

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2019**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held March 14, 2019 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. Mr. Burkhardt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – We continue to meet with the Reds, Cincinnati Zoo and P&G biweekly to move forward with the renovation of Ross Park and everything is going well. I think we have a couple of new supporters down there. I'm really anxious and looking forward to see how it is going to turn out.

I've also been approached by Tiffany Messner, she wants to do a small renovation at Franklin Park on May 19. She has some money from her Church, I believe it's Crossroads. I think Bob Hausfeld wants to help and he would make a monetary contribution as well as myself, just to beautify and clean up that park because it's used every day by the parents as well as students in that area as a place to pick up their students, a waiting place and everything else, so, on May 19, I'll give you more information as we move closer to that date. If anybody would like to chip in and help us out and we want to do some flowers, take out that rubber part that separates the mulch from the grass, possibly even move the swing set so it's safer for the kids and I think Mr. Hausfeld owns the property that abuts that behind going East on that side, so I think maybe some ornamental grass, nothing major but, I think it's overdue for a little bit of a cleanup and face lift.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the end of February Expense and Revenue spreadsheets and Cash Fund Report. At the end of February the Village's expenses were \$1,929,587.69 and the revenues were \$1,667,650.55. Compared to the end of

February 2018, the expenses are down \$165,054.61 and the revenues are up \$238,538.88.

The Auditor's office has provided the requested reports to the State Auditor and they will be coming in a few weeks to start the official audit. As a reminder the summer packets are available in the Auditor office. They are to be completed and turned in at the Summer Employee meeting on April 16th at 7:00 PM.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I printed off the Star Ohio bank statements for the Village's investments that we have with them. At the end of February, 2019 our total investment is \$3,470, 714. 52.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the monthly report for the St. Bernard Fire Department for the month of February: fire incidents, there were 3 structure fires, 2 non-structural fires, 4 auto accidents, 1 hazmat incident and 4 service calls for a total of 25 calls for service. Mutual aid given; 1 to Norwood, 1 to Little Miami, 1 to Elmwood Place, 1 to Cincinnati and Mutual Aid received; 1 by Elmwood Place.

EMS report; 42 patients transported and 29 non-transported patients. Mutual Aid given; 3 times to Norwood, 3 times to Elmwood Place, 2 to Cincinnati. Details of interest; 2 unconscious patients, 3 overdoses and 7 auto accidents. Mutual aid received 2 from Norwood, 1 from Little Miami and 1 from Lockland.

Also, all paramedics have completed the paramedic refresher course and the police and fire testing process is coming to a close as the polygraphs are being completed. We should have a certified eligibility list for both departments available soon and some conditional offers may be made.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Delmar continues. So far, the Nieman Company has been very accommodating and not too many complaints. Please be patient. There's a lot more to go.

Ross Park! Do you know how exciting this is? You come up with an idea to try and keep rainouts from happening then, suddenly, miracles sprout up. People and businesses wanting to give and donate time and funds to help. I see some publications and hear public statements out there that are not quite true. The scope has not been completed and it changes every meeting. I had met with the team again on Monday and once again things have been altered and some other things added. More donations have been acquired. Keep in mind we have professionals at the helm and when they are satisfied with the project, the Cincinnati Reds

Community Fund and Village will announce and release the proper information. It is truly amazing and exciting.

Mike and I attended a recycling seminar today. St. Bernard is doing well with their recycling compared to others. Thank you to our residents for recycling and our department for checking for contamination of our recycling materials. Keep up the good work.

To my community;

Make time, spend time and there's time enough. I should close my door, I'll never get this done. No. Somebody might need something. In walks somebody. You don't have to but you can assist, so you make time. As you are helping, conversation presents itself. You sense the pain, feel the sadness as sharing continues. You and they realize their reward have left happiness in their life. The time spent ends in laughter. They leave you with a good feeling about life. You return to your duties and it dawns on you that there is time enough to finish.

TAX COMMISSONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Moore – First of all, I have put February figures in your mailboxes. As usual if you have any questions or need any future information, let me know.

Secondly, we are announcing a new policy in the Tax Office. In the past we have allowed you to bring your information in, leave it with us, we would process your taxes and then ask you to come back and sign it. We've done away with that because it created a lot of problems. So, if you want us to figure your return for you, you must remain while we figure it up for you and sign it when we're finished. Normally, it doesn't take more than five or ten minutes to finish a return. No longer will we take your information and ask you to come back later. So, what this means is for the citizenry is that you might want to file early because as we get towards April 15<sup>th</sup> obviously, we are going to be busier and busier. Along those lines, one of the complaints we've had is that we're only 9:00 until 5:00 and if a person works, they can't get down to file their taxes. So, what we've decided to do is, we're going to keep the office open until 6:00pm on April the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>. Which is a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday prior to tax day. If you work until 5:00 that gives you an hour to come down, we'll be there to process and help you take care of your taxes. We're also going to try something new this year. We're going to open the office on two Saturdays. April the 6<sup>th</sup> and April the 13<sup>th</sup> From 9:00am until noon. So those of you that do work and can't get in our office hours will be able to come in and file your taxes on one of those two Saturdays in the morning.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobertge – First of all I apologize for my dress tonight, I have to go back to work with this nice weather we're having.

The Soap Box Derby is returning to St. Bernard on Saturday, April 27. If anybody knows of a child that would like to race, they can contact me at 543-6801 or by email at [newshoot@fuse.net](mailto:newshoot@fuse.net).

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The Safety Committee met on Thursday, March 7 to discuss a possible resolutions of support for a new Mitchell Ave. Crosswalk. At this time the Committee voted to not move forward in support of this project.

The next Block Watch meeting will be Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm at the Safety Center,

Lastly, I would like to congratulate former Council member Andy Kalb and his wife on the birth of their first child.

SERVICE, Mr. Siefert – I have the report on the 2018 storm sewer numbers; there were 6 sewers repaired by the Village, 8 sewers repaired by outside contractors, 97 sewers cleaned by Village with 240 cubic yards of debris removed. The Village leaf truck operated from the 5th of November until the 28<sup>th</sup> of December collecting 609 cubic yards of leaves. The street sweeper picked up 428 cubic yards of debris, 360 tons of salt were spread by road crews to improve winter road conditions, 220 gallons of used oil were recycled to local businesses for use as fuel oil and 280 pounds of fertilizer spread between March and October on city property.

I also have the Service Department report for February 2019;

There were 13 trucks placed at residences, 21 dumpsters placed at residences, 192 special pick-ups. 151.72 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. 31.39 tons of recycling material and 2,440 pounds of scrap metal.

I just want to remind everyone that this year's tire collection will be the week of April 15. This is a once a year event, so please put any unwanted tires out along side your trash the week of April 15.

Lily Middendorf will be having a clothing drive on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00am until 11:00am in the lower level.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT, Mr. Bob Culbertson – This Tuesday night the CIC group will meet in the lower level at 6:00pm.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Burkhardt – I have a Communication I would like to read:

To Our Dear Friends and Customers;

We regret to inform you that after being in business for 82 years, Greenlee Garage will be closing the doors on Friday, March 15, 2019. We are deeply saddened, but the flood of August 2016, was more than we could overcome. We are glad we were able to spend several more years together; you will never know how important all of you have been to Greenlee Garage. Some of you have been with us so long you knew my grandfather Alex and who could forget Tom.

This decision has been very hard to make; we feel that we are letting our extended family down. We could not have been in business this long without building bonds & friendships, we have enjoyed the journey

Mike is leaving the automotive field completely and will be working closer to his home and kids.

Rick is also leaving the automotive field, but I do not believe that he will ever leave it completely.

I am not sure what I will be doing, but will take some time off.

Our gratitude, on how much you have meant to us, can never be fully expressed.

Thanks to the Village of St. Bernard for supporting us.

From our families to yours, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Patty, Mike and Rick

MARKETING, Dr. Chastain – There will be a Marketing meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00pm here in Council Chambers. I'll have an agenda before that date, but a main topic will be a potential Farmers' Market that might potentially include Food Truck involvement or a Craft Fair component. Hamilton County "We Thrive" will be involved and several interested volunteers have been confirmed. If you have any thoughts or input on the issue or would like to help or connect us with vendors, please attend the meeting. Representatives of the St. Bernard Community Afterschool Program have offered to help and I think we can get this effort off the ground.

The next meeting of the Hamilton County/St. Bernard "We Thrive" group is next Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The meeting is at St. Bernard's own, "I Am Coffee" located at 4728 Vine St. Please come, show support and provide input on how to make the community better.

The monthly newsletter moved from 132 subscribers in February to about 144 in March. However, we really do need to get those numbers up. Most residents of St. Bernard have an email address, so we need to try to share this and actively get people signed up. I hope there will be a time when this newsletter is a necessary form of communication that's easily ported to a print newsletter, and I'd like to get that back, especially for our Seniors who might not have email. For that to be realistic and sustainable, funding from advertising will most likely be required.

That funding will only come when we show a wide audience, so please subscribe and encourage subscription. Even if you know about every single item in the newsletter, it still helps our Village if you actually subscribe to it. You can subscribe at the bottom of the Village website.

The St. Bernard Historical Society has its Third Annual St. Bernard Trivia presentation on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Centennial Hall.

The COW report has been emailed to Council and the Administration and reads as follows:

Committee of the Whole

February 28, 2019

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

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to approve the written minutes of the February 14, 2019 Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to put Ordinance No. 6, 2019 for Walter Drane Codified Ordinance update on the table for the March 14, 2019 Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Estep – Requested Council go into Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss the sale of property.

Introduced Steve Shad, Principal of Roger Bacon High School, to present a proposed crosswalk for the new parking lot that will be adjacent to the football field.

Mr. Shad informed Council of the stadium improvements, which would include a parking lot for 140 cars, and the need for a crosswalk, how it would affect the students' safety while crossing Mitchell Ave. and alleviate much congested traffic on Vine St. Also, there will be no need for students to park along the streets of St. Bernard.

There was much discussion as to how this could be accomplished. Mr. Peck will look into all the legal aspects and Council did show support for the Villages' participation.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale of property for competitive bidding. Motion passed 7-0.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – The packets for swimming pool employees for the summer are ready. Another grant was submitted for the firehouse for AUV.

Director of Law, Mr. Peck – Reported he was still looking into the issue for Mr. Tobergte. The “Wills for First Responders” program will also meet in May. He will give a definite date as soon as he hears. He will also look into whether we need another contract for Health Insurance.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – The statement from First State Bank shows a balance at the end of January of \$5,646.64.

Safety Director, Mr. Stuchell – Extended sympathy to the family of the fatal accident on Vine St. last Saturday, Feb. 23. He also thanked the Police and Fire Department for their professionalism. We are working with the insurance company to fix the damage to the Village.

The CIC is researching outstanding funds that may be owed to the Village from the CIC. They are also going to revisit renting the old police station to the new developer of the school project. They would like to be placed on the agenda to discuss the old fire house and Long John Silver properties.

Service Director, Mr. Paul – Line item 5MT9, streets and sewers, needs about \$18,000.00 for heavy equipment. On March 11 DAG will sign an agreement with the school and the permit to proceed will be signed on March 18. They would still like to use the pavilion and will resurface afterward. They don’t see the need to close Tower Ave.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Mr. Moore – Figures for February will be ready for the next Council meeting.

Finance, Mr. Tobergte – The Soap Box Derby is scheduled for April 27 on Washington Ave. Hill. Call me at 543-6901 or email me at [newshoot@fuse.net](mailto:newshoot@fuse.net) to reserve a spot. This year’s Shred It Day will be held Saturday May 11 from 9:00 to 11:00 at the Safety Center.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The police report for January, 2019; 90 misdemeanor arrests, 9 issues of disorder groups or persons, 56 investigations of suspicious

activity, 5 noise complaints, 35 parking complaints, 28 traffic citations (10 for speeding and 4 DUIs) a total of 556 calls for service.

The Safety Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers to discuss the proposed Mitchell Avenue crosswalk.

Lastly, tomorrow be very careful walking around Vine and Delmar. Dairy Queen opens and there will be long lines.

At this time it was clarified that Mr. Paul did not need the \$18,000.00 immediately.

Service, Mr. Siefert – I have the waste collection numbers for January, 2019; the Village received \$25,560.10.

Thanked the Mr. Stuchell, Police and Service Departments for taking care of the issue at Bank and Andrew. Drivers ignore the stop sign at this intersection. They made corrections at this location to better the problem.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The Cleveland Avenue sale has been completed.

Summer workers are needed for grass mowing of the CIC properties. The packets for application can be picked up at City Hall. They are due on March 29.

The property on Park Place was returned to the Village and will be used for a green space.

The next CIC meeting will be March 19, at 6:00pm in the lower level.

Marketing, Dr. Chastain – The Hamilton County Public Health Dept's St. Bernard branch of "We Thrive" met last night at "I Am Coffee" That's here in St. Bernard at 4728 Vine with a website of [www.stbernardcoffee.com](http://www.stbernardcoffee.com) and they are amazing. The business-owning Spears family was joined by three other representatives of St. Bernard, two representatives of Hamilton County, and one representative of the Talbert House who is leading an initiative here in St. Bernard. We began a structured analysis of public health issues existing in St. Bernard, but it was much broader than I imagined and includes numerous aspects of economic outreach, development, and impact. It also included discussion and rating of property use and upkeep. Although there will eventually be physical and online flyers going out to help us gauge community opinions on matters, I strongly encourage interested parties to attend the monthly meetings so their voice can be heard as topics arise.

Remember, this is a county initiative with county representatives who will have connections to grant information and like grant writing assistance.

As always, I ask for submissions to the St. Bernard newsletter. Anything of interest to you is likely to be of interest to others as well. We want to keep the community as connected and informed as possible.

Audience:

There was no audience participation.

Ordinances for the next Council meeting.

1. Ordinance No. 6, 2019, the Walter Drane Codified update.

The next Council meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2019.

The next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the sale of property for competitive bidding.

Council reconvened.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2019. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 6, 2019. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 6, 2019 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – Thanked Greenlee Garage for all the support they gave to the community by sponsoring t-ball teams, soccer teams and they were one of the original sponsors for the old German Luau.

Announced that St. Clement Super Bingo is Saturday, March 30. Doors open at 10:00am and Bingo starts at 1:00pm. You must be 18 year of age to enter the event.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. Stuchell reminded everyone that the CIC bid packets to contractors are available from the Mayor's Clerk or the City Clerk and need to be turned in by March 29. These packets explain what is required of the contractor.

A complaint about the Cleveland Avenue contractors starting at 6:00am was heard and Mr. Stuchell will look into this.

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting will be Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm. The next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm.

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