

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, February 15, 2007 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier, and Mr. Zix.

Mr. Walden – At this time we will turn over the floor to Safety Director, Jonathan Stutchell regarding our new officers.

Mr. Stuchell – We had previously introduced our two newest police officers at the last Council Meeting where they were formally sworn in. Due to the fact that the meeting was not televised, the citizens of St. Bernard would not know who these two gentlemen are and we felt it was important to reintroduce them. Officer Derek Setters and Officer Shawn McCreanor are our two newest additions to the St. Bernard Police Department. They have both been previously associated with other departments but still bring a fresh outlook to our department. I encourage you to get to know these two new officers as they will help keep our streets safe. We also have two new field training officers who will be paired with the new hires and I am truly pleased with this new leadership. Officer Setter will be paired with FTO Shane Moore and Officer McCreanor will be paired with FTO Keith Ingram. The FTO's will partner with the other members of our department in the training program. So, at this time if I could have Derek and Shawn please come forward. Let's have a nice St. Bernard welcome with a round of applause. At this time if I could have Derek and Shawn please come forward. If you could please turn around for the cameras. Now that we have you up there if we could go ahead and give these two gentlemen a great St. Bernard welcome with a round of applause.

Thank you for coming back tonight and I encourage our audience and citizens, if you have the opportunity to stop these two gentlemen and get to know them. Thanks for coming.

Mr. Walden – Thank you and welcome officers.

Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Asbach seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – As was mentioned earlier tonight, we're going to do the State of the City Address for all the citizens and then following that we're going to ask each one of the department heads to step to the microphone and just give us a brief synopsis of the accomplishments they had last year and some goals for the up coming year.

I've been stopped by many people during the last two weeks about our last Council Meeting and why it wasn't on tape and why they didn't see it. I felt the urge to read this tonight, it's just a short statement, to explain to

everybody, and I think sometimes when you don't have something it arouses more curiosity and the few people that did view that tape came back and said it wasn't nearly as bad as what they had thought.

At the last Council meeting of February 1st, a very unfortunate event took place to which I would like to comment. Accusations were made towards a city employee which I believe were malicious and seemed to carry the intent to defame the character of this employee. The accusations made concerned the work and hours of this employee which is an employer/employee matter, better handled between the hiring authority and that employee. I was made aware of these allegations back in December and I believe, with the information I had at my disposal, I handled the situation. This employee did nothing illegal and the accusations I was made aware of were dealt with and new procedures and documentation were put in place to deal with those accusations.

I believe this matter should never have been brought to a Council Meeting. It is not Council's function to police or administer disciplinary action towards an employee. That job is the responsibility of the Administration. For a Council person to bring this to Council floor is inappropriate, unethical and appears to be vindictive in nature. If additional information is available to question the work ethics of a City employee, regardless of the department, then that information should go to the department head of that department or the Mayor. If bringing allegations against a City employee to Council is absolutely necessary, then it should be handled in Executive Session, where I requested several times last week, not in an open forum, where an individual's reputation could be damaged.

What happened two weeks ago was very unfortunate. I hope everyone involved has learned a valuable lesson and this sort of action never happens again. This Council and this Administration have a lot of work to do and have shown cooperation in attacking the challenges we face. The divisive action which occurred two weeks ago only disrupts that cooperation and delays the necessary work that needs to be accomplished.

Now I will move to the State of the City Address

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow administrative officials, council members, city employees and most importantly, the citizens of St. Bernard for everyone's cooperative effort to move this city forward into a secure and responsible financial future. The last three years have been a humbling, yet rewarding, experience for me. I made many tough but necessary decisions to control spending and create responsible management of the City's funds. In 2005 we were able to cut the City's debt load by more than half, and in 2006 we actually had a real surplus, which is a first since 1999. The 2007 budget passed by Council is also a balanced budget. Living within our means through balanced budgets provides a brighter future for our residents and allows this City to build the necessary reserves for the improvements this community needs. As I mentioned in last year's State of the City Address, there is much work to do to ensure our City's success. Crucial to the long-term stability of the City is improvement to our residential housing. Last year Council passed Ordinance No. 31, 2006 aimed at this goal. The ordinance created a citywide Community Reinvestment Area. This provision allows property owners to take advantage of a tax exemption on the increased value of a property resulting from improvements to the residence. This tax exemption on the increased value from home improvements and new construction will allow the property owner to maintain their current property value and tax rate for up to

10 to 15 years, thereby, making conditions extremely attractive for property owners to make improvements. Council has also appropriated \$300,000.00 in this year's budget for the purchase of blighted property in the city. The Administration and Council are currently planning the development of Bertus Park as an extension of new housing from Angel's Way and development of 4300 Sullivan Avenue where the old Schwegman Building stood. However, development of the Vine Street Corridor will be a top priority now, and into the future. Vine Street is the main gateway to the City, and I believe the Administration and Council must engage in immediate discussions centered on hiring a developer to guide us in our vision for revitalization of this area. It is paramount to listen to the desires of our citizens and to hire a developer that can establish an economically feasible plan and guide us through the challenges facing a small land locked community with limited freeway access.

Along with the above-mentioned housing projects, the Administration is currently working to obtain property for senior housing. This endeavor will be very challenging, but a challenge I will gladly take on to ensure a bright future for our senior citizens. As a community, we should be prepared to offer our aging residents accommodations that fit their needs.

During the past three years several sewer and street projects, as well as sidewalk and parking lot repairs, have been completed in addition to this year's scheduled repair and improvement of the Woodside Heights Subdivision, Advance Avenue, and Errun Lane. Within the next several months, a new Gateway Wall will be constructed at the entrance of the business district at the north end of Vine St. I am proud to announce we have acquired over \$1.8 million in grants over a four year period to complete these, and future projects. The acquisition of grant money reduces the financial burden on our budget and taxpayers; therefore, we will continue to seek grant money aggressively. In 2006, the City purchased a new trash packer for \$89,000.00 and we have budgeted \$600,000.00 for the purchase of a new Quint, which will replace two pieces of equipment in the Fire Department that are over 20 years old.

During our last Council meeting I had the honor of administering the oath of office to our two new police officers whom you just met.

Health care costs continue to rise. The Administration, Council and the Health Benefit committee must continue to seek ways to control cost increases. I want to thank all the city employees for their cooperation by agreeing to share the cost of health insurance through payroll deductions. The library property on Vine St. and McClelland Ave. continues to be unresolved. After meeting with members of the Hamilton County Library Board of Trustees in 2006, Council and the Administration decided to wait and see if money would be appropriated in the next Library budget from the state. This budget is to be finalized this year. If money is not appropriated for the construction of a new library, I feel we must make every effort to reclaim this valuable piece of property from the Hamilton County Library and I ask Council for their support in this endeavor.

I am proud to be Mayor of this great City, I believe, through hard work, and cooperation, the future of our community is bright. I am proud to have worked on the committee to pass the levy, proud to have reduced the City's debt, and proud to have achieved balanced budgets. I value the terrific City services we have, including the installation and usage of the Call Command messaging system. I am grateful and proud to be the Mayor of our wonderful citizens who live in one of the safest communities around, and I

am dedicated to keeping it that way. Some of my most enjoyable moments have been seeing the smiling faces of the children at the Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties as well as the fun times they have at the municipal pool, the pavilion and all the other sporting activities they participate in. It has also been a pleasure sitting with the seniors at a few of their luncheons on Wednesdays and especially at the fall picnic in the pavilion.

St. Bernard is an outstanding place to live and raise a family. We have three great schools within our borders and are minutes away from two nationally accredited universities and several hospitals. Our parks, municipal pool and other amenities are second to none. Downtown Cincinnati is only six miles away. St. Bernard is privileged to have many successful companies located in our City, such as Procter and Gamble, J.M. Smuckers, St. Bernard Soap Company and Cognis, to name a few. Our Police, Fire, and Service Department employees work diligently to make our City safe, beautiful and enjoyable to live in. In an effort to attract quality residents to our City, I have helped develop a brochure to market our community and I have contacted the hospitals and universities in an effort to distribute these brochures.

While our City has many valuable assets, we face the challenges of an older neighborhood. We must continue to seek opportunities to revitalize our business and housing districts. The age of our community does take its toll, and it will require professional planning and significant investments to pave the road of improvement. Many projects are in the planning stages or in progress, yet more needs to be accomplished. The City's finances are more stable, yet we must stay focused and spend our funds responsibly to ensure the viability of our City in the future. I believe in this City and I ask for the help of our citizens and this Council to attack these challenges straightforwardly and with enthusiasm.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – Reports for the City's investments and bank accounts have been distributed to Council and the Administration.

Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 6, 2007. As discussed at the COW, this Ordinance sets the 2007 pay rates for those hired after January 1, 2005 in the summer pool and swim programs.

In light of what the Mayor has asked from the department heads, I have a brief report on the Auditor's office over 2006.

The Deputy Auditor has become proficient in administering the payroll software and is capable of handling the payroll process from beginning to end for each pay period. This important function now has a capable back up person for that process. Also we have worked with the City's tax department and Fifth Third Bank to set up a monthly electronic funds transfer for the City's employees withheld local taxes to the St. Bernard Tax Dept. A couple of new employee report requirements have been incorporated in to our personnel practices. The Bureau of Workers' Compensation has a new report requirement for public employers as a result of their public employment risk reduction program. We had two reportable cases in 2006. Also the State of Ohio Homeland Security now requires each new employee to make a declaration as to material assistance or non-assistance to a terrorist organization.

In conjunction with the Health Benefits Committee, a new third party administrator was selected for our employee's health care benefits in 2006. While significant dollars were saved, it took many months to work on the coordination among employees, network providers, network re-pricers and

bill payers. Because of complaints from us and the City of Lebanon some system changes were made and everything is working much better now. We appreciated our employees patience while we went through some difficult times with getting their medical bills paid. Likewise, we had to undergo a change in our dental coverage. Unbeknownst to us our former dental network became their own administrator as well and therefore no longer had contracts with other health benefit administrators. Fortunately, we were able to work with our former dental network and come up with a plan similar to what we had and have reaped the benefits of discounts from network providers. We also set up with them a way to pay our premiums and bills through electronic funds transfers.

Our Police, Service and City Hall employees now have health care deductions taken from their pay. We were able to work with our health insurance broker to set up this deduction in a Section 125 Plan so the deductions will lessen the employees' federal and state tax liabilities. For 2007 we plan to implement an additional software program to enhance the reporting capabilities of our payroll and other disbursements. We will continue to work on the City's chart of accounts to bring them more in line with the County's annual tax budget that we make every year. We hope to examine the records now held in storage and catalog them for future disposal through the Ohio Historical Society's Local Government Records Program. Last but not least, we want to informally examine the structure of other municipal finance and human resource functions to see if changes to the Charter could be beneficial to the City.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser –

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – The Chief's will give their reports as far as the goals and accomplishments for this last year and the year to come. I would like to give the citizens an update on some recent arrests that have been made here in St. Bernard. Many of you realize that no matter where you live there will be drug activity and just like the rest of the Greater Cincinnati area we have it right here in St. Bernard. But due to the efforts of our investigator, Mike Matheson and other members of our department, and also with the collaborative efforts of a multi department drug unit we have successfully eliminated 3 dealers in the last two weeks. Two of those were from the 300 block of Jefferson Avenue and now the residents of that neighborhood can rest more peacefully. This is a message to those who are dealing here in St. Bernard that you will be brought to justice. Just so you are aware, in 2006, we investigated drug activity at 8 residences in St. Bernard resulting in charges at 6 of the 8 residences. Also, drug activity at the corner of Mitchell and Vine resulted in felony drug trafficking charges for 4 individuals, 2 of which have been arrested and 2 have outstanding warrants. One of the arrested individuals from that corner was also arrested and charged with aggravated robbery and felonious assault during a car jacking at Vine and Mitchell. He has subsequently been charged with 2 Cincinnati homicides. This was just to give you a brief overview but to also let you know that we are actively pursuing these offenders to keep our community clean.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – As director of the Service Department, I want to personally thank Dave Fossaluzza, foreman of the department, for his valuable assistance in the last two years. Dave has worked in the Service Department for over 27 years and his experience aids in his ability to operate the department in the most efficient manner possible. At the same time, I want to acknowledge all the Service Department employees for their dedication to the maintenance and cleanliness of our City. Their diligence and hard work allows me to focus on other aspects of my position.

The projects completed in our department for 2006 include:

- The completion of the Beech St. Improvement Project, which included the separation of storm water lines, the repaving of the street, new curbs, drive aprons and sidewalks
- The repair or re-pavement of 17 City streets and the re-pavement and striping of upper and lower Ross Park parking lots
- The sidewalk repairs at 10 locations throughout the City
- The installation of a new backstop at the Vine St. Park baseball field
- The re-grading, seeding, and sodding of the baseball field at Vine Street Park and the upper and lower baseball fields at Ross Park.
- The re-planting of new emerald green arborvitae trees along the walls of the three parking lots on Vine St.
- The painting of the light poles and the repair of the edge drains around the tennis courts
- The grinding of yard waste and hauling 21 truckloads to Evans landscaping at the City's compost site
- The preparation of the Schwegman Building for demolition
- The purchase of a new trash packer, replacing a 14 year old packer
- The purchase of a new Ford pickup truck, replacing an 11 year old pickup truck

The goals for our department for 2007 include:

- The successful completion of the Woodside Heights Subdivision Improvement Project which will improve the drainage of storm water, replace the existing water lines, construct new curbs, drive aprons, and sidewalks and re-pave the streets
- The re-pavement of Advance Ave. and Errun Lane
- The replacement of the Washington Ave. entrance ramp to the City's Municipal Building
- Proceed with the engineering and bidding process for the Spring Grove Ave. Improvement project scheduled for 2008
- Analyze and evaluate the equipment needs in the Service Department
- Continue the upgrading process of our park facilities
- Continue the process for grant applications for parks, street repairs, recycling, and the Transit Program.

My report for tonight; as everyone is well aware, we have had our share of snow and icy weather in the City in the last 3 to 4 weeks. I want to publicly thank our service employees for their efforts in keeping our streets and public property clear and safe. It was exceptionally difficult these last three days with the rain and, consequently, icy conditions. Many long hours and a lot of salt were necessary to get the job done. We will continue to work hard to eliminate the snow piles as quickly as we can.

The work in the Woodside Subdivision has been delayed due to the snow and frigid temperatures. The contractor has informed me he will resume work on Monday, weather permitting.

Police Chief Moeller – As everyone is aware, 2006 posed many challenges for our community as well as the Police Department. We began the year with 5 fewer officers and several dispatchers less than the previous year. Two officers were hired the first week of January and left in July. In middle September another officer required surgery and was off work for over three weeks and in December another officer required over 4 weeks off for a surgical procedure. As you can imagine with other illness absences as well as vacations, we were short handed much of the year. Our Clerk was reassigned on 57 days to function as a dispatcher and other dispatchers' schedules were changed weekly in an effort to fill shifts due to personnel shortages. I was scheduled for hundreds of hours of patrol in order to fill shift shortages. Due to our budget and personnel concerns, training was minimal for the Department. In spite of all of these factors, our agency continued to provide exceptional police services. We continued to comply with accreditation standards for excellence. We increased traffic enforcement along with high visibility patrol to address traffic concerns of residents. Working with Council and the Administration we purchased two portable speed monitoring/awareness devices for placement throughout the City, as well as replaced our aging server for the Police Department. In late 2005, Lt. Mike Simos received training through the Dept. of Homeland Security in identifying security needs of industry identified on the Homeland Security watch list and secured over \$50,000.00 in funding to be used to increase operational security in 2006 at one of our businesses. Our calls for service rose over 3%. Our criminal arrests were up over 7%. Offense reports rose over 20%. Traffic Contacts were up over 50% with traffic arrests up over 30% and traffic warning increased over 75%. As a result of our increased traffic efforts, auto accidents dropped 10%. Our goals for 2007 are simple. We hope to increase staffing in the patrol section. We hope to continue organizational excellence and professionalism. We hope to continue compliance with accreditation standards of excellence. We hope to resume training for both patrol and supervision. We hope to increase traffic enforcement and high visibility patrol. We continue to seek out funding opportunities through grants to update and improve equipment.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – (reported by Bonnie Middendorf and Elaine Schmidt) 2006 was a busy year for the Tax Department as has the past two years prior. Our major focus in the Tax Department was establishing a setup to process electronic payments. This has proven to be an extremely time consuming and tedious process. We were the first municipality of over a hundred municipalities to work with our software provider MITS in developing a module to accommodate electronic filing tax system. We are still in the beginning stages of this process and hope to really hone down on this project this year and roll it out to other taxpayers. Numerous kinks still need to be worked out on the banking side and we need to take some time to get that accomplished. Filing of 2005 taxes this year brought about numerous challenges. First there was the confusion of the mid-year tax rate change and all the effects it had on withholding, reconciliations, refund processing, simple filing, fiscal year end filing, etc. We also taxed gambling winnings for the first time for the 2005 filing year and collected the first page of each residents' version of their federal form 1040. Both proved to be very unpopular moves but did help us in identifying unreported income or extra income to be taxed by the City.

During 2006 a major effort was put forth to purge very old files left in the tax office. This was of course done using all current record retention regulations. This helped to free up a significant amount of usable space in the tax office, which will lead to a more productive and efficient work environment.

Looking forward into 2007, as discussed our main focus is on electronic payments. This year we decided to move the printing of all tax forms in house. We were extremely pleased with the results and are happy to say that we saved the City thousands of dollars. We hope to use this savings to hire extra help during and after the busy season to assist in mandatory filing. In 2005, when our German Intern was in to help, we were able to bring in a significant amount more in individual collections. I believe if we bring someone in to help again we will accomplish the same goals. With this extra help this will allow more time for me to deal with other types of follow-up, payment plans, and discussions with our large taxpayers. We have high hopes for 2007 and hope that Council will be there to support our efforts.

Mr. Stuchell – The Fire Chief was unable to be here this evening, his mother-in-law is very ill and I ask that you please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

The St. Bernard Fire Department 2006 Accomplishments.

Fire Operations

VISION: Increased efficiency and effectiveness in fire-ground operations, response to rescue situations, hazardous materials and the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

2006 Accomplishment:

The St. Bernard Fire Department purchased equipment which will maximize the effectiveness of existing personnel and minimize risks.

In 2006 the St. Bernard Fire Department purchased

1. Rapid attack nozzle – This pre-connected nozzle will allow personnel to place a large volume of water on a fire with a minimum of personnel.
2. Self contained breathing apparatus mask-radio interface.
Communications at an emergency is always the most critical component of success or failure, risk or safety. These radio interface components will allow effective communication between the officers in command and the firefighters working in the hazard zone.
3. By means of a grant from Clean Harbors, new hazardous material monitoring equipment was purchased allowing the fire department to monitor for chlorine, ammonia and Volatile organic compounds.
4. Also through grant money obtained from Hamilton County, 3 mobile data computers were placed in service on fire and medical apparatus.

2007 Goals:

1. Increasing the number of responding personnel to be able to, within 90% of the time, place a minimum of 12 firefighters on scene within 8 minutes of the initial alarm. (NFPA 1710) NFPA 1710, is a consensus standard as the minimum number of firefighters needed to effectively and safely perform the needed time sensitive tasks on the scene of a working structure fire. The ability to perform multi-tasks fire operations would increase life safety potential of both citizens and emergency responders, and would minimize property damage.
2. To further this Goal, to possibly consider the use of the Hamilton County Communication Center. Additionally, the mobile data

computers will be able to be linked to the 800 megahertz radio system for full utilization.

Emergency Medical Operation:

VISION; Increased level of emergency medical care for the citizens of St. Bernard, its employers and their employees, and any visitors to the City of St. Bernard.

2006 Accomplishment:

1. By means of a grant from Christ Hospital, the St. Bernard Fire Department upgraded its cardiac monitors and defibrillators, replacing 8 year old equipment with Life pack 12 monitor/defibrillator/AED. These state-of-the-art medical equipment allow EMS personnel to perform 12 lead electrocardiograms and transmits these EKGs to doctors at local hospitals to enhance the medical care of their patient suffering from heart related ailments.

2007 Goals:

1. Increase the number of active paramedic on-duty to have the St. Bernard Fire Department re-certified as having 2 Advanced Life Support (paramedic) Squads. (The recent certification site visited down graded the St. Bernard Fire Department to be certified as having one Advanced (paramedic) and one Basic squads, due to the number of paramedic on-duty on a daily basis).
2. Scheduling a paramedic refresher class, to ensure that personnel are given training which is commensurate with the expectations of advanced life support care.

Fire Inspection

VISION: Inspection program which will ensure that all building, facilities and events within the City of St. Bernard are free from the dangers of fire and life safety threats.

2006 Accomplishment

1. Adopted the Ohio Fire Code Revised edition (2005).
2. Completed fire/life safety inspections of all the commercial, industrial and assembly buildings within the St. Bernard jurisdiction.
3. Revised the City of St. Bernard's codified ordinance for Early Fire Warning Equipment.38-1998

2007 Goals

1. Reinstatement of the Fire Inspector position. Dollar for dollar, fire prevention inspection activities are most economical and effective and safest method of providing fire protection for the Citizens of St. Bernard. The current system, Unit Captains performing fire inspections, lacks consistency in application of the Ohio Fire Code, and takes away from the Captain's unit supervision activities, and their unit training activities.

Fire Apparatus

VISION: The acquisition of fire and medical apparatus which enhances the St. Bernard Fire Department's ability to perform its mission in an effective and safe manner.

2007 Goals

1. Replacement of the 1987 Sutphen aerial tower with a new straight stick aerial apparatus.
2. Replacement of the 1995 Ford pickup truck. This vehicle is in very poor condition and is not worth repair costs.

Mr. Wiedman – The State of the Department Planning, Development, Building, and Zoning

2006 was a challenging yet exciting year for our Department:

- The resignation of Paul Coors
- The hiring and on going training of Walt Moeller as our new Housing Inspector
- Acquisition and Demolition of Schlansers
- Implementation of a computer based storage system for all Building Permits
- Implementation of a computer based Property Book
- 107 Building Permits issued with most of them completed
- Over 440 inspections, industrial, commercial and residential
- Total cost of new development and renovations in our City exceeded \$6.9 million

Some of the projects in 2006 were:

- The new St. Bernard Soap warehouse
- The new TSDC addition for Procter & Gamble
- The new Procter & Gamble H-52 addition
- The new GPDF renovation for Procter & Gamble
- The new Smuckers entrance into their parking lot area off of Spring Grove Ave.
- Many, many home improvement projects in our community

This year is shaping up to surpass last year with over \$1 million dollars in permits issued in January alone.

The following are some of the ongoing projects that will continue to be developed throughout 2007:

- The second addition of the TSDC project
- Smuckers waste water treatment plant
- I-75 corridor study with ODOT
- Cognis steam generation/boiler facility and building
- St. Mary Cemetery's wall replacement

We were able to secure grants for:

- Redwood Subdivision road and sewer improvements
- The gateway signage project
- Spring Grove Ave. Sewer Separation Project

And based on grants secured in 2005 the following work was completed in 2006:

- The Beech St. Project
- .Pavement Repairs on Spring Grove and June St.

Some of our future goals are to:

- Work with the CIC to establish a plan for the Vine Street Corridor
- Redevelopment of the NuMaid property
- Redevelopment of the Schlanser property and area
- Development of Senior Citizens housing
- Development and sale of 618 E. Ross Ave.
- Implementation of the new Ohio Residential Code
- Implementation of the Community Reinvestment Area program
- Continuation of the City's sewer master plan
- Continued improvement of the computer based file storage system
- Building of the new Library or redevelopment of the property at Vine and McClelland Ave.

The face of St. Bernard is changing and moving forward. With the commitment of the Mayor, City Council, and our various departments, St. Bernard will continue to prosper.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee would like to recommend the passage of Ordinance No. 6, 2007. I sent the budget tracking tool and the revisions to the tool for January, 2007 to all members of Council and the Administration. In the spread sheet there are three work sheets for the past three years, for comparison sake. I also placed a hard copy in your mail box. I would like to thank the Service Dept. for all their work on snow removal, also thank the Police and Fire Dept. for working through this inclement weather.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – The Safety Committee would like to remind everyone of the “Parents who host, lose the most” campaign. With prom season quickly approaching, it is important to remind parents that hosting a prom or graduation party where alcohol is available to underage youth is illegal and can pose serious health risks and legal ramifications for everyone involved. Parents should understand that taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking. Everyday at least six youth under 21 die from non-driving alcohol-related causes, such as drowning and suicide, delinquent behaviors increase with underage drinking.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – I guess I can inform the residents that last week at the COW we had a presentation here by members of the Cincinnati Housing Partners. I want to publicly acknowledge the people from the City, Councilmen, Mr. Moeller, Mr. Wiedman, Mr. Kempe, they came out to visit some of the properties. The reason that this is very important is that a year and a half ago when I decided I wanted to run for Council one very important thing to me was the improvement of the housing stock of the City. As of last week, we have basically finished out the requirements for the property tax abatement project for the community reinvestment area by filling the spots for the Council that will oversee those projects. Thank you Barb Kalb, Gabe Sanders, Jim Rutemiller, Ron Feldman and Walt Moeller for taking those positions. The combination for the tax abatement program and what Cincinnati Housing Partners can do, CHP has committed to the acquisition and the renovation of six properties within the City in 2007. This will be done at no cost to the City, so any City funds that will be used on this will be reimbursed to us 100%. CHP will be using their own funds for the actual renovation of these and upon sale of the properties any money that the City has invested in these projects will come back to us 100%. It will not cost us anything to do this. In a very rough estimate, we should see acquisition and improvement of about ½ million dollars directly at housing stock in the City in 2007. In this coming year we will be continuing to work with CHP, they have a new program that they are trying to put in place that will allow them and their contractors and the builders and the people that they work with on a daily basis to assist seniors in any home improvements or repairs that they need in their homes so that they can stay safe and comfortable in their homes until such time that they desire to leave their homes. So that is going to be a major undertaking for this coming year and

again thank you for those people who stepped up to help with this. I'm looking forward to a very, very good 2007.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – As Mr. Meier just stated, the five members of the new community reinvestment area committee, we'd like to thank them again for volunteering their time. We're also requesting that Council, along with those five members attend a meeting next Thursday Feb. 22nd at 6:30p.m. before the next COW to lay the ground work for this committee and then that committee will also appoint one more person to serve on that committee.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Hausfeld – Tonight my committee, Laws, Contracts and Claims was going to recommend passing an ordinance for solicitation and door to door canvassing. Due to a phone call from Ed Geiser tonight, he asked if we would postpone this ordinance until the next Council meeting so he would get a chance to review it, review the final Ordinance before we voted on it. He also apologized for the delay but he has been very busy these last two weeks or so handling a family emergency. For now we are going to postpone that until two weeks from now.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer, - I too recommend passage of Ordinance No. 6, 2007. Also for the last two weeks I have been talking with businesses around the town regarding the need for a more active Chamber of Commerce. All the businesses I talked with recognize the good work a Chamber can do and can be doing and they all seem to be in agreement with getting involved. I encourage the current members of the Chamber to extend welcomes to new members to join and continue the growth of the Chamber to make it an active working part of the City so over the next few years it could be a big growing process in coordinating the development of Vine St. and they're input is greatly needed.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – Before I read my Highways and Transportation report tonight I would like to comment on what Mayor Estep had said about the Council meeting two weeks ago. We did try to work with Mayor Estep and the employee at a private meeting when we were told an employee received six weeks unpaid vacation but really she was paid when you look at the payroll. We waited three weeks to hear something but we did not, then two weeks later we still have not heard nothing. What I would like to know, I don't want to go into detail again about this, but it would be nice, I've been waiting for someone to answer me on where this should have gone after we met with the Mayor and were not told the correct things, where do you go from there? That's the part that I'm still a little confused on, but hopefully we'll hear something about what is being done about the paid vacation time and I do not feel I was unethical. I will always stand up for the truth and in doing the right thing and I will always stand up for representing the citizens. It was very difficult for me to say to censor the minutes and I actually regret saying it, especially after watching the tape, I didn't do it for myself but that was done and I was hoping it would end but since you brought it back up again I just thought I would like to say that I really don't feel that I was unethical looking for the truth.

On my report for Highways and Transportation I would like to remind everyone again that I will be attending the Implementation Committee for members of the I-75 Expansion Project on Monday, Feb. 26. We will be discussing the outcome of the Sept. opening meeting. If anyone has any questions or concerns that they would like to be addressed at this meeting feel free to contact me. I would also like to thank the Service Dept. for the wonderful job they have done the last few weeks with all the snow and ice removal. I appreciate all the long hours you have worked and it really showed with how great our road conditions were that in St. Bernard.

Mr. Burkhardt – The Cow has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole
Feb. 8, 2007

1. Council approved the minutes of the Feb. 1st Council meeting as corrected, 7-0.
2. Bonnie Blankenship and Ken Kable of CHP addressed Council on the possibility of remodeling and or building new homes in St. Bernard. After much discussion Council will discuss this further.
3. Mr. Greg Lipp presented a proposal for the Swim Team coaches and how they are paid. After some discussion Council agreed 7-0 to put an ord. on the table creating the new pay scales.
4. Mayor, John Estep,
 - A. Informed Council that Feb. 15th would be Scout Night.
5. Auditor, Walt St. Clair, no report.
6. Director of Law, Ed Geiser, no report.
7. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell
 - Jonathan informed Council that he had met Capt. Smoltz of District 4 and that he would be working towards better patrol of the Vine and Mitchell area.
8. Service Director, Joe Kempe
 - A. Joe informed Council that they are working on an environmental study of the Bertus St. Park area. This is the first step before preparing the area for housing Also before the City can fix the ramp at the Municipal Building, Duke Energy will move the transformer that is under the old ramp.
9. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, absent.
10. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Hausfeld
 - A. After some discussion Council voted 7-0 to put an ord. on the table reworking the Soliciting Ord.
11. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, no report.
12. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.

13. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.

14. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy is trying to set up a meeting with Dr. Ramonos to up date the City on his progress.

15. Service, Kevin Meier

A. Members of the Tax Abatement Co9uncil will be: Walt Moeller, the HIP, Barb Kalb, Gabe Sanders, Jim Rutemiller, Ron Feldman, and one person to be selected by these members.

16. Finance, Greg Zix, no report.

17. Council then met in Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Burkhardt
President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Mrs. Kathman,

The Civil Service Commission requests that you read the following into the Minutes of the February 15, 2007 Meeting of St. Bernard City Council. In light of recent statements made before City Council, the Civil Service Commission feels it imperative to clarify proper procedure for airing concerns regarding its rules or any of its members.

According to Administrative Code 151.01, Rule III, Section 4, Appearance Before Commission: "Whenever an individual or group has a matter which may require the consideration or decision of the Commission, such individual or group shall first confer with the Secretary, who shall make the necessary arrangements to bring such matters before the commission in regular session."

Our meetings are open to the public. The Commissioners hope that this will save any future disruption of Council's time.

Yours truly,

Linda K. Carberry
Secretary

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to read this evenings Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – The first thing on our agenda tonight is the second reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2007.

ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2007, REPEALING SECTION 159.14 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES, KNOWN AS THE RESIDENCY ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to let Ordinance No. 4, 2007 take its regular course.

REMARKS

Ms. Hausfeld – Due to the unfortunate incident that happened a couple of weeks ago, I did read this report two weeks ago but because the Council meeting was not televised I wanted to at least let the residents know my feelings on residency. – I would like to take this opportunity to tell the citizens of St. Bernard my views regarding residence: I personally don't want any citizen of St. Bernard to move out of our community, employee or not. The new residency law that was passed last year at the State level nullifies all current municipal ordinances regarding residency. Basically, that pretty much says that residency ordinances are out-dated. As we have seen first hand, any residency ordinance has difficulty sustaining court challenges. The Laws, Contracts, and Claims Committee met and discussed this issue with employees and residents. Based on those conversations, it is the recommendation of the Committee that we should repeal our residency ordinance. By repealing this ordinance, it is my hope that more applicants will test for positions in the police and fire, as well as service department. Lastly, it is my opinion that our community faces many critical challenges that require the full attention of Council and Administration, more so than residency.

Some of these challenges are:

- 1) Developing our business district.
- 2) Improving our residential district.
- 3) Developing the already existing pieces of property around town that the City owns such as, Numaid and others.

We need to concentrate on all areas of the City as a whole. Now! We cannot put things off any longer. We need to get things done! I hope we can get passed this residency issue tonight so that we can start concentrating on more important issues in our City.

Mrs. Brickweg – I will read my report regarding residency again this week since the last Council Meeting was not televised. – The issue of residency has been a very controversial issue for St. Bernard and every municipality in Ohio. It has been debated for many years in the State of Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. For those that have not followed the residency issue before Ohio I will give you a short summary; on January 18th, 2006 Senate Bill 82 passed the Ohio House by a vote of 68 to 28. Because the House did not amend the Bill, State Bill 82 did not have to be considered by the Senate. The Governor signed the Bill on January 27th and therefore it did become law on May 1st of 2006. This Bill generally prohibits any political subdivision from requiring an employee as a condition of employment to reside in any specific area of the State. It states that political subdivision generally have the right to reside anyplace they desire. It states in Article II of the Ohio Constitution, it specifies that laws may be passed providing for the comfort, health, safety and general welfare of all employees and that no

other provision of the Ohio Constitution, including the Home Rule provision impairs or limits this power. The General Assembly found that it is a state wide concern. Some municipalities, such as Cleveland, have filed suits against it because they are claiming that residency requirement for municipal employees will most likely be a matter of local self government and not a statewide concern. None of these suits has been settled in court as to this date. Because of the State ruling the issue of residency has once again been brought up to this City Council for us to vote on. I will be ruling to revoke the residency ordinance of St. Bernard. I have gone over this issue many times in my mind. Being married to a firefighter, I have heard many views from many different fire and police depts. throughout Cincinnati. Most of these depts. had a requirement to live in Hamilton County but they are also reviewing their ordinances to have them up to date. St. Bernard has spent a lot of money trying to enforce the residency issue only to lose in court. I do not feel it is wise to spend additional tax payers' money trying to force residency when it has already been ruled on at a State level. Our City is also having a hard time finding employees. We have an extremely low number of people taking our tests and then most of them we have to go out and train. If we take out residency then hopefully this will increase the number of candidates to choose from and open up the possibility of hiring already trained employees. Currently it can take one to two years to train a paramedic and the cost is well over \$200,000.00. If we can hire somebody already trained, we will have that employee working right away and save our City money. My heartfelt feeling on getting rid of residency and for those employees that may move out of St. Bernard is that I want to work as hard as I can to make this City a place that they wish they had never left.

Mr. Zix – As I've said in the past, I will be voting against this Ordinance. The House Bill is being protested, not quite law yet so it still is in place and the simple fact is that our employees are good people and they make good citizens and I think residency is a good thing for our community.

Motion to let Ordinance No. 4, 2007 take its regular course passed 6-1. Mr. Zix voting no.

ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2007, FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FOR THE YEAR 2007, WHOSE FIRST DAY OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 1/1/05 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 6, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 6, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Zix – After some thought about the last Council meeting, I have come to the conclusion that a couple of the Councilpersons are using this televised forum for their political vengeances. They have no respect for the Administration and fellow Council members. They are using these Council meetings to embarrass the City with their antics. Having differences of

opinion among Councilpersons and the Administration is healthy for the City. It produces good ideas. Many of the ideas brought up over the years have been challenged. Then you must step back and re-examine them and vote for what you think is right for the City. You must compromise some of the time. You must do your homework and have your facts correct. What should not be done is to have personal attacks against another Administrator or Councilperson. I have debated on this Council floor on many occasions and argued my points with other Councilpersons and did not always vote the same way as them but I have never lost their friendship or respect for them. This past meeting, the grandstanding went way over board. It shows no respect to Council and/or the Administration. When we discussed televising these Council meetings, this was our view that the City would be placed in a bad light.

Councilpersons cannot enter these chambers, act in an unprofessional manner, then censor the televised meetings in an attempt to save themselves embarrassment and possible legal action. I feel it would be best to no longer televise these meeting and place the City in this bad position because some of our Council members cannot behave in a manner fitting to the position. Lets get back to getting something meaningful done for the City. I make a motion to no longer film and to no longer televise these Council meetings.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to no longer film or televise the Council meetings.

REMARKS

Ms. Hausfeld – You know, I was going to keep my mouth shut but Mr. Zix with what you just read, that’s an embarrassment to me. I did not and Mrs. Brickweg can you, when she wanted to bring this up I knew it needed to be done in Executive Session, I knew it needed to be done in private. How dare you accuse me of doing it for grandstanding my political position. That’s just not right. Some people might say I’m a puppet for Mrs. Brickweg, some people might say I did a witch hunt against Mrs. Williams, some people told me to grow up and you know what I have learned so much this last year, not only about myself but the City itself and I did what I needed to do as a Council person. It was brought to my attention from citizens, tax paying citizens and I, not knowing the exact, correct way of handling it, I went to our City Attorney and asked him how to handle it. I was told to do it in private and that is exactly what I did with, thank God, I asked the City Attorney to go in there with me just to make sure that I didn’t overstep my boundary and that I didn’t get the City in any trouble and unfortunately in that meeting we were told she took six weeks unpaid vacation. So what do you do when you’re told one thing and I might have even said that we were lied to. Well in the last couple of weeks it was told that it was a misquote. A misquote is what I was told. If it was a misquote, and it was not only myself in that meeting, but there was our City Attorney, there was Mrs. Brickweg and there was Mr. Burkhardt and before I said, ‘Hey guys, is that what was said?’ every single one of them told me, ‘yes, that is what was said’. I told Mr. Estep, John, in private and I told him in Executive Session a couple of weeks ago, if he would have let us know, each and everyone of us, called us on the telephone, give us a heads up or you know what, we had so many meetings after that meeting, he could have called us aside and said, hey listen, I made a mistake, I misquoted it, I’m sorry, you know it is an

Administration problem, we'll take care of it, thank you for bringing this to my attention, for me, it would have been over. And I was not going to say anything tonight, because God knows I'm going to get all kinds of crude for this, but how dare you sit there and say that I used it for political gain because I did not. I have myself accountable for this, I have my family involved in this, unfortunately, and I also have the best interest of the citizens involved. And when people bring stuff to my attention and I don't know how to handle it, I don't know how to take care of it in the correct manners, I will seek out our Attorney's advice and by seeking that out that is the way I handled it and how dare you sit there and say that I'm using this for political gain because you know what, this next election, it doesn't matter way because you know what, I can hold my head up high and I know with integrity that I did the best darn job that I could do as a Councilperson.

Mrs. Brickweg – Patty, I'll be very honest, if I had to guess, that was geared right for me. Because, I know, and the sad part is, I don't play political games because I'm not a member of any of your political parties because I work for the citizens so you guys can all play the games you want to play and accuse me of the games, I don't care. I work for the citizens and I try to represent them. When I go to meetings and I'm not told the truth and citizens ask me to look into something I will do that. I also knew you were going to use this opportunity to try to get these Council meetings off of cable and we know what the citizens want, I'm ashamed at myself for giving in to basically the harassment I received in Executive Session and in between the meeting when we took a break to censor the minutes and you know what, I didn't do it for myself. I have no problem with what I said, I have every fact, I can back it up, and I talked to an attorney, I'm not worried at all. I told the truth and I looked for the truth and for people who are so worried and so ashamed of what happened it's amazing that you have no problem bringing it back up again but I'm sure that was meant for me and like I said I don't belong to any political group, I work for the citizens, I work on my merit, I work on my ethics, and it doesn't matter what you want to accuse me of because I can sleep at night knowing what I do and what I believe in.

Mr. Estep – Hopefully, everybody has everything out, I think it's time to turn the page and lets all move on.

Mr. Meier – Ms. Hausfeld, I think what you did, I think that you handled things the way you were supposed to handle them if I remember correctly, you did not bring anything up on Council floor, so I hope you don't take it the wrong way. I thought did things the way they were supposed to be done on a one on one basis, at a private meeting and not on Council floor. Now as far as the motion on the floor to not televise the meetings, I have a real struggle with this on both sides. On one as being a representative to the ICRC, I see the benefits, you know we've had performances by the high school kids last spring that were televised and we had a Christmas program from the kids at St. Clement televised and I know it means a lot to a small kid to actually see themselves on TV, its kind of a big deal. But then on the other hand I can see where meeting kind of getting out of control, we have somebody up here swearing at the microphone a few weeks back and comments being made out of the audience a couple weeks back again, it just seems like things are getting out of control again. It is an election year, a lot of things are going to be said a lot of things are going to get done this year a

lot of things are not going to get done this year. If anybody tells you that they're not political, don't believe it because anybody that is in an elected position is political to some extent, myself included and I don't mind admitting that. We had an incident on the Council floor two weeks ago, there was information brought up that should not have been brought up on the floor, it should have been handled again in a private meeting, as you did, Patty, or in Executive Session, as John you tried to do. So I'm very torn on this issue, I can see the benefits of providing, of televising the meeting to the people, and as a very selfish interest, I mean I didn't grow up here, if I'm planning on doing anything in this City, this is how, I mean most of the people didn't know who I was two years ago, and I know when I go in IGA and around, a lot of people do, so my personal interest, it would be to my advantage to televise the meetings. But on the other hand we do have to have some level of decorum and some level of dignity for the proceedings here because we're making decisions that very profoundly influence the direction this City is going and affects the lives of the people in the City and I think some of that lack of respect for the other members of Council and the Administration has been lost. As I say, it's going to be a very difficult decision, I can see how one side of me would like to say yes, let's not televise these for a while and let things settle down, on the other hand I see strong benefits to it. That is my opinion

Ms. Hausfeld – Two quick things, one, yes, two weeks ago, the meeting did get out of control. There are a couple of ways it could have been handled. First of all, we as Council people could have called point of order. We could have stopped it right then and there before it got totally blown out of control, so shame on us, because we all failed to do that and also that's what the gavel is for, point of order, stop then go to Executive Session, we should have done it and each and every one of us are at fault for not stopping it, so it's not just one or two or a couple of us, it's each and every one of us Council members. On another note, this is for the citizens, I told you when I sat out there in that audience and I got at that podium, God help me, I don't need an extra ten pounds added on to this body by going on TV and being televised but those citizens elected us, those citizens voted for us, those citizens have a right to hear what's going on and unfortunately we have or fortunately we have a lot of older citizens. My dad was one, towards the end he couldn't get out and he watched this on TV, and Kevin, you're right, there are people that see us on TV and say, hey, you're doing a good job or hey, that wasn't too good last week, you know at least the citizens are aware. We're not keeping them in the dark. I will be perfectly honest, I want these televised and if there needs to be a point of order, if there needs to be something stopped, then there are seven Council members, there's the President of Council, that can stop it, each and every one of us could have stopped it and none of us did.

Mr. Asbach – I somewhat take offense to that. We've been told for years, and I was against it going on TV way back when, we were always told by ICRC that you could not edit the tapes, that has always been my biggest fear. There other part of that is, when someone is talking, I don't want to censor someone that's giving their little talk, I don't think that's the right of Council people to stop somebody else when they're talking. Number one, it was handled poorly as was said before, it should have been handled in Executive

Session and then if there was no resolve, then by all means, put it on TV and see what happens. It's a shame that we have to talk about this again tonight but you know for years you hear this while some residents do like to see the minutes, there is the other group throughout the valley that on Friday night, let's get the six pack of beer and watch the circus. It's become that! By God, I love this town and I hate to see anybody make a mockery of St. Bernard so I have no problem taking them off.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I too have been around the outer belt of Cincinnati and talked to a few people who watch these programs in different areas and they too, it's the same thing as Steve says. They don't want to miss it because it's hilarious, we're known as the hillbilly town, we're known as the Beverly Hillbilly Council. I'm tired of it, I want to bring the respect back to the City, I want to do it on a good basis, I want to do it on an intelligent basis, I think it is being used wrong, I think it was used wrong two weeks ago, I think the entire, I wasn't for it to begin with either, I knew where it would go and eventually it did. I'm terribly sick of it, really, it's a shame, it's really a shame the way it's been abused, not only by people up here, but by people coming up to the podium and accusing the City of this and that, threatening the City on this and that. It ridiculous! I get calls on Friday night, late at night from up in Loveland from a friend of mine who lives up there who can't, he thinks it's hilarious, and it's embarrassing.

Mr. Burkhardt – I too agree with Kevin, wholeheartedly, it is a tough situation, after what happened two weeks ago, I was totally embarrassed and I don't care what people say when they watched it that they didn't think it was that bad, to me it was bad, it was very bad. Again I believe the citizens deserve the right, I'm glad we pulled it two weeks ago and I would vote to pull it again. There is another part of me that says people deserve the right to see what goes on here, at least to a certain extent, had we had that in Executive Session, then that's probably where it belonged. Also the continual ranting and raving of political campaigning that goes on, this is an election year, and I agree with the reports that the department heads gave, they were very well done, very well handled, my hat's off to everyone of you. But the Mayor's report to me seemed like a kick off for a Mayor campaign. To me it was just a lot of rah, rah, rah and for that I don't want to see these go that way, this is an election year, let's keep the election stuff out of our Council meetings from here on out.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess, especially with Bill and Kevin, because I think other people have their minds probably already made up, the one thing to try to really think about here is we work for the citizens. What do the citizens want? The citizens used to get minutes mailed to the homes, they no longer get that. Part of the alternative so the citizens could be informed is to have it on television. To me, we are just going to put them right in the dark so they don't have a clue what is going on. I'm not going to hash it but I am still waiting, somewhere, where we did meet in private, tried it privately, and nothing got resolved except being told the untruth, so we'll let it go now but I'd really like somebody to tell me, where do you go from there? Do you just keep going back to the same person until you get the right answer, I don't know? I'm just asking that everybody really think hard here about what the citizens want. You know, if we're all so worried and think Peggy made a total fool out of herself and was a horrible person, then you guys

should all be happy because then maybe I won't get reelected in and then you won't have to deal with me, so maybe it would have been a good thing to put it on for all your sakes. To me that doesn't matter, I just did what I thought was right. But I really think we should think about what the citizens want. Do we want to keep them in the dark because this is really going to put them in the dark. I don't know how many people come up and get the minutes, I'm thinking it's probably not a whole lot, I don't know, but just to think that they're not going to know what's going on, that saddens me a lot and I fought very hard for the cable and when a little bit of stuff was happening two weeks ago, I knew that was what was going to happen and I thought that by allowing them not to send that out maybe those people would not do this but I guess I was wrong.

Motion to take Council meetings off cable failed 3-4. Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier voting no.

Mr. Meier – As I said before, I was really, really torn on this issue. But I think that, and obviously this Council is torn on this issue because of the way this was voted tonight. I would ask people to really think about what you say in your reports, especially with this being an election year. When I went into the bank a few weeks ago, one of the guys in my office, the first thing he said to me was, 'what kind of people do you have down there'. I think it is incumbent upon all of us to really carry our positions with as much respect as we can and I think that if it continues the way it has, I think that the idea of whether or not we should televise these should be brought back up again and I think that I would, as much as I would like to not, if we continue to have these embarrassing type of situations, I would very, very, as much as I would hate to admit, I would change my vote to not television these meetings. I think we should view this as a wake up call, not only for the people up here but also for the people that come to the meetings, there are a couple of individuals that like to shout out from the seats and like I say, I think this is a useful tool, the City can get a lot from it but please, lets' try to have a little bit of respect for one another.

Mr. Asbach – I'd like to have this matter placed on next week's COW, please.

Mrs. Brickweg – Gerry Wiedmann and I met with Dr. Michael Romanos with the University of Cincinnati School of Planning and Design yesterday on Feb. 14th. Dr. Romanos reviewed the three stage project that his graduate students are working on in their class titled, Introduction to Economic Development Planning. Since many citizens have asked for an update on this study I will do my best to give a brief explanation. The project aimed to familiarize the graduate student with an approach to local economic development, give them the opportunity to study some local examples of such development attempts and guide them in the development of original development scenarios based on their research findings and apply it to St. Bernard which is a local community in need of economic development suggestions. The first stage requires the students to do field research on local neighborhood business districts' economic development projects. The purpose of this assignment is to give the graduate students an opportunity to study the economic structure and characteristics of a community, the role of the business district in the communities development, the history of the new

business district, past, growth and decline, the strategies used to accomplish growth and development objective and financing and other tools used. The goal is to help the students get a complete and accurate profile of the developments ups and downs and assesses the successes and/or failures with development and redevelopment and to evaluate it's chances to sustain in the future. The communities they studied were Northside, which would be from the Hamilton Ave. business corridor, North College Hill, Oakley, the Madison Ave. business corridor and the Main St. in Over-the-Rhine. The second stage of the project is for the graduate students to do field research on the economic development issues and problems of St. Bernard. They will apply their research of successful communities with economic development plans and programs from stage one. The students will investigate the economic growth and development conditions, problems, opportunities and threats that are confronting St. Bernard. They will use the study materials already collected and analyzed by two previous planning classes in the spring of 2006. The students will work in groups of three to four students to conduct interviews and meetings to add to the status so they can prepare a detailed profile of the opportunities and challenges confronting St. Bernard regarding our economic character, development and our role of current and future business districts. They have decided the top priority of this corridor will be the business district located on Vine St. between Mitchell and going down to City Hall. The third stage is for the graduate students to development alternative planning scenarios for the economic development of St. Bernard and the revitalization of our neighborhood district. The proposals will address economic, demographic, physical and environmental issues, should identify design and community and character needs. They will outline these proposed plans and strategies. They will identify possible programs for planning assistance and funding for the City of St. Bernard. Dr. Romanos suggested to Gerry and I that when the project is complete we may want to hold a few town meetings to present this scenario to the public and get their feedback on what they like, dislike and other ideas that they may have. We could then continue to work with Dr. Romanos to nail everything down to one main plan. One of my main concerns that I discussed with Dr. Romanos is that our City has the habit of not implementing our plan. He stated that he was also concerned about this since not much had been done with the 1998 Master Plan that the City had paid Hamilton County to prepare. I informed Dr. Romanos that various people are looking for developments and he suggested that we hold on for that for now. He will continue with the study and at the end of this study he will start sending out PSQs, which are requests for qualifications. They will look at developers' credentials, pass projects and make sure they understand the St. Bernard market. Dr. Romanos said that he has many professors and associates that could assist St. Bernard in implementing our plan. He has associates that do just that. They take plans and assist cities with implementing them. They help find the financing, they assist with acquiring land and etc. We also discussed the CIC and their role with the revitalization of Vine St. Gerry and I suggested that Dr. Romanos attend the CIC meeting on Wed. night at 7:00 p.m. of next week so that he can discuss with the CIC what his graduate students are working on. He was very excited about this opportunity. He said he will also bring the information boards that his students prepared last year on St. Bernard's environmental and economic study. Gerry Wiedmann, as president of the CIC, would like to invite all of Council to attend this meeting. I know this

has been a lot of information but I think it is very important for the citizens to know that we are working on the revitalization of Vine St. and that we will make it happen.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Diane Hudson, 4240 Redwood Ter. – I would just like to make a comment that I as a citizen of St. Bernard would like to keep the minutes televised on cable, that I don't think anybody has the right to take that away from the citizens and I really would like the Council to start working together as a team, not each individual, but as a team and work together for us as citizens of St. Bernard to try to get things resolved and to try to get some of the things that are on the plate finalized because it seems to me that since I've moved here, which I've only been here for maybe about 6 years, everything just keeps on dragging on, it never gets accomplished, nothing gets finalized and I really would like to see everybody work together as a team. I worked at a big company and when we have this kind of situation happening we start having team events where everybody starts going out and starts playing together so that they all can play nice again because right now I see nobody able to communicate with each other and that's all I have to say as a citizen I don't think that there's anything else that needs to be discussed other than the fact that you all need to start just trying to work together more.

Mrs. Brickweg – We had a little bit of confusion, I just wanted to make sure, Gerry Wiedmann that the CIC is meeting on Wed. and its at 7:00 in Council Chambers?

Mr. Wiedmann – Yes.

Mrs. Brickweg – That's at 7:00p.m. Wed. and Dr. Romanos will be here.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW will be Thursday, Feb. 22nd, at 7:30.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Asbach to adjourn. Council agreed 7-0.

These minutes are not the official record of Council Meetings. The official record is the audio tape.