

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2015**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, April 2, 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 made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Culbertson seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – Absent.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor’s Office has prepared two Ordinances for tonight’s meeting. The first one is Ordinance No. 15, 2015 which is providing additional appropriations of \$60,000.00 to line item General Fund 6-7 Employee Accumulated Sick Pay \$7,855.00 to Street Maintenance Fund 33-4 and \$1,628.00 to Capital Improvements Fund in 7-06 the Safety Center Project.

As was discussed at last week’s COW meeting the street Maintenance and the Service Center Projects are checks that the City received and were put into the General Fund and we’re just putting the money back into the correct line items so the money can be used. As I said in the email that I sent everybody, the employee Accumulated Sick Pay, I had another employee use it this week and it looks like we may have two people retiring so I just want to get the money in there if that happens.

The second Ordinance, I emailed out today, in Ordinance 20, 2015 was just appropriating additional funds of \$50,000.00 for the Fire Dept. overtime. The Fire Chief is here to talk if you need to ask him any questions when we read this Ordinance. But pretty much what happened is after we got done looking at interfacing the payroll, their line item is very short with the amount of comp time that the Fire Dept. has on the books. We’re not sure if we can make it through next week, so he will be here to answer any questions for you.

Also the State Auditor finally contacted us and we will be starting the state audit on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – At the request of the Laws, Contract and Claims Committee I have prepared Ordinance No. 17, 18 and 19 which are before Council tonight. Each of these makes a small change in one of our existing Codified Ordinances in order to help clarify the Ordinances and help the Police Dept. enforce it.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have prepared the inventory detail report from Fifth Thirty Security. Our balance remains down there it stands at \$2,195,000.00 with our next security, the CD on June 8<sup>th</sup> of this year.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. Van Valkenberg – I have prepared Ordinance No. 16, which is reauthorizing the Safety Director to enter into a contract with Medicount Management Inc. to provide EMS billing services. It is basically an extension of what has been done previously as set forth by the Ordinance. We also discussed at the COW a second Ordinance which we are in the process of preparing. We thought we'd have it ready for tonight, dealing with the reporting of chemical spills by companies and industries in our town but I'm still looking into that. I have a couple of things I have to double check. I'm following up on questions Mr. Tobergte asked and I will be presenting that at the next meeting.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – Ordinance No. 14 is on the table tonight. This is an Ordinance that we have discussed on several occasions at COW. I'm urging passage of this tonight. We're ready to go with Ross Ave. so tomorrow I will be able to sign the contract and we can have a preconstruction meeting next Wednesday.

Also I'm proud to announce that some of the streets that I've worked at with Duke to repave, Tower Ave. from Jefferson all the way down to McClelland will be ground and paved, on Duke's dime. Also all of Shroeder will be grind and paved and resurfaced. Parts of Errun Ln. Kemper, parts of Kemper there at Franklin and Jefferson and some sections of Bertus. All these sections will be ground and paved at the expense of Duke due to the project they are doing.

Also while I'm talking about Duke, the sub contractors are out starting to remove all the asphalt, putting the concrete in. They are out very heavy trying to get to all the people that they have torn up their yard, they are out seeding and strawing so be patient. If there is one out there after everything is done and settled, then let me know but please, they're trying their best and there are a lot of calls I've been getting to "when are they going to get to me". They're out and about and if they've done it and they've done a bad job then report that back to me.

Also tomorrow the Service Dept. is off. It is Good Friday so the folks that missed the early trash pick up that have it out, please pull it back until next week.

Also at the last COW I said that Monday they were going to start the demolition of the service garage, the utilities did not get turned off so the demo was pushed off until next week.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – Absent.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee along with Councilman Culbertson met in Executive Session on Tuesday to discuss employee compensation. I want to apologize to Peggy for not realizing that the meeting would last an hour. She was the only non-councilperson that was at the meeting and was not included in the Executive Session.

I make a motion that Council and the Law Director and Safety Director meet in Executive Session at the end of this Council meeting to discuss employee compensation.

Mr. Asbach – I second the motion.  
Motion passed 7-0.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – The next Block Watch meeting is Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the lower level of City Hall.

I also have the Fire Dept. report for the month of March. The Fire Dept. made 89 ambulance runs, 12 mutual aid ambulance runs. The Fire Dept. made 28 fire runs, 1 mutual aid fire run. They taught three CPR classes to local businesses. Capt. Schutte and Lt. Sicking completed their Fire Safety Inspector course. And Lt Young and Firefighter Goecke completed their Fire Instructor course.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I have no report but I would like say I apologize for missing last week. I was in a car accident with my children and didn't do well with it.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tonight on the table as Curtis mentioned we have Ordinances No. 17, 18 and 19 that the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee urges for passage.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – My Committee is going to be having a meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm here in Council Chambers to discuss different ways to help bring new businesses to St. Bernard as well as how to help retain current businesses.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – The daily bus passengers for March, 2015 is 1,409 passengers and a total of 3, 875.

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

Committee of the Whole  
Mar. 26, 2015

1. Council approved the minutes of the Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
2. Council discussed three Ordinances that need changes and were recommended to be changed by the Laws, Contracts & Claims committee. The first dealt with section 351.16 C of our code, the second with section 523.01 C4 of our code and the third was to the Solicitation Ordinance. Council voted 5-0 to place all three Ordinances on the table.
3. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
  - a. Asked for changes to Ordinance No. 12, 2015 to change the life guards and cashiers pay at the pool. Council will have the Recreation Director for a better explanation at the next COW meeting.
4. Law Director, Curtis Walden
  - a. Said he was sorry he couldn't be at the meeting tonight, but his daughter Sophie is being honored at the St. Bernard Winter Sports awards for doing five sports and having a 4.0 grade point average. He has been working with the Mayor and Mr. Tobergte on preparing the necessary Ordinances to put each City Hall employee on their own pay and benefit ordinance. That process is ongoing. He also prepared an Ordinance for the Service Director for the Ross Ave. Project.
5. Safety Director, Valerie Van Valkenberg
  - a. Asked Council to go into Executive Session to discuss employment issues. Council voted 5-0 to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

- b. She had the Fire Chief explain changes to two items for the Fire Department. First he is looking for changes to our Ordinance that deals with Hazardous Material spills and leaks. The second deals with changes to our EMS billing Ordinance. The Chief will get with the Law Director and make the changes. Council voted 5-0 to place both Ordinances on the table.
6. Service Director, Phil Stegman
    - a. Said that spring is here and wanted everyone to remember that when you start cutting you grass please don't blow the grass into the street. Remember this is a violation to our Ordinance. Please place yard waste at the curb in an uncovered can on either of your regular trash days. Branches and limbs should be in 3 to 4 foot or smaller bundles.
    - b. Said that once a year the Village picks up old tires placed at the curb and that will be done for only one week, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - c. Reported that the newsletter has been sent to the printer and residents should start to receive them within a week.
    - d. Said that he had received a call from J M Smucker this week saying that they wanted to do some community work in the Village. They are looking to send 60 or more people and he will work with them on this program from April 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>, Monday thru Friday.
    - e. Said that this year St Bernard High School will be out and about on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> to pick up trash throughout the Village.
    - f. Said that starting March 30<sup>th</sup>, Kokosing will begin demolition of the old Service Garage.
    - g. Said that he had received checks back from the insurance company for work done after a truck accident that required us to make repairs. That money needs to go back into a line item and Council voted 5-0 to place an Ordinance on the table if the Auditor has other items to go on the Ordinance, otherwise it can wait.
    - h. Asked for an Ordinance for the Ross Ave Street Project. Council voted 5-0 to place it on the table.
    - i. Discussed buying large cans for garbage, same as the green recycling cans, but a different color. This will be discussed again at the next COW meeting.
  7. Finance, Don Tobergte
    - a. Said that he met with the Mayor and Curtis on the Ordinances to place City Hall employees on their own pay and benefits Ordinances. The committee will meet on Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM in Council Chambers.
    - b. Reported that there were over 100 people signed up for the Bunny Fun Run which will start at 3:30 at Vine Street Park.
  8. Service, Steve Asbach
    - a. Reported that he had received a call from the Service Department about recycling items. The items that are not allowed are: plastics that are not bottles, such as Cool Whip containers, butter tubs or food trays- plastic bags- motor oil jugs or other chemical containers- Styrofoam ( this is what they see a lot of )- lose lids and caps- window glass and drinking glasses- light bulbs- coat hangers or steel scrap- and paint cans.
  9. Business & Industry, Andy Kalb
    - a. Reported that his committee will have meeting on Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM to discuss ways to retain current businesses as well as attract new ones. Please feel free to come and offer your input.
  10. Council voted 5-0 to excuse the absent members.
  11. Council met in Executive Session to discuss employment issues.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 14 , 2015. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA CONSTRUCTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 14, 2015. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 14, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2015. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 15, 2015.

## **REMARKS**

Mr. Tobergte – On the Ordinance, the street maintenance contract for \$7,855.00 in the Safety Center Project, \$1,628.00 were checks we got reimbursed from various places so that's not a true additional appropriation. It is, but in the County sense, but it is not any money we're providing.

Mr. Stegman – I'd also like to add to that just so it's clear for everybody. The \$7,855.00 was an accident that happened out at Spring Grove and Vine where a semi had knocked off a fire compression system. It heaved the ground up. I've got Adleta, they're going to go out there and fix it. This is what the bid was for so hopefully this money will take care of that so it's not money out of our pocket, it's out of the insurance company that is paying for the work to be done out there and I needed it in the line item to pay Adleta when it comes due.

Also the \$1,628.00, when we were building the Safety Center building down there we had to take out high risk insurance, builder's insurance, and they wouldn't let us take a half year out. We had to buy a whole year and this is the refund of the money after we stopped, when we moved in we stopped the high risk, the building risk on it and this is the refunded money that goes back into that line item.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adopt Ordinance No. 15, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – Before you read Ordinance 16, Valerie, in Section 1 toward the end it says "by reason thereof, the Safety Director or "his" designee" .

Ms. Valkenberg – I prefer his/her.

ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2015. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO REENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICOUNT MANAGEMENT INC., TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) BILLING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 16, 2015. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 16, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 17, 2015. AMENDING THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 739.04 (e) (1), THE SALES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY CODE SECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 17, 2015.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – This is the Ordinance that we were talking about for the last several weeks correcting the time of the solicitation in our Village from 9:00am until 8:00pm to 9:00am until 7:00pm and that's the only change.

Mr. Tobergte – It also takes away the canvassing I expect? Is that still good from 9:00am until 8:00pm, Curtis, since it's not in the second sentence?

Mr. Walden – That would be, well that section will be replaced by this section. The reason, as I recall, to take out canvassing was, many people here and not here will be running for office in the fall and under the way the canvassing is provided or defined in the Ordinance are all those are supposed to be arrested for being out after 7:00pm.

Mr. Tobergte – I understand that was the reasoning but since canvassing was left out does that mean they can canvas until midnight if they want to since it's not in the Ordinance anymore?

Mr. Walden – That is a good point Don and I guess we will have to adjust that at a future meeting to see if we want to add a separate provision just for canvassing.

Mr. Tobergte – I personally, I'll let it go.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 17, 2015 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 18, 2015. AMENDING THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 351.16 (c), THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING CODE SECTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 18, 2015.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Underneath this Ordinance, it's a definition of what commercial vehicles are and it changed from a parked truck and what we currently have to a box truck and that is the only change in this Ordinance.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 18, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 19, 2015. AMENDING THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 523.01 (c) (4), THE JUNK AND RUBBISH STORAGE CODE SECTION TO RESOLVE A CONFLICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 19, 2015.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – In this Ordinance it defines the fair market value of junk and rubbish. It has been changed for \$800.00 or less to \$1,500.00 or less. That is the change in that Ordinance.

Mr. Walden – The reason the Police Chief requested this was because we had two different Ordinances on the books with two different values for what was a junk car. One was by the Ohio Revised Code which we can't change and the other one was not, so we changing the one we could.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 19, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20, 2015. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 20, 2015.

Mr. Kalb – Kerry you might come up and explain how we've gone through over \$100,000,00 worth of overtime in three and a half months.

Fire Chief Kerry Meyer – Sure. Kind of a perfect storm of events. Going into the year we had already had two people that were off on Workers' Comp. In addition to that we started the year two other firefighters short because we had not replaced the firefighters that had retired in July and September. Shortly after that we remedied part of that situation. We hired someone in late January and then again

in late February. But unfortunately right about the time we had those two spots filled we had a third person go off on Workers' Comp. Those three employees are still off at this time. We just got news late today after I spoke with the Safety Director and Mayor that one of those will be coming back April 19<sup>th</sup>. I still don't know when the other two are. If I had to guess, I'm hoping that one will be back by the middle of May and the other back by June but with three people short, three or four most of the year, it's just, the way our schedule works we're so tight that almost all year every hour of sick time, not counting the Workers' Comp, or any other sick time or any vacation time, almost hour per hour has caused overtime. And then in addition to that just a few weeks ago we also lost another member who resigned from our Dept. and went to a neighboring Fire Dept. to work so we still have to replace that person so it was just really an unbelievable culmination of events of us just being really short staffed all year long.

Mr. Culbertson – Chief Meyer, are you comfortable with \$50,000.00? How are you feeling about that based on your current situation?

Chief Meyer – Again, it's really hard to tell because I don't know when two of the three are coming back. Obviously I don't know if anybody else is going to get hurt. I'm unsure of exactly when we'll hire someone to replace the firefighter who left. If we kept things exactly the way they currently are as far as our manning, it would not last but another two or three months probably. With that in mind, I had a discussion today with the Safety Director and the Mayor and we made the decision that we were going to cut our manning of six people to five, which means up until this point if we dropped below six we were going to, we would cover that with overtime. We made the decision that now we will run shorthanded which obviously from the Fire Chief's standpoint is not, not a great scenario, but with the financial ramifications of where we're at that was the decision the three of us made.

Ms. Van Valkenberg – If I may add, we are taking steps to curb some of the more abusive practices that we've been seeing down there. We're working on policies that will help some of that. That will be of assistance as well. We are in the process of looking into getting another person hired with the resignation. We already had a number of people that we had on the list from the two that we had hired previously. We asked for two more to fill up the compliment of ten that we need to look at the best. Civil Service rules to have the next two down and we contacted them to make sure they were still interested and start that process to make sure that they are tested and where they need to be so we can hopefully interview them within the next couple of weeks and get another hire on. So we're not faced with this issue.

Ms. Hausfeld – Kerry, isn't, I know about this but I'm still like unsure about some of this, the overtime, wasn't that part of the DTO that we agreed to. I mean to me it should be going into DTO versus overtime but it sounds like it's not.

Chief Meyer – No it's not. The DTO was last year. We tried to get through because we were, again we were shorthanded last year to get to the end of the year. I suspended that on January 1<sup>st</sup> because it was kind of a short term solution with the Union. The Union was not really, I don't believe, was not willing to do this long term. It was basically they thought they were helping the Village out in the short term to get to the end of the year. And quite frankly the program did not work the way I had hoped. It did indeed save some money but there were some other issues

that I'd rather not get into that make it not very, not even possible to use it at this point. DTO has not been used at all this year for overtime.

Mr. Asbach – Just a question for the Auditor. On last month's report, we showed like \$76,600.00 and change in overtime, how much of that is still left? I understand we need the \$50,000.00 but.....

Mrs. Brickweg – If you look at the report for this week before the payroll it was at \$30,000.00. The issue is he has to put on the books Comp-time that they can cash out at any time so we have to be able ...I don't see them doing it but I have to account for it. The feel was with this week's payroll and the Comp-time there might be enough for the next payroll or there might not be.

Mr. Asbach – Without seeing the report I didn't know how low it had gone..

Mrs. Brickweg – That's right because we're still closing up tonight.

Mr. Asbach – OK.

Mr. Kalb – Chief Meyer, is there any talk between the Mayor and Safety Director to maybe using the Fire Inspector position in order to curb some overtime and keep manning at six instead of dropping our minimum staffing?

Chief Meyer – We don't currently have a Fire Inspector. Because of the men off we do not put one in there because it would have cost actually even more overtime to do that. So the person who is going to be our Fire Inspector is actually on shift now covering so there's nobody to put for those hours. However, I will say that when we do finally get our Fire Inspector and everything is back to normal, my plan is to use him while he is there to cover overtime for those hours that he is there.

Mrs. Brickweg – I know I should really know this but I don't. if we go from six to five what does that mean?

Chief Meyer – Well without trying to be smart obviously we have one less firefighter which is not good. In the past the policy of the former Chiefs before me, at least the two former Chiefs I can't speak before that, was that with five firefighters we would not enter the building until mutual aid got there. There's a State law where anytime you enter a building you have to have at least two members together and then you also have to have two people outside as a back-up team in case the firefighters get in trouble, that's a State law. Now that is weighed in case of life safety, if you know that there is someone in danger you can break that law without being in trouble, but under normal circumstances, if you are just fighting a fire you need two in and two out. Well the position of the former Chief's was that you needed two in, two out, the engineer to run the truck and the officer to run the fire scene. That's why you needed six. So if you drop below five they would not enter. I made a decision to have our officer actually be part of that back up team in case of emergency. So I'm going to count our officer as one of those people so that we can still make entry with five. But I want to stress, this is not an ideal situation. It is not something that I want to do. I don't want to do this. I'm not suggesting we do this long term and this is just what the current financial situation, the way we ran through the money in the first three months, it was a

decision that the three of us made but it's certainly not something I'm endorsing as going for being a great thing.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Kerry, can you get us the number, if we, how much it would cost us so you stay up to staff at all times instead of dropping below? Obviously that's not going to happen in the next two weeks, but I think that if we had that number in front of us we could, I mean obviously I think this is going to pass tonight, but if you could get us the number to keep you at optimum staffing at all times where you're comfortable, and the Village is comfortable, can you get us that number?

Chief Meyer – Well I can give you an estimate, but obviously with nine months to go, not knowing when guys are coming back and if anybody was going to get hurt, that's all it is, but I can certainly give you my best guess of what it would cost.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – OK, thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't know if I should say this from the Auditor or what but I'm going to be very blunt from the wife of a firefighter. This scares me. It scares me from a person living here if my house catches on fire, it scares me that my husband is not safe at his job. We just saw somebody die last week that I can't believe for this money that we're going to put our residents and our firefighters in harms way. I would highly recommend that we do not do this, this is scary. That's from Peggy Brickweg not the Auditor.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – That's why I asked for that number. It's to keep emotions out of it. If you could let us know what that number actually is. We understand you had a perfect storm, this was nothing of your doing.

Mr. Ungruhe – Also speaking as a resident of the City, I agree with what Peggy said but also as a steward of funds for the City we may be at a point where we consider the possibility of getting part-time employees like the vast majority of other cities have so that when we do have instances with injuries and sicknesses that we have someone we can just call in. That's what other cities do, that's what businesses do instead of spending \$100,000.00 in overtime. I mean that's just absurd in my opinion but I understand that I'm not faulting anyone but I think we need to be better stewards of our funds and consider other options.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to say one more thing. The one thing and I think a lot of people need to remember this and a lot of you were not on Council at the time, but we, the City laid off four firefighters. And the reason if we remember back then was it was going to save a lot of money so I'll be very honest if you, if the City had hired back those three people it would be a lot more money than we're spending now in overtime so we are saving money by not having them but it is something that we should think about. If we're that concerned about the overtime then maybe we should consider hiring back the three men then we would be at minimum staffing, we wouldn't even have the overtime. I don't know why that's never brought up. I've been asked for numbers before based on that but, those are two scenarios. You could hire three back, you'd have a lot less overtime but in all honesty the overtime is less than hiring the three firefighters back. But it is something to think about.

Mr. Peck – Chief do you have anything else.

Chief Meyer – I do not unless you have something for me.

Brian Young, 312 Delmar Ave. – Just to give you some additional input or thought. With the suspected sick time over use, we've worked with the City to address that issue. We're more than happy to sit down and have further discussions about that if that's what we choose to do. I think there's a policy put in place to curtail a lot of that. I don't like using the word abuse, I mean, there's a fine line between abuse and people who have sick children. We can talk about that more but I just think that's a very touchy subject and we are working and I'm sure the Chief can speak to it. From a Union standpoint we are willing to sit down and talk about our progress. If you want that to happen we're more than happy to do it. One of the big things and the Chief mentioned it and I don't want to beat a dead horse but we lost two members in July and September. Those members were not replaced until February and March. You've got a period of seven months and nine months where we short two people. We have no control over that. Those people, we knew they were leaving, they should have been replaced a lot sooner than that. We have no control over that. I, myself, presented a plan to Council two years ago to replace the four firefighters that Peggy talked about that we lost and we were told not to pursue it any further. You could have got those three firefighters replaced free, totally paid for by the Federal Government for three years. We were told not to pursue it. I had something else in my notes. I must have lost my mind. I'm trying to think of what it was. Oh, part-timers. This comes up every time we start talking about having financial issues. Andy you work for a Fire Dept. that utilizes part-time firefighters, you know, we talked about this with Chief Scherpenberg, it was brought up under Chief Moeller, I've had some minor talks with Chief Meyer about it. Part-timers is not the way to go. Most Depts. in this County are looking to get rid of part-timers and hire full-timers. They're getting away from part-timers. Part-timers are an absolute logistical nightmare. They come on, we talk about mutual aid runs and other Depts., one of the issues a neighboring dept. of ours has, every time there's an EMT class, they have a plethora of people. As soon as the Forest Park, the Springdales, whoever, hire a part-timer they lose that entire staffing. We'll see the same problem. Every time somebody hires new, twenty five more cents an hour they leave for the next dept. so then you're out turnout gear, their physicals, hiring cost, the whole nine yards, polygraphs, whatever procedure you put them through, you spent that money. I can give you examples of many depts.. that absolutely, if they didn't have to have part-timers they would not go down that road. It is just a logistical nightmare. Again, any conversation at Council, the Administration want to have on ways to solve this problem, we're more than happy to sit down and talk about it. That's all I have.

Ms. VanValkenberg – I would like to respond to a couple of those comments. I agree with you on the issue of part-timers. That is one thing the we have had extensive conversations with Chief Moeller about it and I know it's something that I would not necessarily recommend to the Mayor because frankly for the same reasons that Mr. Young just discussed. It is a lot of expense for somebody who as soon as they can get a full time job is just going to pick up and leave. We've spent money to outfit them, we spent a lot of money, gear, training, all that kind of stuff. It is something that we may want to consider but I'm not sure that is our best alternative. The Union has been trying to work with us on the sick leave issue but when I say sick leave I'm not necessarily talking about people who like dealing with sick children, I'm talking about using it for whatever reasons. That is

something that we will continue to pursue with the Union. The last issue was the issue with the length of time that people are on board. Unfortunately our hands are tied by Civil Service Rules which is what we follow. There are certain custom requirements, there is a lot of notice that has to be given, those are things that take time, it's not anything we can necessarily control. We can push people to do it but we don't control that and so we have not been sitting on our hands idly. It is something that has been pursued. The applicants that we are trying to get involved with are going through the next round of testing to get to the point where we can interview them. There is just so much that has to be done before they get cleared to the point where they can be interviewed. I do want to point out that the two who were most recently hired had certifications. We did not have to go out and retrain those. We hired certified, able bodied people who could walk in and do the job. That's what our hope is to do this next round as well.

Mr. Tobergte – I have my two cents. One thing that is really frustrating is like the police list. The police list expired last June. They still haven't done the physicals. The yearly test are not until April 25<sup>th</sup>. We're going to lose another year there out of a list to hire from. We already have one officer retired back in January and there might be more. I think it's very frustrating that we can't keep a list from Civil Service up on the board that we hire from.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 20, 2015 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – A final reminder, the Bunny Fun Run and Business Hop is this Saturday. Registration starts at 1:30pm. The Fun Run starts at 3:30 and the business Hop follows the run immediately. There's a lot of different businesses up and down Vine St. that are giving free coupons or buy one get one free and stuff like that for anybody that registers, we've got 150 bags we'll be packing with all the coupons in it.

Also, add Ordinance No. 12, 2015 to COW agenda. That's the one with the swimming pool cashiers that we talked about at the last COW. I talked to Bill today and he's going to talk to Paul and try to get him here next Thursday to explain that further.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm not sure if this is old or new because Dianna did bring it up, when I was on vacation I was lucky enough to be able to get with the people from CXS. I've been working with them this week on the possibility of the demolition of the three buildings. Late today I received a contact that they are willing to demolish the building but they did not have it in their budget. If we want those three buildings back there, two of them CXS would have to demolish themselves because of I guess where they are close to the track and things like that. They said that they would be willing to contract out on the third. The total price for all three of the buildings to be demolished would be \$145,000.00. If you want to put that on the COW I don't want to continue working with them if we're not willing to pay for it but I finally got somewhere that we can get them demolished but we would have to pay for it so if you could just put that on the COW so I can let them know.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Thank you for saying that for me. Phil can we just put it on COW, not next week but the following one. Is that OK? Is that OK, Peggy?

Mr. Stegman – Yes, that is fine because I'd like to pursue it a little with Peggy because I explained to her that I don't know if it's the station house or is it the switching station.

Mrs. Brickweg – All three.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Can we do like an explosion?

Mr. Stegman – No.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I'd be happy to light the fuse.

Mrs. Brickweg – What I'll do is I'll contact him and tell him I don't want to go any further at all because he really doesn't proceed it much because I knew that. I just wanted to get a contact and see if we could have somebody that we could actually talk to. I will just let him know that we're going to be discussing it in a few weeks and we will get back to him.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Thanks Peggy, and I would like to be involved in that.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kalb – I just want to thank Chief Meyer and the Fire Dept. for participating in the funeral on Wednesday as well as lining the street on Reading Rd. when they went by. That was truly an honor and then also a shout out to the Police Chief as well. They had a couple of vehicles down at Tennessee or Reading and Ross and Tennessee. So thanks to those depts.. for participating.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I hope that Council enjoyed my new found silence tonight. I can assure it will not continue. I wish everybody the happiest of holidays.

Mr. Walden – Much like Mrs. Schildmeyer, my mother was involved in a fairly severe accident on Tuesday. She is doing well now. She said there was probably ten fire and police that responded and she was sorry for anyone that she missed but she did specifically recall and thank Fireman Bret Fogel and Mark Sicking and Officer Nimo.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mrs. Brickweg – I just have one quick question, when we were going through all that overtime and maybe, are we going to still do the, I know you asked for, but we passed the \$50,000.00 are we still going to do a five man minimum or what? I was just curious. I don't know if we ever kind of answered that.

Chief Meyer – I think that's going to have to be a conversation between the Mayor and Safety Director and myself. I don't know that I have the power to make that decision all by myself or not. Certainly if the money is there, I'd prefer six without a doubt. I think it's safer for the, it is safer for the citizens and for the firefighters. I was looking at the book today not for anybody calling sick, it looks like there should be nine or ten 24 overtimes in this next month for the next two pay periods

so maybe \$11,000.00 or \$12,000.00 there and then obviously sometimes we have to call in for fires and stuff. So if we waited a month we would probably run through \$15 or \$16,000.00. So I don't know if you guys want me to wait, reinstate the six and run through that kind of money for the next month or if you want the Mayor and the Safety Director and I to make a decision.

Mr. Culbertson – I think this is a conversation that the three of you continue to have. These are Administration decisions and come back to us with the numbers if you like them.

Ms. VanValkenberg – I agree with Mr. Culbertson. We will discuss it tomorrow.

Chief Meyer – So I will have a conversation with the Mayor and Safety Director and we'll make that decision.

Mr. Peck – At this time we will go into Executive Session to discuss employment compensation.

Mr. Asbach – Just because everyone will probably leave, the next COW meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.