Best,

Brittany

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld (Scout Jake) to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mrs. Schildmeyer (Scout Johnny), seconded by Mr. Kalb (Scout Alex) to read this evening's Special Resolution No. 1, 2015 in its entirety. Motion passed 7-0.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2015. DECLARING THE OUTDOOR CODE OF ST. BERNARD, DESIGNATING ALL BOY SCOUTS IN THE COMMUNITY HONORARY PARK POLICEMEN; AND ASKING ALL OF THE YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG LADIES OF ST. BERNARD TO HONOR THIS CODE.

WHEREAS, the Boy Scout Program encourages Community betterment as well as individual member improvement; and

WHEREAS, a Boy Scout is a special citizen who knows his duty to his fellow men and will face opposition to do what he knows is right; and

WHEREAS, St. Bernard youth is interested in a better St. Bernard of the future; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS VOTING:

Section 1. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods and roadways.

Section 2. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

Section 3. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

Section 4. I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands and wildlife; and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my outdoor activities.

Section 5. I will observe bicycle safety rules and obey all traffic laws when operating my bicycle or walking through the streets of St. Bernard.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 2015.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Mayor

Motion by Mrs. Schildmeyer (Scout Johnny), seconded by Mr. Tobergte (Scout Jared) to suspend with the second and third reading of Special Resolution No. 1, 2015. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Schildmeyer(Scout Johnny), seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus (Scout Jaylen) to adopt Special Resolution No. 1, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Peck – I would like to thank all the Scouts for their participation and we will now have a short recess.

Council is now in regular session.

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

Mr. Peck – May we have the second reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2015.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2015. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to table Ordinance No. 5, 2015.

REMARKS

Mr. Tobergte – I understand the problem with the \$20,000.00 but I personally think spending the \$20,000.00 is better than having a boarded up house just sitting on Greenlee Ave. for three years or who knows how long. We're trying to upgrade the City with Streetscape and all that and I think we would be worse off having boarded up houses in town.

Mr. Asbach – In talking a little bit before the meeting, not that I disagree, I just don't want to spend the \$20,000.00 right away in the beginning of the year. I think if we look at it midway through the year, if the money situation is okay, I think we could revisit it at that time but I think at the beginning of the year to throw

\$20,000.00 out there just to tear this down, I'd rather redo the, and I think Mrs. Bedinghaus has this in her committee, but I'd rather redo some of the Ordinances and we shouldn't have to bail the banks out. I think a lot of it is that they don't have to tear the building down instead of us.

Mr. Tobergte – Why redo the Ordinances because as Curtis stated at the last meeting we cannot make it retroactive so it will not affect this house at all.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I agree with Mr. Asbach, not everything is an emergency and we can let it go through Committee and see what she recommends.

The motion to table Ordinance No. 5, 2015 passed 6-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

Mr. Peck – May we have the second reading of Ordinance No. 7, 2015.

ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2015. AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4433 GREENLEE AVENUE TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF BRINGING THE LAND OR REAL PROPERTY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to table Ordinance No. 7, 2015. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2015. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND ST. BERNARD SERVICE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 8, 2015.

REMARKS

Patrick Chin, 18 Baker – I really wanted to, I have a question, in the past four years, how many of these buildings have we demolished?

Mr. Peck – The remarks are.....

Patrick Chin – How come we didn't make remarks on the other Ordinance?

Mr. Peck – It was a motion to table.

Patrick Chin – Oh, okay, but it was still important.

Mr. Peck – What I will ask you to do is to defer your comments until the

Patrick Chin – Well what's the difference between the Ordinance and the motion to table? It's still important, you're spending when it's not there.

Mr. Peck – I believe Council chose not to address that right now so they're not spending the money.

Patrick Chin – Oh, you're not. Okay, Okay I'll do this at the end.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 8, 2015 as read. Motion passed 5-2. Mr. Asbach and Mrs. Bedinghaus voted no.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – My first Town Hall meeting for 2015 will be Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held in the lower level of City Hall.

Mr. Asbach – I believe the Safety Director has something but she's busy writing.

Ms. VanValkenburg – I misspoke earlier when I indicated that the last day for applicants was this Monday, I really should read my writing, applications for the Police Officer examination will be accepted through February 13th which is not next Monday but it is February 13 and you can get them here at City Hall Monday through Friday, 9:00am until 5:00pm and again the test will be given Saturday, February 21st. Applications must be turned in by February 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kalb – I just want to take a second again and thank all the Scouts for coming out tonight and participating. Our troop is just now rebuilding. I want to give a special thanks to all our leaders who make our troop possible, Tom Hail, Steve Anneken, Jeff Hegadorn, Barb Kalb and my brother Michael Kalb. If anybody wants to be involved in scouting they can contact myself at (513) 263-7349

Mr. Tobergte – I have been contacted by a number of residents concerning the roll up security door on Vine St. up at the Vine St. Market. With the streetscape moving forward it is an eyesore. I talked to Paul Myers, there is a permit issued for it. He said he couldn't do anything about it. He suggests that we put the matter in the Public Improvement Committee to possibly adding the doors to our zoning code. That way it would have to be approved by the Zoning Board. Or they would have to come before Council if they had special needs. He said to put it in the Public Improvements Committee. Paul said he could write something up on that.

Mr. Tobergte – There seems to be a rise in the number of feral cats roaming our Village. Curtis said in the past we couldn't do much about them. People trap them and take them to the SPCA. It's a minor thing, they fix them and put them back into the wild. Is there anything that we can do to address that issue?

Mr. Walden – Coincidentally, Don, I was researching another issue last week, I did come across some case law that looked like it might actually be beneficial to the City and I tagged it in the book so I wouldn't have trouble finding it. I will examine that and so I would be happy to address that at the next COW if Council would like.

Mr. Tobergte – Thank you. And the last thing, the people that were here last week, I sat there and talked to a couple of them until about 9:30pm. They're suggesting

we look at our Committees. The Committees do their reports. Why can't we redo the committees, maybe have a Marketing Committee, there were some other ideas about other Committees other than Council. I talked to Curtis, there's nothing in the rules that say we can't change the Committees. Maybe come up with some new committees.

Ms. Hausfeld – On a personal note I just want to thank all of our Depts. but especially right now the Police Dept. helped me out the other day. I have a problem with my car door in the winter time. Love my car, but in the winter time my car door locks open and sometimes I have to drive like that and it's not safe. I was not in St. Bernard but I called the St. Bernard dispatchers and they helped me out tremendously and got me the help that I needed where I was and I just want to put a special thank you out to them guys because they went above and beyond what they are there for and I just want to thank them. I have to add, my car was running when it was locked because my doors locked up on me. That's why it was such a big deal.

Mr. Tobergte – In addition to Ray's comment about the Block Watch meeting, I talked to the Chief and they're going to tour the Fire Department also.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Patrick Chin, 18 Baker Ave. – So basically the question I have was, in the past four years, how many buildings and homes have we actually demolished or have you guys tore down? Would anybody have the answer to that?

Ms. VanValkenburg – That is certainly information that I can get from the Building Department. Also some of that could be done by the CIC which I could look into which would be a separate entity but I could get the information from the Building Department. Feel free to email me at safety@cityofstbernard.org.

Patrick Chin – I can email you after Council. Yea, I would like to request a list of that and I also would like to request, I guess, what you guys bid. When you demolish a building you guys then go home and build a building. You build new homes and I also want to request a rap sheet on the bids, like who you, basically corporations and what not. who you give the work to and what not. I'd be very interested in that as well.

Ms. VanValkenburg – You would like to request what, what sheet?

Patrick Chin – Basically who you hire the work out to. Like what corporations.

Ms. VanValkenburg – Who we hire to do the work, I can get you the information on that. It would be best if you sent me an email so I have something in front of me so I know exactly what you want.

Patrick Chin – Sure, sure. Yeah, yeah. Well I guess, I guess I want to put a suggestion out there. I don't know how many of you go home and know what you actually demolished. Wouldn't it be better to just repair them? Wouldn't you spend less money? We're going to spend this money when I understand when you're speaking to the people of this town they say we need more houses and when you have houses that are nice you raise the property value but how significant is

that? Aren't you trying to become a City? I mean if we're raising taxes, you want to get a marketing process to come into town.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Chin, the houses that have been demolished recently came down through the CIC and they had Port Authority and it didn't cost us a dime to tear them down.

Patrick Chin – Gotcha.

Mr. Tobergte – It would cost more to repair than to tear them down and that's the reason we do it.

Patrick Chin – OK and what's the time frame that you guys need to demolishing property, decent houses? I mean you know I requested a rap sheet but can you just give me an idea.

Mr. Tobergte – I'm thinking two maybe three years, okay make it four.

Patrick Chin – Okay that's what I thought too. About four years and that's why I was concerned about how many funds are put toward that? We could save a lot of money by putting the banks in trouble for owning these houses and properties. Too bad Walt isn't here. I've talked to him. He's a very smart man. I mean we could save a lot of money and I'd like to know how many of these properties and how many houses were actually demolished. You know what I mean, it's definitely for me and everybody else, everybody else in the City, we're all taxpayers.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I think we need to reiterate. This has cost St. Bernard no money. This was all done through the Port Authority. From banks that.....

Patrick Chin – Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – It has cost us no money.

Patrick Chin – I want to see that, I also want to see those records and I'm also curious about, I'm just curious about the whole thing. I mean you keep telling me that but I would like to see the hard paper and hard records and what not.

Mr. Walden – The reason I know this is because of my involvement in putting together that Ordinance. I was told that if they bought the house on Greenlee, I think that's what triggered your question, up to present code Mr. Myers told me it would be \$20,000.00 to tear it down or \$118,000.00 they estimate to bring that house up to code. So on that particular house that's the fare that they were looking at.

Patrick Chin – OK, OK.

Mr. Walden – I think the problem with that house was the Port Authority would.....

Patrick Chin – Yeah and that's what Phil Stegman told me, too. Now that I remember that, he told me that two Council meetings ago. Matter of fact, that's another concern if that's going to be put on the tax payer if you don't have that

funded but I mean that's great if you had that funding with the grants and what not. That's definitely a great thing if you have that funding.

Mr. Walden – Patrick I think the way the rules of Council are written they are to provide citizen input before an Ordinance is passed because that will become law and they all will be affected. With a motion to table the rules don't call for that simply because Council has chosen to not make that a law.

Patrick Chin – OK, OK.

Mr. Walden – At the COW where that Ordinance is discussed, is where the input is taken and people are asked if they have any issues with it.

Patrick Chin – Gotcha, Gotcha.

Mr. Walden – At that time the citizens give their input but I think the difference is if it is going to be voted on it will become law and if it is tabled it probably never will.

Patrick Chin – Gotcha. And I guess now that I know that about the grant I guess another one of my concerns is how efficiently that grant was spent when we did have the grant. It's a concern as a tax payer. I'm not trying to pick on anybody. It's just a concern. It's something I would like to look at.

Ms. Van Valkenburg – With regard to the grant, we weren't in charge of that. The Port Authority took care of that. I think that would be who you would need to address that question to about how those monies were spent. Certainly with regard with what the City has done itself, we can give you that information.

Patrick Chin – Yeah, Yeah. So the money spent already to demolish a building, you don't get any of that? Is that like in the City payroll or what? Do you go to the Port Authority? I'm having a hard time understanding.

Mr. Peck – If I might, I believe there is a five minute rule and then you need to let somebody else talk.

Patrick Chin – Yeah, Yeah. OK, we can just talk later. Sorry about that.

Mr. Peck – No problem.

Mrs. Brickweg – Are we allowed to address his question.

Mr. Peck – Sure.

Kerri Messer, 5008 Tower – I do like the way we are revamping the City. I talked to Andy last week just about like even our website. You get on that and it's a sign like we're doing things out there. You can go on Hyde Park website, they don't have anything like that. Pictures and attractions they have. That's one way to market just in having like somebody and you know like I don't know how the money goes but the \$20,000.00 you talked about saving at the beginning of the year, you know, I'm willing as a tax payer to pay more money for taxes if we're marketing to bring in what we need. I mean you go to Hyde Park and all those other nicer places, they're paying taxes and that's why they're nice. We live

somewhere nice too. If my taxes get raised to bring in what we need then I'm down to pay that. So if you think we need to have a new group, bring people in, that's what they do. They bring towns. So we definitely need to get on top of that.

Patrick Chin – Well we've already raised taxes so, I just wanted to make a suggestion, maybe we should hire a grant writer. Maybe we need to start raising money that way. Why do we need to keep raising taxes? Honestly, that's absurd. I just thought I'd throw that out to Council and everyone here. I mean you're going to raise taxes, I mean come on. I mean there's grants out there. There's a lot of grant money. There's corporate donors. I've heard of a mom and pop loan out of D.C. I've done a lot of my own research on corporate donors and foundations. All corporations have foundations in which they donate money and you can also get tax benefits. Honestly some of them do that so they can get tax benefits. They also get publicity. Oh I donated millions and millions of dollars to people and the media. That's all I want to say. I wanted to make that suggestion.

Mr. Tobergte – I just wanted to tell Mr. Chin we do some grant writing and the Chiefs, Chief Meyer and Chief Moeller get a big grant for the SEBA for the Fire Dept. this year. When there's grant money out there we get some.

Ms. Hausfeld – Patrick brought it up but a few of us were talking about it and we talked about it in a COW and at a Council meeting that we had about the 4433 and the \$20,000.00 . There's three of us up here on Council and I'm sure it's all seven of us would like to revitalize our code. The one that I don't understand how it goes to a bank when we condemn a building and is told to tear down but if not we will tear it down. That's absurd to me. (I can't believe I said that word because usually I stutter with that one.) I think our laws have to be stiffer, even if it's a fine every day until they get something done or something. I know you can't fine them big amounts of money but I do think there has to be repercussions for people that own these kind of blighted properties and they don't do anything about it. If we as a City have to make tougher laws or ordinances or whatever to make the people that don't take care of their property take care of it. I think a lot of us are on board with that so I guess that would be something that I want to put on the COW agenda and get looked into.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I agree with Patty, but Mr. Chin I don't know where you're getting that we're raising taxes. We are not raising taxes. I don't think any of the seven of us, no you said we were raising taxes. We are not raising taxes.

Patrick Chin – You didn't say anything about raising taxes but she said something about if you have to raise taxes that's why I said that.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I think that you are misrepresenting Mrs. Brickweg's words.

Patrick Chin – No, no, no, no, no. I was talking about.....

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Oh, Kerri's, yes, yes. None of us said we were raising taxes and you stood there and said we were raising taxes and we are not.

Patrick Chin – I'm sorry. Taxes were already raised. That was the point I was making. I didn't mean to personally attack anyone. I'm just saying taxes were already raised and I'm concerned about more taxes being raised. That's the point. See I didn't mean to come at anybody or make false claims or anything like that.

I'm just saying what has already happened seems to be the trend we're going in. It seems to be the direction we're going in which is very unhealthy. I think everyone in the City will think the same thing. I think you guys on Council would agree with me on that too. I wanted to say something after what Patty said.

Mr. Peck – I'm sorry but you've had two times to speak.

Patrick Chin – Only two times.

Mr. Peck – Two times, five minutes each. I'll be happy to talk with you about the rules after the meeting.

Patrick Chin – Ok, Ok, great, great. Sorry about that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I want to address a couple of your comments. No, the City is not planning on raising taxes. I think all Kerri was saying was other communities might pay more in taxes and they have nicer things. There are other people that have said that and they have that opinion, that they wouldn't mind paying higher taxes if they had nicer things. Nobody on Council, and nobody in the Administration is discussing raising taxes. You might think it's an inclination but I've been here since 2004 and the only thing that has ever been done was the seven mil levee that was put on.

Patrick Chin – What about the

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll talk with you afterwards but I don't know what contract you're talking about. The other thing is, just so you know, a lot of these properties on Vine St., and I think that's what Valerie was saying, the City doesn't own them, the City doesn't purchase them. It's the CIC. Now I can tell you that in 2013 the City allocated \$315,000.00 to the CIC for them to spend. In 2014 they gave them nothing. In 2015 they gave them nothing. They are living off of their checking account. So if they purchase anything at least in 2014 and 2015 they have done that on their own. It's not the City's money purchasing it. That's why it's hard for us to give you a listing of homes because they have them. Ms. Van Valkenburg can help you with that but you could also talk to Paul Myers who is the president of the CIC and that way he can give you a list of that. Those properties are the CIC, not the City.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.