

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2019**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held on Thursday, April 11, 2019.

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

Roll call showed six members present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Dr. Chastain, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Siefert. Mr. Burkhardt was absent.

Mrs. Bedinghaus made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, Dr. Chastain seconded the motion. Council agreed 6-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I'd like to thank the Tax Department for being over and above to meet with the citizens who couldn't get there on time. They've extended the hours, they're going to meet this Saturday until noon. I don't know if we've done that in the past but I think it's a pretty nice gesture on their part. Council's thoughts on switching the Long John Silver property over to the CIC, I don't know if we've discussed that a lot. I don't know where we are with that. I was just wondering what the thoughts are on that from Council. This will be discussed under Old Business.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the end of March Expense and Revenue spreadsheets and Cash Fund Report. At the end of March the Village's expenses were \$2,997,593.52 and the revenues were \$2,452,935.59. Compared to the end of March 2018, the expenses are down \$335,291.96 and the revenues are down \$125,347.09. The State Auditor has been here working on the Village's 2018 audit. It has been going very smoothly. He also provided forms for the elected officials to fill out. This is the same form you do every year.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Mayor's Court, there is going to be some changes to our fine and fee schedule. It will be relatively minor but the schedule does have to go through Ordinance form and be approved by Council. Lieutenant Nimmo is going to be sending precisely what he needs done with regard to

Mayor's Court. Hopefully it will be done by COW so I would like to be placed on COW agenda to discuss a potential Ordinance in that regard.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – Absent.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the Fire Department report for the month of March. There were 4 Structure fires, 5 other fires, 8 auto accidents, 6 service calls, 8 fire alarms, 3 CO alarms and 9 EMS assists for a total of 25. Mutual Aid Given; 2 to Elmwood Place, 2 to Little Miami and 1 to Mariemont. EMS incidents; 49 Transports and 25 non-Transports for a total of 74. Mutual aid given; 7 to Elmwood Place and 1 to Reading. Mutual aid received; 2 from Norwood and 1 from Little Miami. Details of interest 2 non-breather, 4 unconscious, 1 overdose and 10 auto accidents. Conditional offers have been made by the Mayor to 2 officers to fill vacancies in the police department. Upon successful completion of the psychological evaluation and the physical for the police and fire pension board a start date will be determined and they will be officially sworn in. Both officers are lateral transfers so their field training should be expedited.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Ah! Progress. That's what it is all about. Service and I took a hit of unjust criticism this past month. Water doesn't go on in the parks until weather stays above freezing. When we started preparing the facilities for running water again this year, we found more vandalism. Four broken toilets, vent stack plugged with softball, mulch and tree branches. Only access to that pipe is from the roof. One bathroom was broken into and used freely without water. All while this was going on, we had graffiti that we cleaned and the next day it's back only different. It took two men over 45 minutes to clean up the overturned trash cans at Ross Park as trash was spread everywhere. Parking became an issue one day this week as someone took the bleachers and moved them in front of the pavilion gates, preventing parking. Can I find bright spots in this? Two, actually; one, it was not our fault and second those who complained probably didn't find the nonfunctional toilet.

To my community;

Peace and harmony are a completed circle. You cannot have one without the other. If you have never experienced the feeling of oneness with the universe then you missed true harmony. Without harmony, you lack peace. This circle is under constant attempted piercings, from problems, worrying and even people. Our goal is to make our circle as big as possible by bringing peace to others thus allowing for greater harmony. This takes practice. Shields up, quiet minds, be mindful and above all, No Worries! Peace!

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Moore – I put the March figures in the mail boxes and as usual if you have any questions or want any further information, let me know.

And as Mr. Estep said, we will, the Tax Office will be open Saturday morning at 9:00am. We will be open from 9:00 until noon for those of you who can't get down because you work so we can get your taxes filed on time.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – After the last COW meeting I spoke with Cindi and Bob. The Finance Committee is waiting until Rick gets a better idea of the tax revenues coming in this year. We started this year with a projected deficit of \$160,000.00. At the end of the first quarter tax revenues were down \$342,406.60. If that remains constant, we will be at a half million dollar deficit for the 2019 budget.

With the wish list of the Fire Chief's car at \$40,000.00, garbage truck \$160,000.00, 2 additional part time Service Department \$20,000.00 and the need of a new roof that could be over \$100,000.00. We could be hitting the reserves very hard. Rick indicated to me that he would have a better handle on the situation by the end of April.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The St. Bernard Police Department has joined the Light Ohio Blue Campaign. This is a state wide campaign from May 8 until May 16 that honors and pays respect to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Residential and commercial property owners are encouraged to show their support that week by placing a blue bulb on your exterior porch light or using blue flood lights. You are also encouraged to place blue ribbons on your mailbox or nearby columns or posts. Please wear blue on May 15. Commercial property owners who would like to be involved should email [staff@lightohioblue.org](mailto:staff@lightohioblue.org) to get in touch with a staff member to add you to their growing list of commercial supporters.

I have the March Police Report. There were 791 calls for service; 2 disorderly conducts, 2 DUI's, 10 juvenile complaints, 5 noise complaints, 47 parking complaints, 21 reports of suspicious persons or vehicles, 51 traffic violations and 65 traffic warnings.

Another reminder about the Block Watch meeting, the next one will be Thursday, April 18 at 6:30pm at the Safety Center.

SERVICE, Mr. Siefert – I have the Service Department Report for March 2019; there were 21 trucks placed at residences, 21 dumpsters placed at residences, 224 special pick-ups at residences, 167.07 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. There was 31.81 tons of recycling material and 4,580 pounds of scrap metal.

As a reminder, next week is Tire Collection week. This is a once a year event, so please put any unwanted tires out alongside your trash the week of April 15.

Do you have some old paint that you'd like to get rid of or some clothes that just don't fit? Lily Middendorf will be having a clothing and paint drive on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 to 11:00am in the lower level of city hall parking lot.

There will be a German Luau meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm in the lower level of city hall. This will be an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

The March 2019 waste collection fee report from Water Works; the Village received \$26,509.25.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – I encourage all residents to stop down next week March 16 for the CIC meeting as we talk about potential properties that might be transferred over to the CIC and what would be the best use for those for all the Village residents.

Also want to invite the Police Chief down at the next COW to talk about the parking Ordinances in the Village. I've heard several complaints about parking vehicles on curbs and in yards. So, I would like to invite him down to kind of layout the expectations to all residents at the next meeting.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – It has been requested by a citizen to have the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee to review and potentially revise sections B-1b and B-1c of the Policy and Procedures for the Village of St. Bernard.

B-1b is relative to the Invocation and B-1c is relative to the Pledge of Allegiance.: Both of these sections of the Policy and Procedures state that all members of Council, as well as all other persons present within Council Chambers, shall stand during the invocation and for the Pledge of Allegiance.

It has been requested that the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee revise Council rules so that:

No one is required to stand or otherwise participate in either the prayer or Pledge of Allegiance.

B-1c also states that the Invocation is led by the President of Council or the person assuming the Chair.

It has been requested that the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee revise Council rules so that:

Anyone may offer an invocation before a Council meeting and Public officials do not offer invocations before Council meetings.

As Chair of the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee, I forwarded the request to the Committee-on-Committee members and the Law Director. The Committee-on-Committee can at any time be asked by any committee Chair to approve or deny a request to be reviewed by the appropriate committee. At this time, the Committee-on-Committee will not move this forward into the Laws Contracts and Claims Committee to be reviewed. Those Policies and Procedures will stand as they are. Back in October, 2018 there was a Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee meeting to discuss having an Ordinance on the Village books to address Unlawful Discrimination Practices. This is relative to Civil Rights Laws that protect certain classes; age, race, religion, etc., but excludes sexual orientation and gender identity. The Ordinance would be inclusive to all classes. The Village would be responsible for enforcing all disputes of discriminatory practices. Other smaller communities in Ohio have chosen to consolidate in order to address this concern. Mike Peck has spoken with the City of Cincinnati and there are still many concerns that they encounter with enforcing their Ordinance. Mr. Peck will continue to research this subject. He will notify the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee when there is a clear direction on next steps.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Burkhardt – Absent.

MARKETING, Dr. Chastain – We hope that you’ll come down to the German Luau here in town on August 2, 3, and 4 and tell every single person that you know about it via social media and word of mouth. There’s no better marketing than that. We hope you’ll come to the St. Bernard Fresh Market at the pavilion by the pool from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday May 18, Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, September 21. More info to come regarding vendors. The website is [www.stbernardfreshmarket.com](http://www.stbernardfreshmarket.com).

We hope that you will come to the Hamilton County /St. Bernard “We Thrive” meeting at “I Am Coffee” (4728 Vine) on April 24 between 6:30 and 7:30pm. And we hope you take their community input survey. The link is posted in the St. Bernard newsletter.

We hope you’ll subscribe to the St. Bernard newsletter and share the subscription link freely and widely.

We hope you’ll enjoy the upcoming amenities made possible by the work of the Service and Recreation Department heads. From park improvements to walking trails to dog parks to tennis courts.....even with plans staying in flux, they are rolling a LOT of great ideas into the Ross Park effort.

Lastly, we hope that you enjoy living in St. Bernard and that you tell others how great it is!

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

Committee of the Whole  
March 28, 2019

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

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – Reported there was a change to the summer employment meeting. It has been moved to April 30 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Encouraged those seeking summer employment to get information in to City Hall.

Law Director, Mr. Peck – Warned Council to be nice to him tonight as his mother was with him and she is very protective.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – The current balance at First State Bank is \$5,647.07 at the end of February.

Safety Director, Mr. Stuchell – Reported that the CIC, working along with the Auditor, has located \$93,532.05 for the property behind Imwalle Funeral Home and \$13,000.00 for the Tower Avenue property. The remaining balance from 100,000.00 was used to pay closing costs. He also expressed frustration regarding the procedure Council would like the CIC to follow so they can make transfers and continue to move forward on other properties the CIC has and would like to develop.

The new contractors for the school development are not interested in using the Police Station. This property is now idle.

The Fire Chief would like to purchase a new Chief vehicle. A 2020 Tahoe would be his choice and would be able to be serviced locally by McCluskey Chevrolet. He would like \$37,364.80 plus \$8,000.00 for upfitting. Motion by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to put this request in the Finance Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

Service Director, Mr. Paul – The manufacturer of the ordered packer is running behind. We can expect our packer to arrive in about 4 more weeks.

I would like to recommend a \$160,000.00 appropriation for line item #2-O-13

Service Department Equipment Outlay for a new packer. I am making this recommendation because it is an election year and we do not know what the Council will do for next years' trash fees. We will make enough this year for another new packer. The village would then be set for the next several years.

The Mayor has granted the Service Department two more PT Seasonal help. Line #2- O-2B will need an appropriation of \$20,000.00.

During the recent storms, we found that the roof on both our buildings can no longer be patched. We have, in numerous areas, boxes and trays lined with plastic for catching the water before it ruins more ceiling tiles. I am going out for bids. I will keep Council informed.

Reminder the Week of April 15 will be tire collection week. You may put your tires out to curb and the village will pick them up for free. If you ever wondered why you see tires along the roadways and in the woods, it is because there is a fee to dispose of them. Do, take advantage of this free service. We only do it once a year. These two requests for additional appropriations will also be placed in the Finance Committee.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Mr. Moore – Call Command will be reminding citizens that taxes are due April 15. If you require help with you return you will have to remain in the tax office until it is finished and signed by you. The tax office will be open until 6:00pm Monday thru Thursday, April 8, 9, 10, and 11. In addition we will open the office from 9:00 until 12:00 on Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, April 13. This is to enable citizens to file after regular working hours. Thanked the St. Bernard High School students who helped get the post cards out this week.

Explained again estimated tax payments.

Online filing is not for our Village.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The next Block Watch meeting will be Thursday, April 18 at 6::30pm at the Safety Center.

Reminded the residents that there will be a “Shred It Day” Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 to 11:00am at the Safety Center parking lot.

Service, Mr. Siefert – The Water Works waste collection was \$23,380.92 for February.

Lily Middendorf will be having a clothing drive on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 to 11:00am in the lower level of city hall parking lot.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The next CIC meeting is April 19 at 6:00pm in the lower level.

The applications for the CIC property have been extended until April 5.

Marketing, Dr. Chastain – The Luau Planning group met again last week, and that event continues to move forward. I'd like to thank everyone involved, but that list would be very long. But thank you to everyone as a group. There has been some concern that news of the event is not yet getting out. Just so the information is in another record, I'll read the call command that recently went out.

“The historic German Luau is returning to St. Bernard this August! Running from Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>. Hours are Friday 6:00pm to 11:00pm, Saturday 1:00pm to 11:00pm, and Sunday 1:00pm to 9:00pm. There will be three days of games, rides, German heritage, and fun! Great bands will be rocking on the main stage all three evenings, and local DJs will be playing tunes to keep you entertained Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Food and suds will be plentiful. Please mark your calendars and be on alert for a chance to pre-order your classic St. Bernard German Luau Beer Bucket! Don't miss the fun August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Hamilton County/St. Bernard “We Thrive” group met again and continued its community health assessment. In addition to thanking the regular attendees, I'd like to thank our Fire Chief, Bryan Young, for attending and providing valuable input. The next working meeting is Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at I AM COFFEE right here in St. Bernard. I AM COFFEE is at 4728 Vine St. We hope you'll attend.

We also hope you'll attend the presentation and community discussion of the results of the Community Health Assessment. That will happen Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at our St. Bernard Branch Library on McClelland. Between now and then, there will be many opportunities for you to share your input. We'll get survey links on the website, paper surveys will be available, and the St. Bernard newsletter will have survey links as well. If you have an opinion, I'm sure they'd like to hear it! Lastly but certainly not least, Jennifer Rutherford and Layla Helton have agreed to, and already started to, co-direct the inaugural St. Bernard Fresh Market initiative. There is a website, [www.stbernardfreshmarket.com](http://www.stbernardfreshmarket.com), and the events will be held from 9:00 to 1:00pm on the following Saturdays: May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup> and September 21st. If you know produce or handmade goods vendors, please let them know. If you know of some food trucks that could be set up, please let them know. If you have friends who like cool market events, please let them know. With



Jennifer and Layla at the helm, I have no doubt that this will be a success. Thanks to Jonathan Stuchell, Chris Sauer, Keith Geraci, and Paul Schildmeyer for their help with logistics and to Tom Paul and the Mayor for giving the green light. The next Marketing Committee meeting is Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm these chambers.

The German Luau Committee meetings are still closed at this point but they have \$10,250 in sponsors.

The truck market will be held in the pavilion.

Audience Participation:

None

There are no Resolutions or Ordinances on the table for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting is Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm.

The next COW is Thursday, April 26 at 7:00pm.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – John, you talked about the Long John Silver's property going to the CIC, I'm all in favor of that but I, Mike has indicated that whatever we did in the past getting money back by the Ordinance, we should have some kind of agreement with the CIC. I'm against giving properties away, giving to them for nothing, I think we should at least get a percentage back with any profit they make off of the sale. Mike sets them up with some kind of agreement so we can find or (inaudible)

Mr. Estep – I have no problem with that, Don. You know I guess we have to put it in Ordinance or Mike has to come up with something. I think the person that's interested in that once it's in the hands of the CIC, he would come up with a business plan after it's in the CIC, but until that happens we can't move forward. As long as we sit on that property, it's been sitting there for a while, I think it's time to move on it. That's Council's decision, not mine.

Mr. Asbach – How about I put it on the COW agenda to be discussed by Council.

Mr. Tobergte – Mike?

Mr. Peck – What would you like for me to do? We could formulate some kind of agreement that would be attached to an Ordinance transferring the property. That's as simple as it would be. The CIC members would sign and the City would sign. That would be a legally binding contract that the Village would get back the money.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

None.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, April 25 at 7:00pm. And the next Council meeting will be Thursday, May 9 at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.