

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 12, 2019**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council meeting was held on December 12, 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 five members were present: Mr. Tob ergte, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Siefert. Mr. Burkhardt and Mr. Schildmeyer were absent.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to approve the written minutes of the November 14, 2019 Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Absent.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Before my report I would like to make a suggestion. Since there has been an abuse of absentee Council persons I would like to put into a Committee, that aside from illness and planned vacation, Council people be paid based on the meetings they attend.

I provided the November revenue and expense spreadsheets and cash fund report to Council and the Administration. The revenues through November were \$11,685,519.03 and the expenses were \$11,507,224.90. Year to date the Village has spent \$128,294.13 over the revenues.

The Auditor's office prepared Ordinance 23, 2019 for tonight's meeting. This is the end of the year Ordinance. It includes additional appropriations to:

- 01-2-E-3 Tax Refunds     \$5,000.00
- 01-2-K-2 Miscellaneous     \$50,000.00
- 01-2-O-8C City Hall Building Maintenance     \$5,000.00
- 01-5-A-6 Hall Rental Refund     \$1,500.00
- 01-7-A-8 Fire Equipment Maintenance     \$4,600.00

01-7-A-13 Fire Department Equipment \$7,000.00

The \$50,000.00 for the Miscellaneous line item will only be used if something comes up before the end of the year. This Ordinance also decreases a lot of line items which total to \$550,290.28. I have been asked why we decrease line items at the end of the year. The Auditor's Office is required to provide the county with an estimated resource report every January for that coming year. They require that the report be amended to show more accurate numbers by the end of the year. If there is no need to use the appropriations and it is a larger appropriation, it is decreased. If Council appropriates more to a line item through the year that also needs to be amended. On the same note if revenues are up or down more than estimated in January they will also be amended. The main goal of this report is to show the county that the Village did not appropriate more than what the Village had to spend.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I provided the summary and account statement from Star Ohio. At the end of November they totaled \$3,784,881.44.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the St. Bernard Fire Department report for the month of November; there were 8 structure fires, 2 other fires, 1 vehicle fire, 5 auto accidents, 9 service calls, 7 fire alarms, and 8 EMS assists. Mutual Aid given; 3 to Norwood, 3 to Little Miami and 1 to Green Twp. Mutual Aid received; 4 from Norwood, 4 from Springfield Twp., 3 from Little Miami, 3 from Elmwood Place and 3 from Wyoming. EMS incidents; there were 44 transports and 37 non-transports. Details of interest; 3 non-breathers, 1 unconscious and 5 auto accidents. Mutual Aid given; 15 to Elmwood Place, 1 to Norwood, 2 to Cincinnati and 1 to Little Miami. Just to recap, once the new Mayor of Elmwood Place is sworn in, we will reconvene in a collaborative effort to reduce the number of EMS responses to Elmwood Place and to work to be appropriately compensated by them as well.

We have been working on the budget for 2020 and you all have been presented with a copy to review. There are some items that will have to be firmed up for the police department on manning and dispatching. The meeting with Hamilton County dispatch had to be rescheduled so there could be some fluctuation with those numbers should we choose to go that route. It includes the elimination of the Safety Director's position. Ordinance No. 24 reflects the opinion of the Law Director allowing for the this to take place regarding the ORC Section 733.03. Also, you've seen that we were able to absorb the additional pay period for 2020 in

this budget as well which happens every 11 years or so since we do a biweekly pay period. I have included funds for Dial-A-Ride to operate for two days a week and we will look to see if there is a need to expand that offering. Councilman Tobergte has offered to help me look at the possibility of business sponsors should we choose to expand our hours. We were also able to fund the Capital expenditure line item as well. These numbers will be refined before the next special meeting on Tuesday. I would like to thank Peggy and Tom and the Department Heads for their assistance.

On Tuesday, December 3, the St. Bernard We Thrive Team was honored for two years of service to the Village. The team attended the annual awards banquet as we had several members like Kate McMullan, Ron and Carolyn Spears, and our Recreation Director Paul Schildmeyer who were nominees for awards. We did not walk away with any awards but we did leave feeling very proud of our proclamation that we received from the Board of Health of the Hamilton County Public Health Department. This great group of people and I believe that you will start seeing the impact of their initiatives in the very near future. I would like to thank Dominique Walker, who is our facilitator from the Health Department for all that she does for our group and the community, our team leader Kate McMullan and her husband Dr. Jason McMullan, Chief Bryan Young and his wife Shannon, Officer Derek Setters and his wife Jennifer, Ron and Carolyn Spears, and my wife Darcy for attending this event and representing us well.

I am accepting resume's for the position of Mayor's Secretary and for those that are interested I am asking that they be submitted by Friday, December 20.

Lastly, I would like to wish a happy birthday to a member of Council who annoys me beyond all belief but does so many great things for this community that I have to look beyond all of that. Our very own Don Tobergte will celebrate his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday tomorrow. So, here is a very small token of my appreciation from my favorite bakery.

Mr. Asbach – Was that considered Old Business?

Mr. Stuchell – Yes, very old.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – I only wanted to put up cameras for our parks and ended up riding the bull. Here is where we are, and no pun intended.

Ross Park literally had three different names to the entrance of the park. Miami Erie Canal, Tower Ave. and City Park Dr. That needed to be addressed! Again, no pun intended!

Ross Park is now 5122 City Park Dr. Lower Ross Park is now 5124 City Park Dr. The new Tennis courts are now 501 Tennis Ln.

Paying attention? 40 Clay St. was in center field and the grandstands address was 512 Tennis Ln. Did you know that there was a Broxterman Way?

The last three, 40 Clay, grandstands and Broxterman have been recorded in history and eliminated. Let me do a quick summary before we move on.

Street to Ross Park is "City Park Dr." Upper Ross Park and Grandstands are 5122 City Park Dr. Lower Ross Park is now 5124 City Park Dr.

This will clarify 911 calls as there has been confusion in the past. Also, internet searches will be clarified as to locations. Which brings about another change, Vine Street Park. Google this and you get 4700 Vine, which is the old police station. Burnet Ave, which leads into the Park happens to be spelled wrong (Burnett) and would take you to Burnet Ave. off Church St. Somehow, our pool became the Aquatic Center, therefore the Burnet Ave. Leading into the park is changed to Aquatic Center Dr. Only one home address was affected, and they had no problem with the change. Hence you will soon be able to search for 4700 Aquatic Center Dr. And that will be a dot right on our Vine Street Park along with proper directions. The pavilion will no longer be 18 Church St. (I am not joking). This too will be recorded into history. The street signs will be changed and yes, all the above changes have been approved by the County.

Ross Park has a few more minor touches and it will be completed. Our department of services have been trained on the care of the field.

School project continually progresses, and they are doing their very best to maintain cleanup. They have a tremendous amount of work to do. Remember this is only temporary although it may seem a lifetime.

I need to commend the service department on a job well done. We had three packers on the blink and our leafer had trouble also. They were out in dump trucks shoveling up leaves and picking up trash. We are mostly back in service and all caught up. Only a handful noticed. Nice going!

The leafer will stop next week, then if you have some more leaves please put them in your can and we will get them on your trash days.

I hope everyone is ready for the new year. I am looking forward to it.

To my community

This is the season when most people come close to enlightenment. They greet one another, give to one another and wish each other well. It truly should be like this all year long. When people come together it creates a force that only nature can reckon with. It is the way it was meant to be and to be this way takes practice. Make it part of your New Year's resolution. I wish the very best for each of you this coming year.

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Moore – Absent.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to thank John Estep and his administration for their work during the last 4 years for our Village. Thanks to Bill Burkhardt for stepping up when Andy had to resign.

On a personal note I would like to wish the Fire Department Happy Holidays and the rest of our Village a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Police Department report for November; there were 8 noise complaints, 99 parking complaints, 64 traffic warnings, 42 traffic violations, 1 DUI offense and 36 reports of suspicious vehicles or people.

I too would like to thank Mayor Estep, Rick Moore, Mike Peck and Bill Burkhardt for their service to our Village.

I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas.

SERVICE, Mr. Siefert – I have the Service Department report for November 2019; there were 16 trucks placed at residences, 8 dumpsters placed at residences, 173 special pick-ups at residences and 155.69 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. For recycling; 30.55 tons of recycling material, 39 pounds of scrap aluminum and 2,900 pounds of scrap metal. I would like to wish the residents Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – Just to let the residents know, the next CIC meeting will be Tuesday at 6:00pm in the lower level. I also would like to put something on the next COW meeting, next year. I'm looking at making possible changes to our Charter when the new Council and Administration comes in.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As we move into the new year with a new Law Director, I will be meeting with her in order to bring her up to date on two outstanding issues that we were still discussing within the Laws, Contracts and Claims. One is the development of an ethics commission committee within our Village and the other one is to move forward and identify the Village is going to be doing a non-discriminatory Ordinance for the LGBTQ population. And then I can also talk to her about putting in the Laws, Contracts and Claims for paid meetings. And other things that Valerie and I will be putting into my Committee.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Burkhardt – Absent.

MARKETING, Mr. Schildmeyer – (read by Mr. Ray Culbertson) There is no December Newsletter for this month due to a lack of article submission. Please look forward to the January Newsletter.

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

Committee of the Whole  
November 26, 2019

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

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

Mayor, Mr. Estep – Please join us on December 7 at 6:00pm for the tree lightening and pictures with Santa, and other festivities. Also, December 12, at 7:00pm, is the annual Christmas for needy kids at Crosley's. We'd like for you to bring a new unwrapped present. I believe all the presents will be going to St. Clement, St. Vincent de Paul again this year and if you want to stay for the evening, \$20.00 gets you food and drinks for the evening.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg - (reported by Mr. Tobergte) - Mrs. Brickweg will be preparing an Ordinance for budget transfers for the end of the year. Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put that Ordinance on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Director of Law, Mr. Peck - I would like to congratulate everybody on their victories. I look forward to a transition, obviously I will not be Law Director next year, but I will of course cooperate with Valerie to make sure there is a smooth transition.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the statement from First State Bank. The total there at the end of October was \$5,650.88.

Safety Director, Mr. Stuchell – Announced that applications and interviews for the Mayor's secretary position will begin next week.

Research is being done to merge the Safety Director and Service Director positions. A request for Mr. Peck to give a written opinion if this is possible and if so, we will need an Ordinance for this merger.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put an Ordinance on the table for the next Council meeting to enable this merger. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Burkhardt abstained.

The Tax Commissioner/Administrator position also has questions that need an Ordinance. Her accrued vacation time needs to be carried over. Mr. Peck will give another opinion on this. Mr. Tobergte brought up an Ordinance that was already on the books that would need to be changed to allow this. Mrs. Bedinghaus made a request to review said Ordinance. Since this appointment would be a promotion from Deputy Tax Commissioner to Tax Commissioner there will be no Deputy Tax Commissioner and the present Deputy Tax Commissioner has accrued vacation days. She is also aware that her position could be lost if a new Mayor was elected. Mrs. Bedinghaus questioned that another existing Ordinance would have to be rescinded, which Mr. Peck will see to.

The decision has not been made whether the Mayor's Secretary position would remain part-time or whether the extra duties would justify becoming a full-time position.

Mr. Schildmeyer requested a work chart to show the final vision. This was granted. Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put an Ordinance on the table to grant the Tax Commissioner a benefit package. Motion passed 7-0.

Service Director, Mr. Paul - (reported by Mr. Tobergte) Ordinance 22, 2019, the Hamilton County Auction website, would like that passed at the next Council meeting.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put Ordinance No. 22, 2019 on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Requested \$5,000.00 for City Hall maintenance for the roof project.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put an Ordinance, if necessary, on the table for additional appropriations for the roof if that cannot be added to the Ordinance Mrs. Brickweg requested. Motion passed 7-0.

Finance, Mr. Tobergte – Meetings with Mr. Stuchell have been ongoing about the budget. Council will be informed when a budget meeting will be held.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – Reminded the citizens that the Police Department have offered to be your front porch for the holiday season. From now until December 31, people can have their holiday gifts shipped to the Police Department to be picked up later. That way no one can help themselves to your delivery when

you are not home. Packages must be shipped to their name and use the address, 4200 Vine St., St. Bernard, OH 45217. The package will need to be picked up within two days of delivery or it will be sent back. ID is necessary when picking up you package.

Service, Mr. Siefert – Wished all residents and colleagues Happy Thanksgiving. Call Command informed residents that Wednesday, November 27, only recycling materials will be picked up. This is for the entire Village and there will be no trash pick-up Thursday or Friday.

The waste collection fee from GCC for October was \$27,850.60.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – Discussed at the last CIC meeting was the potential listing of new properties on Park Place. The Andrew Ave. property is still available and also 4509 Vine St. The next CIC meeting will be December 17 at 6:00pm in the lower level.

Audience Participation:

None.

Ordinances and Resolutions for the next Council meeting.

1. Ordinance No. 22, 2019. The Hamilton County Auction website.
2. An Ordinance for budget transfers for year-end appropriations.
3. An Ordinance for the merger of Safety and Service Director.
4. An Ordinance for the benefit package of the Tax Commissioner.
5. An Ordinance for the roof project, if necessary.

Mr. Asbach – Mentioned a letter from Marge Niesen that questioned the changes made by Ordinance No. 21, 2019. Mr. Tobergte commented he spoke with her and hopefully she understood the small changes that were made.

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. Tobergte to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 5-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 22, 2019. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY TO DISPOSE OF UNNEEDED VILLAGE PROPERTY THROUGH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTERNET AUCTION SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson for Ordinance No. 22, 2019 to take its regular course. Motion passed 5-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2019. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte for Ordinance No. 23, 2019 to take its regular course. Motion passed 5-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2019. MERGING THE POSITIONS OF SERVICE DIRECTOR AND SAFETY DIRECTOR INTO ONE POSITION ENTITLED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte for Ordinance No. 24, 2019 to take its regular course. Motion passed 5-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to have a special council meeting for Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm to discuss Ordinances No. 22, 23 and 24 and let Mr. Stuchell present the 2020 budget. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Tobergte – This is for Jonathan and Tommy, I'm getting complaints about all the materials being stored down by the Aquatic Center and the parking. The business owners are complaining. They would like to see something done. Their customers have no place to park.

Mr. Stuchell – The situation has been removed back to the corner office side. When they work they were basically taking up the whole lot but it has gotten better in the last week or so. With everything being cut back during the day yes, there is some activity but I think it is a better situation. If we could try to monitor it a little more closely and try to free up more spots. Some of the spaces that are being used down there, I know there is some teacher parking that's going on in the last week but I need to come back down in the middle of the day to see what's happening and maybe Mr. Paul could help monitor as well. The situation has started to get better. Hopefully we can work with them and free this up and try to figure out a better solution for those businesses that are affected on Vine. We will work on that for sure.

Since we're going to be having the Special Council meeting Tuesday, I would like to reschedule the CIC meeting. Others members will be missing. We will be having two meetings within a short time.

Mr. Bob Culbertson – I will notify Heidi to have the meeting cancelled and reschedule at a time to be determined.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Brickweg – Would like Council to consider members abuse of absentee when they vote to excuse members.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

None.

Motion by Mrs. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to excuse the absent members. Motion passed 4-1. Mr. Tobergte voted no.

Mr. Asbach – Is it Council's wish to have a COW meeting in December since this Council cannot put anything on the table for the new Council?

Mr. Tobergte – That will be determined next Tuesday.

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting will be January 1, 2020 at 3:00pm. That is the inauguration of the new Council and following that the regular Council meeting should be January 9 at 7:00pm. The next COW, if not one on December 26, will be January 23 at 7:00pm.

Mrs. Brickweg – Stated how important it is for Council to approve the budget.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.