

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2018**

The St. Bernard Village Council meeting was held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Dr. Chastain, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Siefert.

Mrs. Bedinghaus made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Dr. Chastain seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to suspend with the regular order of business to swear in the new member of the Tax Review Board.

Mayor Estep swore in Fr. Roger Anthony Lopez as the new member of the Tax Review Board.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Last week I met with Tom and Don to work on the budget. Looks good but we have to continue watching how we spend what we have. I'd like to thank everyone who participated and showed up for the Cruise-In. It was a great success with the Village of St. Bernard and Wiedmann. And I'd like to thank all three departments for their support in cooperation.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the end of September, 2018 Expense and Revenue spreadsheets and Cash Fund Report. The year to date expenses were \$8,952,983.01 and the revenues were \$10,246,475.25. Year to date the revenues are \$1,293,492.24 over the expenses.

Tonight, the Auditor's office has prepared two Resolutions and one Ordinance for Council's vote. Resolution 3, 2018 provides for Council's acceptance of the

property tax rates and amounts as certified by the Hamilton County Budget Commission and estimated by the County Auditor. These rates and amounts were derived from property valuations and state reimbursements and from the tax budget submitted to the county in June for fiscal year 2019. Resolution 4, 2018 provides for the payment of a then and now invoice in the amount of \$7,125.00 to Dinsmore for legal services.

Ordinance 34, 2018 provides for transferring \$900,000.00 from 01-5-A-19 General Fund Transfer Out into

31-1000 General Bond Retirement Cash Account in the amount of \$400,000.00

51-1000 Employee Health Plan Cash Account in the amount of \$500,000.00

It provides additional appropriation of \$1,000.00 to 01-2-L-9, Civil Service Entry Tests and \$900.00 to 01-2-L-10, Civil Service Promotional Tests . These additional appropriations are needed for Police and Fire entry tests and promotional tests in the Service Department. This Ordinance also authorizes moving \$50,000.00 from 01-6-A-1, Police into 01-6-A-1A, Police Overtime. This is needed because the Police Department was down officers.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – I just have an update on the issue regarding the Norton Sign and the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing we had on October 8. At that time Norton was present with their counsel who indicated they have an intention to hopefully move the sign but they would like to present a variance. They requested the Board give them a continuance to present that. The Board allowed them to have a continuance to November 19 at 5:00pm in these chambers where they will present a variance request. I don't know the details that will be presented then. The Board will review facts and then, if necessary, review their appeal to be determined that date. I thank everybody that was there that day and I hope to see you again on November 19 as well.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I apologize for being late this evening, I do have the Treasurer's report for the State of Ohio, the Star Account that we have with them at the end of last month totaled \$3,436,477.74. The current rate of return as of yesterday was 2.15%.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the monthly report for the St. Bernard Fire Department for September, 2018. As far as fire incidents; there were 2 structure fires, 2 non-structure fires, 11 auto accidents, 2 hazmat incidents and 4 calls for service. Mutual Aid was given 1 to Elmwood, 3 to Cincinnati, 3 to Little

Miami. Mutual Aid received; 1 by Cincinnati, 1 by Springfield Township, and 1 by Wyoming. As far as EMS incidents; 45 patients transported, with 35 other patients dealt with. Details of interest; there were no non-breathing patients this month, 4 unconscious patients, no overdoses, 10 auto accidents and 1 shooting. Mutual Aid given 7 times to Elmwood, 1 to Norwood and 5 to Cincinnati. Mutual Aid received; 1 by Little Miami and 2 by Lockland. As far as activities in the month of September; the Fire Department attended the CAT meeting held at VASF held on September 26. They did HURT training this month, hydrant painting was continued, assisted with the press for St. Clement Festival. SCBA training and a windshield on the ladder truck was repaired this month and our issue with the ambulance was taken care of. Activities for October; hydrant painting and hydrant winterization. Just a note, St. Bernard Police and Fire Benevolent Association Steak Fry was a huge success and thank you to all the responses and everyone who supported the event. October 7 thru the 13 is Fire Prevention Week. The St. Bernard Fire Department will be out in the community passing out literature and performing home inspections. Please be sure to check your smoke detectors and plan a fire escape route in your home.

Also, just in case you haven't heard, there is going to be a beer boxing championship at the Wiedmann Brewery on November 10. I am not reporting this as an advertisement but more to let you know this is a civilized event. You are aware that people in the past heard about the event are concerned. Both the Police Chief and myself attended the last event in May which was held at Yeatman's Cove. We were both very impressed with the operation of the event and it was not the assumed slug fest that people thought it was going to be. It was very well organized. The participants were trained. All of them were in the appropriate protective gear. To ease your mind, as residents, I'm very comfortable with this event and it will be closely monitored by our Police Department just to let everybody know. But it is a more civilized event than I ever would have imagined. So, I just wanted to let you know that I don't think there's going to be an issue here.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – We received news today that the Safety Center gas meter was not functioning properly. The next estimated bill will be about \$10,000.00.

In the infinite wisdom and words of our ancestors,
To My Community:

You get that feeling that you're at the bottom of the barrel. You look around and it's all brown. Down in the brown. The universe takes us there. Look around. You are there for a reason. Do not lurk there for too long. Seek out the gems. There are still happiness and love. Latch onto them. Surround yourself with them. Picture it

as an air bubble. Now float to the top. It may take you a bit and it may not be the easiest way but love is the only way. Cheers to the bubbles in your glass!

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Moore – First I would like to publicly thank Fr. Lopez for agreeing to be on the Tax Review Board. I think he will be a very positive addition. Hopefully we won't have to use him but it's nice to know that he is there if we do need him.

Secondly, I put the numbers from September in your mail boxes. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know, I'll be glad to answer.

REPORTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance No. 33. This is for the pay raise for our City Clerk.

John, Tommy and I met last Thursday to start working on the 2019 budget.

My next townhall meeting will be Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00pm in the lower level of City Hall.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Police Report for September. There were 657 calls for service, 114 arrests, 15 traffic violations, 1 DUI, 41 parking complaints, 28 reports of suspicious vehicles or people.

The Police Department also would like to let you know that Crime Stoppers has increased their potential reward to \$2,500.00 for information submitted via their tip line – 352-3040. This is on a temporary/trial basis and you are reminded that you will remain anonymous. This program is for tips including homicides and this increase is effective until December 31, 2018.

Halloween reminder to dress your child in reflective clothing and to choose face paint or makeup instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision. Use glow sticks or flashlights, if possible, to help children be seen by drivers.

Lastly, I would like to remind everybody that the next Block Watch meeting will be Thursday, October 18 at 6:30pm at the Safety Center.

SERVICE, Mr. Siefert – I have the Service Department report for September, 2018. There were 23 trucks placed at residences, 27 dumpsters placed at residences, 231 special pick-ups at residences and 178.83 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. The recycling report; there were 30.31 tons of recycling material and 3,460 pounds of scrap metal.

I just want to let the residents know we are having our next Service Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – Just to let all the residents know that the next CIC meeting is Tuesday, October 16 at 6:00pm in the lower level. They continue to go out to the website and look at the properties available. I know we have one commercial property at 4509 Vine Street that is still available, and I encourage all of those that are interested to apply and get those applications in.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tonight the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee met. The topic of discussion was perhaps move forward with an Ordinance for the Village of St. Bernard for unlawful discriminatory practices. Before moving forward with the decision, the Committee decided that we needed to, before we incorporate an Ordinance such as this, there are still other investigative work that will need to be done and most of it has to do with, how would we manage this in our Village of St. Bernard. There are various ways which were brought to our attention by several people that were here speaking from Quality Ohio. So, that is still things that we want to look at and make sure that moving forward with this in a way that manages it the best way for the Village. So, this work will continue with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee and the Law Director.

MARKETING, Dr. Chastain – The Council Marketing Committee met Tuesday, October 2 at 7:30pm right after the Service Committee. That dual meeting set-up worked very well and we're going to keep that. It's the same day, place and time slot that the Marketing Committee has had for the last couple of months. The first Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers. The Service Committee will meet at 7:00pm and the Marketing Committee meets directly after it at 7:30pm. I think maybe a slight correction for Alan, the next meeting will be Tuesday, November 6 And we encourage all to attend because it's a dual meeting, two birds with one stone. Discussed at the last meeting were continued progress for the Newsletter and the German Luau. These projects continue to move forward. There was some discussion on how we might be able to utilize the Dial-A-Ride bus and whether we can host a Farmers Market or Truck Rally. There is continued strong interest in a fitness or walking trail that is marked for direction and distance and it incorporates our parks as well as potentially including a stop at a community dog park. That is as soon as persons and funds will allow that. As always, we encourage all interested parties to attend both these meetings and to volunteer time and effort and ideas when you can. No one person or designated entity within this room right now will lead us to the strong St. Bernard that we all envision and need. It doesn't work that way. However, coordinated efforts from all of us can accomplish that goal. And all of us need the community in additions to those that are here every meeting.

To that point, Marge Niesen wanted me to remind everyone of the successful event that the Historical Society hosted at the Wiedmann Brewery in late August. Unfortunately it was so successful they had to turn people away. They're hoping to have another successful event with an upcoming Christmas memory program featuring music by Rosemary Clooney and Doris Day. She did not give me the specifics but if you email me, I will get them to you. She says they are accepting reservations at this time so that people from all over Cincinnati can attend the event and the Society now has over 90 members. So, please let her know or send me an email if you are interested.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Burkhardt – No report.

Mrs. Kathman – The COW report has been emailed to Council and the Administration and read as follows:

Committee of the Whole
September 27, 2018

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Dr. Chastain, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Siefert.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to approve the written minutes of the September 13, 2018 Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Estep – Reported his newsletter article will be given to Heidi. There will be work done on the budget by Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Paul and the Mayor. Interviews for the Service Department will begin soon.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – Wanted to put Resolution 3, 2018 on the table approving the County's amounts and rates.

More Civil Service testing is being done than was budgeted for. Needs an Ordinance to appropriate funds for this. Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to put Resolution 3, 2018 on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to put an Ordinance on the table for appropriating funds for Civil Service and the potential transferring funds. Motion passed 7-0.

Also need a Resolution for the attorney for the Fire Department contract negotiations. Motions by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to put a Resolution on the table for a Now and Then. Motion passed 7-0.

Law Director, Mr. Peck – Thanked Mr. Stuchell and the CIC attorney for all their help with the Ordinances for the last meeting.

Reminded everyone about the appeal for the sign violation on W. Ross and also our own zoning violation. The appeal will be October 8, 2018 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers. All are welcome.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – The current balance at First Safety Bank is \$5,644.26.

Safety Director, Mr. Stuchell – Explained Ordinance No. 32, 2018 established the maximum age limitation for the original appointment to the St. Bernard Police and Fire Departments. This should help increase the pool of candidates by making lateral transfers possible between the two departments.

The Police Department contract is working smoothly.

There will be a demo at 4511 Park Place this Saturday at 9:00 to 4:00pm. Anyone wanting to participate can make a contribution to Children's Hospital.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to put Ordinance No. 32, 2018 on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

Said he spoke with Officer Setters about monitoring wireless system and he is ready to start on this.

Also stated he would make the referral about the parking on Vine St. when school gets out at 3:00.

Service Director, Mr. Paul – Explained why the resident on Chalet and Heger was taking on water and how it will be fixed.

Stated the area next to St. Clement was ready to be fixed also.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Mr. Moore – The September numbers will be in Council's mailboxes by next Council meeting.

A lot of negative comments were received about the mailings from the Tax Department. Reminded residents they were required to file if they were over 18 years of age and did not have an exemption from the Tax Department.

The late fee is \$25.00 per month. The maximum fee is \$150.00. There are also penalties for late tax due plus interest.

Finance, Mr. Tobergte – The Committee discussed the raise for the Village Clerk and it was decided to give her the 4% raise she was due. Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Seifert to put Ordinance No. 33, 2018 on the table for the Village Clerk to get a 4% raise. Motion passed 7-0.

There will be a budget meeting October 4 at 4:00.

There are also voter registrations forms and ballot forms in the literature rack at City Hall. The last day to register to vote is October 9.

There will be no Haunted House this year again, no location was found. But pumpkin painting will be Friday, October 12 from 7:00 until 9:00 at Ross Park.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – Thanked Don Tobergte and Nicole Klungle for hosting the meet the candidate's night.

Don thanked Brandy Schrader for being the emcee.

Service, Mr. Siefert – An unexpected jump of \$28,223.11 for waste collection. Reminded all of the Service Committee meeting on Tues., October 2 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The CIC sold 4604 and 4606 Vine St. to Blue Pearl.

Also, the Cleveland Avenue property will be packaged together. 305, 307, 309 and 313 are the addresses of the four properties to be sold together.

The CIC will meet on October 16 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mrs. Bedinghaus – There will be a meeting October 11, at 6:30pm to discuss a potential for creating an Ordinance for the Village that would address unlawful discrimination practices.

Marketing, Dr. Chastain – The Newsletter is active at the bottom of the Village website and everybody is encouraged to subscribe. The Newsletter contains information on businesses and much more. Thanked Tom Paul, Heidi Culbertson, Nicole Klungle and Cris Sauer for getting it started.

The next Marketing meeting will be with the Service Committee on Tues., October 2, in the Council Chambers. Service meeting at 7:00pm, Marketing meeting at 7:30pm. Encouraged everyone to attend.

Audience:

1. The low-interest or no interest loans program is still active. It is being administrated by First State Bank and Mr. Stuchell will find out who the contact is and will let people know that it is available.
2. State Law does permit the Village to put an age limit on Police and Fire candidates.

3. The packet for the appeal of the sign Ordinance has been sent to the Board members and will be ready for the meeting. The meeting is open to the public.
4. Residents were reminded that the Dairy Queen closes October 14.

Resolutions and Ordinances for the next Council meeting:

1. Resolution approving the County's amounts and rates.
2. Resolution for a Now and Then for the attorney for the Police Department.
3. Ordinance for appropriating funds for Civil Service testing and potential transferring of funds.
4. Ordinance for establishing a maximum age limit for Police and Fire.
5. Ordinance for approving a 4% raise for the City Clerk.

The next Council meeting will be Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 7:00pm.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A note of appreciation for the St. Bernard Fire Department, Troy Mirick, Dan Gruenwald, Charlie Dodd and Jason Smith for their help in our flooding situation. It is so nice to live in St. Bernard.

Clare Tempel
517 Advance Ave.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to receive and file the communication and send a copy to the Fire House. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to have this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances read by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2018. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVEES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 3, 2018. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Resolution No. 3, 2018 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2018. A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF ONE INVOICE COVERED BY 'THEN AND NOW' CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$3,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 4, 2018. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Resolution No. 4, 2018 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 32, 2018. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM AGE LIMITATIONS FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE ST. BERNARD POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 32, 2018.

REMARKS

A question was raised as to what the ORC allowed St. Bernard to establish as its own minimum or maximum age. It was explained that this Ordinance would allow for a lateral transfer as long as they had the same appointment as their original department. Also, the same physical agility, background checks, etc. would be required for all personnel so the pool of people could be utilized.

Another concern was raised about the DROP program and it was also explained that it would still have to be approved by the Police and Fire Pension Board.

The motion to suspend passed 6-0. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No.32, 2018 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 33, 2018. FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE VILLAGE HALL FULL CLERK OF ST. BERNARD WHO WAS EMPLOYED AS OF 10/1/2018 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2018.

REMARKS

Mr. Ray Culbertson will be abstaining because he is married to the Clerk.

The motion to suspend passed 6-0. Mr. Ray Culbertson abstained.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No. 33, 2018 as read. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Ray Culbertson abstained.

ORDINANCE NO.34, 2018. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND MOVE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Siefert to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 34, 2018.

REMARKS

A question was raised about how much of the appropriation is for dispatching? The number will be provided as soon as possible. Also, the security system is still under question and the number of residents using this system would like to be expanded. New equipment will have to be purchased to make the system up to date. Questions about who would use the system and what would residents be willing to pay for this security are all questions that need to be answered and what would be a feasible billing possibility.

Also, it was stated that the Police Department has been 5 officers short since about April and that is the reason for the overtime and the loss of officers has been a significant reason for this.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No.34 2018 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte asked for the pie chart that showed where all the money came in and would like to have a copy of it from Mr. Moore. Mr.

Moore will look at it give it to him as soon as he updates it.

Mr. Tobergte would like to put on the agenda to discuss where extra money would go for the Police and Fire.

Mr. Tobergte also noted that the Service Department would like to have a new packer. It was stated that money needed to be appropriated for this. After some discussion Mr. Paul recommended that a new packer should be purchased. Council approved Mr. Paul to look into this purchase.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1. Everyone was encouraged to attend Haunted Cincinnati presented by Cincinnati Museum Center. More information about the Christmas program will be provided in November.
2. It was stated that the condition of the parks is due to the lack of employees in the Service Department. They have responsibilities that are difficult to fulfill with so little staffing.
3. It was also suggested that the Department Heads give input on what needs to be put in their line items to fulfill needed services.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW will be Thursday, October 25 at 7:00pm. In November there are Five Thursdays and the Fourth Thursday for COW is Thanksgiving, so it looks like at some point we will make a motion to move that Council meeting to Thursday, November 29.

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

