

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2015**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, March 19, 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. Culbertson and Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Mr. Asbach – I would like to ask for a moment of silence for Carl Engel, a former Service Dept. employee.

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

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – Also to add to that moment of silence I would like to thank all the members of the St. Bernard Police Department for the quick apprehension of the suspects in this tragic incident.

The Mayor's Monthly Court Report Receipts for February, 2015: Mayor's Court Costs/Fines/Fees/Miscellaneous receipts were \$3,614.84. Bonds forfeited \$35.00 and Bonds applied to outstanding tax obligations \$125.00. Total to the City was \$3,774.84. Total to the County was \$19.50. Total to the State was \$1,027.50. Total disbursements were \$4,821.84.

The Annual Easter Egg Scramble is Saturday, April 4th at Vine Street Park. The event begins at 12:30pm with a petting zoo and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The Egg Scramble will begin promptly at 1:00pm. Please dress for inclement weather and remember to bring your Easter basket. Thanks to all the departments for their ongoing support of this event, as well as several local businesses. Also, the First Annual Bunny Fun Run will begin at 3:30pm with early registration beginning at 1:30pm. Registration for the run is \$25.00 and the proceeds will benefit the Stray Animal Adoption Program. Please stop by JuJu Beans, Farmers Insurance or Atmosphere Salon to pre-register.

The St. Bernard Elmwood Place Titan Fan Club, along with Take 10 Cincinnati, are hosting "Save a Heart St. Bernard", this Friday, March 20th from 7:00pm until 9:00pm at the SBEP High School Gymnasium. All proceeds benefit "Super Ben Messer" and his family as he continues his battle against his congenital heart defect. Take 10 Cincinnati will be offering a free hands-only CPR workshop followed by a heart pumping, bass thumping Zumba fitness party lead by two local Zumba instructors. There is a \$10.00 donation to participate. Doors open at 6:30.....come out and support one of St. Bernard's youngest super heroes and save a heart, St. Bernard. Please contact Kate McMullan (324-3513) for more details. It is time again to renew our representatives for the Hamilton County Tax Incentive Review Council. The TIRC monitors the compliance of active enterprise zone agreements and community reinvestment area agreements within Townships; formation of the Council is a legislative requirement of the program as outlined in

the Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.85. I would like to maintain the current representatives, myself and Mr. Walt Moeller. If Council is in agreement I would like to request a motion be made and voted on this evening.

One more thing, I have a page report on the Friars Club and I would like that added to the minutes.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Serving the community since 1860, Friars Club started in Over the Rhine, moved to Clifton in 1931, closed and operated as a virtual organization in 2006 and, in September 2014, opened our new building in St. Bernard.

Friars Club is a non-profit organization that runs youth academic, athletic and recreational programs. Our new building has four, state of the art basketball/volleyball courts. We have volleyball, basketball and baseball teams for kids. Friars Club also offers recreational sports as well as competitive AAU teams. This summer, look for AAU basketball and baseball teams as well as full day summer program for kids.

The Jeanne & Jake Sweeney Learning Center, located in the Friars building, assists children with studies through a volunteer based tutoring program. In September, Friars will open its pre-school for children ages 4 and 5. Registration is now open and will soon be filled due to only 20 slots for the all – day pre-kindergarten program. The program will highlight excellent slots for the all day pre-kindergarten program. The program will highlight excellent individualized education, athletics and social development programs. We think it will become the most exceptional educational and athletic pre-kindergarten program in Cincinnati. Friars is happy to settle into its new home at the gateway of St. Bernard, only a few feet from the corner of Mitchell and Vine, in between the beautiful newly built Safety Center and Roger Bacon High School. Most evenings you can find many St. Bernard teenagers shooting hoops or playing basketball in the gym. So far, it has been a good experience being in the neighborhood. We look forward to being a vital part of the community.

Please feel free to stop in any time; our doors are open 8:00am until 9:00pm daily. Friars.....serving the community since 1960. Friars.....providing a safe and supervised place for children to go. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Annie Timmons

Executive Director/Friars Club

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor’s Office has prepared two Ordinances for tonight’s meeting. Ordinance No. 12, 2015 is the part-time employees compensation. What we are changing on this one is the first year pay, second year and third year pay for employees that start out at minimum wage. The minimum wage has gone up to \$8.10. For the positions of park guards, pool attendants, craft assistant and swim team assistant, sorry not swim team assistant, swim lesson assistant it will be \$8.10 for their first year, \$8.40 for the second year, and \$8.90 for the third.

Ordinance No. 13, 2015 is authorizing and directing the Auditor to provide additional appropriations. The first one to General Fund 2-E-3 tax refund in the amount of \$170,000.00 and the General Fund 2-I-9, Legal Professional Services in the amount of \$20,000.00.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – I prepared four proposed Ordinances this week which were discussed at the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee meeting

with the timely help of Heidi Culbertson and I will defer to Mrs. Bedinghaus to present those.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I have prepared this evening the monthly Treasurer’s Report for Village Council;

Receipts for the month of January, 2015: \$889,597.82

Receipts for the month of February, 2015: \$742,528.58

The grand total through February, 2015: \$1,632,126.46

The copier, I couldn’t get it to print properly but I will work that out and get copies to everyone.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. Van Valkenburg – As you may be aware, this has been a busy week for the St. Bernard Police Department. As the Mayor mentioned Carl Engel, 73, of Greenlee Ave. was killed in his home during a burglary, and our condolences go out to his family and friends. I am, however, happy to report that, thanks to phone tips from the public and strong police work by members of our department and several other local agencies, including the Cincinnati and Norwood Police Depts. and the Hamilton County Coroners Office, 3 individuals have been arrested and arraigned and bond has been set for over \$1,000,000.00 each for this. This was not a random attack. Mr. Engel was known to one or more of his alleged attackers. I would particularly like to recognize Lt. Simos and Inspector Matheson for their tireless efforts to identify and arrest the alleged perpetrators of this crime.

I would also like to recognize and thank Officers Roll and Ingram for their investigative work this week which resulted in the arrest of a teacher’s aide working at Roger Bacon High School on two counts of sexual battery. This investigation was also prompted by a phone call from a member of the public who called to report a suspicious vehicle in the area.

On behalf of the Police Dept. we would like to thank the public for keeping their eyes open and contacting our Police Dept. That’s what helps to keep our community safe.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – First, the Service Dept. and myself would like to thank the Police Dept for catching Carl Engel’s attacker. Carl was a Service Dept employee from Nov. 1969 until he retired in June 2000. All the guys miss you.

Starting the week of March 30th the railroad tracks starting at Murray Rd, then Vine St. and Beech St. will be closed for repair.

Tires can be taken to the curb starting April 20th thru the 25th. This week only. If you have leaves please put them in cans or garbage bags.

When cutting bushes and trees, please put them in bundles that the men can pick up at the curb.

Reminder to all residents to check out the hamiltoncountyclecycling.org website for upcoming electronic drop offs, latex paint and paper shred days. They are all listed out there and April is one of the bigger months.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I met with Mayor Burkhardt and Law Director Curtis Walden on Tuesday to work on salaries for City Hall employees. We are meeting

again Tuesday. We are going to provide Council with an Ordinance for each position in the near future.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I have the Police Dept. report for February. During the month of February, officers were involved in 628 calls for service. Of those calls, officers responded to 38 accident reports and took 60 offense reports. Officers cleared a total of 56 offenses. Officers made 97 misdemeanor arrests. Officers responded to 30 parking complaints and issued 4 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 19 traffic citations, 2 DUI arrests and 36 warnings. Officers responded to 51 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons. I'd also like to thank Officers Ungruhe for the presentation update he gave at Block Watch on this past Tuesday night. He filled in for Officer Setters, who also does a wonderful job. I appreciate their help in communicating with the residents.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Dept. for February, 2015. There were 5 trucks placed at residences, 25 dumpsters placed at residences, 89 special pick-ups at residences and 140.13 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. There was 29.29 tons of recycling material.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I just would also like to convey my condolences to the Engel family and once again its sad that a tragedy like this just reminds us of the wonderful services that we have in St. Bernard but thank you to the Police Dept.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMES, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As Curtis stated, Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee did meet tonight and I want to thank Curtis for bringing these Ordinances for amendment to the table and thank Heidi for putting them together too. The first one that was discussed was the commercial vehicle parking section and what we're going to recommend is for a definition of commercial vehicle. There is one wording in here that says "park trucks" and that will be changed to a "box truck". The other one that we discussed will be an Ordinance on the sales on private property code section and that will have to do with our solicitation code. What we're doing there is changing the times that we have in our Ordinance for us for solicitation from 9:00am till 8:00pm and we're going to make it uniform with the PUCO that was adopted and so the solicitation hours will be between 9:00am and 7:00pm and that will be for all peddling and solicitation.

The other one that we discussed was the junk and rubbish storage code section. There were two Ordinances that were on our books that have a discrepancy and the cost of the fair market value of what we considered junk and one said \$800.00 and another one that was at \$1,500.00. According to the Codified Ordinance of the Ohio Revised Code is their fair market value is \$1,500.00 so we will make sure that our Ordinance does read \$1,500.00.

The other Ordinance that we discussed and we are going to ask the Police Chief to weigh in on this is an Ordinance that we talked about feral cats. Those are stray cats. We really would like and we know that we've had some problems with some stray cats, if any citizen would like to give us any suggestions into how we might go about reliving some of those feral cats issues please feel free to email or any of the Council members. But we are going to ask if the Police Chief can look this over and then we'll get back with the citizens on some of those. Any suggestions will be welcome.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – The Business and Industry Committee is going to be meeting April 16th at 6:00pm here in Council Chambers to discuss ways to market the Village to potential new businesses as well as how to help retain current businesses.

Also if time allows that evening we will work on discussing and trying to revitalize the Chamber of Commerce. All residents are welcome to come and offer their input.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

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

Committee of the Whole
Mar. 12, 2015

1. Council approved the minutes of the Mar. 5th Council meeting.
2. Council discussed adding a procedure to the “Rules of Council” that give direction for cancelling a Council and Committee of the Whole meeting for inclement weather. The matter was placed in the Laws, Contracts & Claims committee for review.
3. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
 - a. Reminded everyone about the Bunny Fun Run on Saturday April 4th beginning at 4 PM at Vine St Park. You must register by Friday March 20th, for \$25.00, to receive a tee shirt. Proceeds will benefit Stray Animal Adoption Program. Register in person at JuJu Beans, Farmers Insurance and Atmosphere Salon.
4. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - a. Reported that her department is working on getting reports ready for the audit. No date has been given for the audit yet.
 - b. Talked about the part-time minimum wage increase because of the State laws on the increase. Council voted 7-0 to place the ordinance on the table.
5. Service director, Phil Stegman
 - a. Reported that they hired a new employee in the service department.
 - b. Said that the news letter will be going out in April.
 - c. Said that he got work from the County that we will be able to pickup tires, on your regular trash day, the week of April 20th- 25th.
 - d. Asked residents to visit the Hamilton County website at hamiltoncountyrecycle.org, to see when and where items can be recycled.
6. Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser
 - a. Reported that he had received a notice on pending litigation and asked Council to go into executive session to discuss the matter. A motion was made, seconded and voted on 7-0 to go into executive session at the end of the meeting.
7. Treasurer, John Ungrhue
 - a. Reported that the 4th of July Memorial fund is \$5,622.59.
8. Finance, Don Tobergte
 - a. Said the he met with the Mayor today to work on raises for City Hall employees and will meet again next week to finalize their ideas. Then the finance committee will meet to discuss our recommendations.
 - b. Said that there has been a lot of discussion on changing the charter to allow a city manager and chief financial officer. He checked on the board of elections website and the deadline to put an issue on the ballot for the August 4th special election is May 6th. He talked to the Mayor today and wanted to get everyone’s opinion on whether we should have the Law Director look into the matter and check on the State’s requirements for the various positions. Council agreed to have it researched.

- c. Announced that the Soap Box Derby will be August 22nd this year due to Tower Avenue being resurfaced this year.
9. Safety, Ray Culbertson
 - a. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday March 17th at 6:30 PM at the new Safety Center. Tours will be given at that time.
 10. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus
 - a. Reported that her committee will meet on Thursday March 19th at 6 PM to discuss various items in the committee.
 11. Highways & Transportation, Patty Hausfeld
 - a. Said that she had received calls about property values going down and one resident gave her a list of items to be looked into. She gave the list to the service director and he will look into them.
 12. Council met in executive session to discuss two pending litigations.
 13. After the executive session, a motion was made, and Council voted 7-0, to place an additional appropriation ordinance on the table for the tax department's line item.

Respectfully submitted,
 Steve Asbach
 President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2015. FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 1/1/2005, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 12, 2015.

REMARKS

Mr. Tobergte – As Peggy said in her report this is just offering our minimum wage for four positions since the minimum wage was raised by the State.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adopt Ordinance No. 12, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2015. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 13, 2015.

REMARKS

Mr. Tobergte – In the larger Corporations for additional tax refunds, it was not put in the original budget because Mr. Geiser thought that a law suit would not be settled this year with the City. That’s why it was not put in the original budget.

Mrs. Brickweg – Before you vote on this, there is a little typo I just saw. At the very end it says 2014, where it says it will be posted, it should be 2015. It doesn’t have to be amended.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 13, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte made a motion for Bill and Walt to be part of the Hamilton County Review Council. Mr. Asbach seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Asbach – Just a quick question for the Service Director, Phil you mentioned the railroad crossings at Murray Rd. and Vine St. and Spring Grove. I’m assuming that that’s not all at once.

Mr. Stegman – No.

Mr. Asbach – Ok, thank you very much.

Mr. Stegman – Just for the record, it’s not happening all at once.

Ms. Hausfeld – I would just like to thank the Chief, the Mayor and Phil. I gave them a list of some concerns that a citizen had and they moved on it right away and cleared it up this pasted week. I already got the phone call from the resident thanking me and relaying me to thank you guys as well so just thanks guys.

Mr. Culbertson – A Fireman, Brian Young, I’d also like to thank him for his participation in the Block Watch meeting on Tuesday night and giving us a tour of the Fire side of the Safety Building

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Coming down the highway, all of the graffiti on the side of the highway is just so ugly and some of it is on our railroad building but most of it is in Cincinnati, is there anything we can do to contact Cincinnati about cleaning all of this up?

Mr. Stegman – I've been in many, many calls trying to get the graffiti that's on the railroad tracks over there and they won't come out. Unless we take it upon ourselves to go. And we can't even get permission to go on our own and paint them. They will not let you on their right-of-way to paint their stuff. But they won't take any responsibility of taking it because they're just going to be tagged again. They won't come out. It's sad to say that the railroad will not take responsibility.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – So, it's the railroad and not the City of Cincinnati? Can you give me a name of somebody to call because I'll do it.

Mr. Stegman – Good luck.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – OK.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'd hate to be that person that Dianna calls.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 26th at 7:00pm.

Motion by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.