

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2015**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, October 1, 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.

Mayor Burkhardt – As you are all very aware, we lost a friend, colleague and elected official, C. Curtis Walden, last Thursday. I think most of us are still in shock but are beginning to heal each day. Curtis was a good man, father, loving husband, excellent attorney and dedicated civil servant. I know he touched each of our lives in many different ways and will be missed daily at City Hall.

At this time I would like to announce that Valerie Van Valkenburg has agreed to fill the Law Director position for the remainder of the term and I have decided not to fill the Safety Director position, at this time.

I would also like to recognize Bob Strotman who passed away last week, as well. Bob served St. Bernard as a Council member and was also a very dedicated member of the community. Bob will be missed by many.

Mr. Peck – At this time we will have a moment of silence for Curtis Walden and also for Bob Strotman.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed 7-0.

## **REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – I'd also like to ask you to remember Firefighter, Christine Paisley, as her father passed away this week also. It's been a bad week.

The Mayor's Monthly Court Report Receipts for September, 2015: Mayor's Court Costs/Fines/Fees/Miscellaneous receipts were \$3,086.46. Bonds applied to outstanding tax obligation, \$200.00. Total to the City was \$3,286.46. Total to the County was \$12.00. Total to the State was \$831.00. Total Disbursements were \$4,129.46.

Meetings with the Police Department TOE negotiating team continue and I believe we are close to coming to an agreement. Conditional offers have been made and accepted by two of the Police candidates. They are currently completing a few final tests and hopefully we will have them sworn in in the near future.

Mr. Paul Myers attended the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emery Oleochemical on the Village's behalf Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. He presented them with a Proclamation that Elaine prepared and participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pineapple 2 Project. I have a picture from the event, and email with some company history and a book and candle that was provided by Emery Oleochemical as a gift for the Village. I had no idea that they originally manufactured lard oil in

the early 1840s and began to make tallow candles in 1852. Then, in 1885, moved to the current location in St. Bernard. The email has a very detailed time line and interesting family history.

I would like to ask Council to go into Executive Session regarding property acquisition.

Also, another announcement. Roger Bacon High School Alumni Association would like to notify you the Steve Asbach will receive the prestigious Astrolabe Award at the annual 2015 Alumni Awards Dinner. This award is given to a graduate of Roger Bacon High School who has lived his life in a true Franciscan spirit and has demonstrated significant achievements and dedicated service to the larger community since graduation. Congratulations Steve.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the statements from First Safety Bank, our account down there for monument out front. The total at the end of last month, the end of August was \$5,625.38. I hoped to have my revenue report, the Auditor provided me the report last week, however, there must have been an adjustment in June because we are coming up with different numbers. What they should be based on, the running totals, when I get with her I will have those numbers at the next meeting.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. VanValkenburg – No report.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – An update on the Village projects; Ross Ave. will be thermos breaking on Monday, depending on the weather, and the Punch list is finagling being walked through on Ross. Most of all the businesses on Vine St. are underground now with their electric. Time Warner and Cincinnati Bell will be pulling their wires to then remove them off the telephone poles. Most of the LED street lights are up and will be lit tonight, so it would be nice to, when you leave Council, if it's dark enough, to see the LED street signs lit up on the poles. Pressure washing and sealing of the concrete started this week and all cracks are being looked at to get repaired.

A Newsletter is going to be going out sometime next week. One piece of the information I'd like to start reporting on Council floor so it gets out there to everybody. I was talking to the Ohio Alley Cat Resources, they are going to spay for free of charge, they are going to spay and neuter your pets and all feral cats only in St. Bernard for free. All you have to do is call Ohio Alley Cat Resources at 871-0185. That will be in the Newsletter for those folks that want to get their pets spayed and neutered. Also if there are stray cats out there they will trap them and take them and neuter them and spay them and get those taken care of.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – The end of the month is upon us and also the end of the third quarter. I have not finalized a report yet for the end of the quarter but I can tell you that our income is up, significantly, compared to last year at this time. I will have reports to put in your box sometime this week when I get it finished.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee did meet tonight, we discussed several issues: The Fire Department is in need of a new ambulance, to balance the budget that goes to the County we took it out next year's budget. With Peggy's

report that income is up over \$700,000.00 from this point last year, also we had a \$500,000.00 surplus last year, we are recommending purchasing the new ambulance this year. We know if we order it now it won't be ready until next year but we can encumber the funds out of this year's budget. This will need to be put on the agenda for next week's COW.

We also discussed setting up funds that we can put money into for the purchase of Police, Fire, and Service Department equipment. We talked about possibly using some formula to take half of what the budget surplus is and divide it up between the Police, Fire, and Service Department fund line items to fund the purchase of equipment down the road.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – The next Block Watch Meeting will be Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Lower Level of City Hall. There will be a representative there from the Coroner's Office to discuss the current heroin epidemic in Hamilton County.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department September, 2015 report. There were 18 trucks placed at residences, 20 dumpsters placed at residences, 93 special pick-ups at residences and 179.48 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. 34.24 tons of recycling material and 1180 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I want to talk about the Tax Abatement Program in St. Bernard. We have received a Community Reinvestment Area that provides tax abatements to promote new construction or improvement of owner occupied residential properties. The objective of the Village of St. Bernard program is to promote investment to properties in neighborhoods that have experienced a decline resulting in people not taking care of their property. In order to assist and encourage property owners undertaking improvement projects to their property in designated areas, the Village of St. Bernard will grant a tax abatement on increased property tax valuation resulting from the improvement for a specified time period. The tax abatement period begins the calendar year after:

- (1) The Certification is forwarded to the County Auditor's Office, and
- (2) A change in the property's tax valuation has occurred due to the new improvements.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact me at 834-9202.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – I have no report for myself but Peggy did call me this evening and she wanted me to just announce that she would hopefully be back next Thursday, but she did have surgery on Tuesday, just to let the public know and that she is home and hopefully recovering.

Mr. Asbach – There was no COW meeting due to the passing of the Law Director.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

September 22, 2015

Mayor Bill Burkhardt and Village Council

Dear Mayor Burkhardt:

On behalf of the entire St. Clement Parish community, I thank you and your colleagues, especially members of the Service Department, for all that you did to help us make our annual Festival and Pig Roast another fine success. It is obvious that we couldn't put on our festival without the assistance of the Village. As you know, the revenue generated by the festival is so essential for us to insure that we carry out our mission.

I've told many folks that I can't imagine a better parish in which to minister. In addition to the terrific parishioners who make up the St. Clement family, it is being in St. Bernard that contributes to my feeling this way. I very much appreciate the sensitivity you all showed when scheduling the streetscape project in front of the school and church. Communication with us at St. Clement was great. The care and patience of the Police Department in helping our parents develop new habits of dropping kids off and picking them up from school was really helpful. And the new parking lot behind LaRosa's is such a welcome addition to our part of the Village.

Again, for all that you and your colleagues did to make our festival a success, and for making our community great, I say thank you!

Sincerely,

Fr. Fred Link, OFM

Pastor

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to receive and file the communication and send a copy to the Service, Police and Fire Depts.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – First I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss purchase and sale of property and possible litigation.

Mr. Asbach – I'll second that.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – Last Saturday there was an article in the Enquirer about the local communities that are engaged with the Ohio Checkbook Project. I also received an email today stating that first 114 checkbook transparency websites for local governments and schools went live on OhioCheckbook.com last week. Mr. Gross from the Ohio Treasurers Office also sent me an excel spreadsheet template that we could use to transfer our data from Chips and Bucs too so we could join the Checkbook Project. I did forward this information to Peggy. He did say that most of the information from our system should transfer but we would probably have to do some data input manually.

Mr. Asbach – Mr. Service Director, you mentioned Vine St., I noticed when I left here last night, the two lights, and I don't know if you want people to start reporting to you the number on the pole, in case anyone hasn't noticed, there is a number on the pole that faces the street, but the two poles right here north of here, both of those were out last night. I don't know if you knew that or not.

Mr. Stegman – I have been trying to keep up with the ones, we had a few problems with a few up by the school. The two down here are not lit for the sole fact that they're going to be driven off of the other lights. There is a tunnel underneath, the conduit underneath that goes over, and they'll be lit when the other ones get lit.

Mr. Asbach – Secondly, while you are here, I don't know if it's you I need to thank or somebody but, as we saw in our Village email, there was a citizen that had sent a letter about the turn lane into Chili Time, the cars were continuing to go straight and running into the cars going straight so I don't know if you were the one that was responsible for the sign I would like to thank you. That was maybe a day later when we got that email so it makes it a whole lot more clear and easier to follow so thank you.

Mr. Stegman – It makes it a little bit more clear but they're still doing it so I don't know what else to do other than stand out there and let them hit me when they go through it.

Mr. Asbach – Put some steaks in the ground beyond the turn and flatten their tires, I guess.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I'd like to thank Phil. I think two weeks ago I complained about the light being blocked by the new light fixtures. I drove it the next day like sixteen times and Phil called me at like 7:00am and I'm completely wrong. The light is not blocked at Washington. There were construction vehicles there that day and that's what I think happened and I had to go left of center to get around the old police station and it was light. Just so the residents know, Phil did not screw up. He's a genius. There are no lights blocked by the new light fixtures.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – Phil, down at the new Safety Center are there any plans to re-mulch that, I mean, we've got a nine million dollar building and it hasn't been mulched this year. The weeds have finally been taken care of but some of the plants need pruning and stuff.

Mr. Stegman – We just had the new landscaper come back in to fix all the dead plants, just this past week. This was the first chance, we were waiting for them to get through to replant all the stuff that was dead that was taken care of with their guarantee so we knew that at some point they would be back down there to do that.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Mr. Peck – At this point we will go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and purchase and sale of property.

Mr. Peck – Council is back in regular session.

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

