

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 19, 2007**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, April 19, 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 and Mr. Zix.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to nominate Mr. Sipe as the Clerk for the evening in Mrs. Kathman's absence. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Before I give my report I would like to ask for a moment of silence for the tragedy that occurred this week the Virginia Tech campus.

The Law Director, Mr. Geiser swore Mr. Jamie Sipe in as the temporary Clerk.

Saturday, April 28th is “Clean Up St. Bernard Day”. I encourage residents or employees who would like to participate in this event to meet us at the Pavilion at 9:00 am and we will work in the community until about noon. For students needing community service hours this would be a good way to earn them. If residents have suggestions for a specific project please contact Glenna McCarty at 242-7770 ext. 11.

The Annual St. Bernard Easter Egg hunt was on Saturday, April 7th. Even though the day was chilly we had a great turn out. Emily Ott played Peter Cottontail this year and I want to thank her for her contribution to the day's success.

We need 4 or 5 more players for T-Ball to complete a team. Please contact Vince Anello at 641-0004 if you want to add your child's name to the T-Ball roster. That is a great experience for all kids that age.

We mailed acceptance letters last Friday to summer hires announcing a meeting on **Monday, April 23, 2007, in the Municipal Building's Teen Center at 7:30 pm.** If you received a summer employment offer letter plan to attend this meeting to complete the necessary paperwork for summer employment. If you cannot attend, contact Mr. St. Clair to make sure you have the necessary paperwork in place to begin your job.

At the last COW Meeting, Mrs. Wickersham from United Church Homes came to talk about some of the specifics of Senior Housing for St. Bernard. She is in the process of preparing cost estimates as requested. I was encouraged by her discussion and I remain committed to securing a site for this important project.

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

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – Absent.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – This is just a reminder and I think everyone needs to mark this on their calendar, on Tuesday, May 15, it is Peace Officer’s memorable day. Flags across the United States are to be flown at half staff in remembrance of the nearly 18,000 law enforcement officers that have been killed in the line of duty in the nation’s history. Also the City of St. Bernard is currently in the middle of the bid process for the Quint apparatus for the fire department. Bids are due on Friday, the 27th at 11:00 am, based upon the specs that are listed on the City’s web site. Also I am excited to report, the Civil Service Commission has received 40 applications for the upcoming police exam to establish an eligibility list to replace the one that expires in June.

Also today, you may have been inconvenienced by the power outage or a traffic detour. There was a pole that came out of the ground on Ross at Greenlee, which created low hanging power lines. The problem should be corrected with normal traffic flow to resume. We also had a power outage due to a blown transformer on Broerman. This created a very loud boom which startled some of our residents when it blew up. To the best of my knowledge all power has been restored to the residents or should be very soon.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – The work on the Woodside Heights Subdivision Project is continuing. The contractor is completing the installation of the new water lines, fire hydrants, storm sewer and catch basins. Due to the bad weather in February, there have been some delays in the tentative schedule, but I expect completion of the job by mid-summer. JMA is working on and close to completing the engineering of the Errun Lane and Advance Ave. street repairs. We plan to go out for bids sometime in May and work on those streets should occur in June or July. The repair of these two streets is being funded through the Community Block Grant Program.

I have also discussed with John Goedde of JMA the condition of Vine St. and what options the City has to repair the street. He will be checking all funding options to repair and/or resurface Vine St. and I will report back to Council with his recommendations.

Finally, the new transformer has been installed outside the Municipal Building. This new transformer is replacing the old transformers located under the ramp to the Municipal Building. With this process completed, we can now focus on replacing the existing ramp. At the same time, Duke Energy will remove the old transformers. At the next COW, I will give Council a more detailed report on what work has been completed and what work remains to complete this project.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee is in communications with the Administration, they are currently putting together the budget for '08 and when they get that to us we will announce a meeting for that review.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – The Safety Committee and Administration met with the fire chief, April 17, and since I wasn't there I'll be meeting with the members of my committee and I'll report back on what transpire later.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – I have a couple of things to go over tonight. One, the CIC has received a letter from Everest, that is the real estate broker that, if we decided that we want to seriously explore selling the site to a single user, that would be the brokerage firm that would most likely represent us. Before we do that, the idea was brought us to see if we should have a needs assessment for moving the service garage and if the Nu-Maid site is one of the sites that we want to consider doing that, then we need to find out what we need, how much it's going to cost, where will we put it, that sort of thing. I would like to just bring it up, maybe discuss it at COW next week and if Council is in agreement that we want to get that done, then we can go ahead and move forward and get started with that needs assessment to see if in part or all of the Nu-Maid site would be suitable for the relocation of the service garage. That is the one item that I wanted to bring up tonight as probably one of the most important.

Second, a couple of weeks ago, Steve brought up the play ground equipment, down on Ludlow. It probably needs some upgrading. At the time the block grants are not available this year, it will probably be another year before we can go out for them. Mrs. Roeckers, who is a crossing guard over at St. Clement, gave me some information about a grant program, it's run by the people who make Hamburger Helper and it's called Hometown Helper. What they do is, they have some funds available for cities and municipalities or non profits for things exactly like that. Like play ground equipment. I went to their web site and looked it over and the basic way that it runs is you have to have a 250 word description of why you need the funds, what you would use it for, how much it would cost. I'd be glad to help write it up and then what you do is you send it in to them, you post it on line and it seems like one of the major criteria is that you have people in your town go to that web site, call up your City and then log on and add comments. What it looks like is the cities or projects that get the most comments, and periodically they'll just pull them out and OK you've got your money. I don't know, Joe, if you could get me just a rough idea of what it will cost just to upgrade that equipment, I'd be glad to do that and I think this program is, they're going to be giving the grants out through the end of June. It would be something we could turn around pretty quickly. Let's explore it, it's not going to cost us anything to do that.

Lastly, the St. Bernard schools are going to be giving another performance, last year it was on the history of St. Bernard, this year it's called Earth and Beyond, it's the last Wednesday and Thursday in May, I believe it's going to be at 7:00. I contacted ICRC earlier today to see if they would come down and tape that for rebroadcast on the cable channel. They did that for the St. Bernard schools last May, they did it for the Christmas performance for St. Clement this past December. They're real big hits for the kids, they get really excited when they get to see themselves on TV so we're going to proceed doing that as well.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – Just a follow up on the Mayor’s report on the “Clean Up St. Bernard Day”. I talked to Mr. Kempe last night and what we’re looking at is if anyone is, unless another project comes in more noteworthy, we had discussed to at least cleaning the exterior streets, Mitchell Ave., Vine St., Ross Ave. just so that people have an idea of what we’re looking to do. Unless any other suggestions come in to City Hall we will address those as well.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – Just to inform the citizens, my committee meeting that was scheduled for tonight had to be cancelled due to Executive Session meeting with our attorney about some litigation. I have rescheduled it with my committee for May 3rd, at 6:30, downstairs in our meeting room.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – A new business did open up last week, “Get the Picture” on Greenlee Ave. That’s 4514 Greenlee Ave. and I did tell them that I would mention it on the dais as we speak at the Council Meeting tonight. Tricia Hackney is the owner. She looks like she is very talented with a camera and it is a photographic studio and she is looking forward to working with businesses in St. Bernard and with the schools and the children and the parents for photographic needs. Stop in and see her and let her show you her place and review her work. She’s very talented.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – I want to thank everyone that has been patient with my tax season work schedule. I had received a promotion in Jan. which brought on more responsibility along with 16 hour working days. Tax season is over, now I will get back to my email updates and my birthday cards. I want to let the people know in Ward 2 that had birthdays, I do wish them a happy birthday and I’m sorry that they did not receive their card. I fell behind on this and I hope to get them out real soon. I did keep up with the various meetings I attended and I will do my best to give reports and let everybody know what is going on. I also want to remind everyone, the Great American Clean Up is next Saturday, the 28th from 9 until noon. I also want to thank Steve Asbach for taking over the coordinating for this event since I will be out of town. Good luck to everyone.

Mr. Burkhardt – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole
April 12, 2007

1. Council approved the minutes of the April 5th Council meeting, 600, Mr. Zix was absent.
2. Before the meeting, Council heard from Cheryl Wickersham from United Church Homes on the topic of Senior Housing.
3. Mayor, John Estep
 - A. The Mayor announced that there would be a public hearing April 17th at 7:00pm to discuss the recommendations of the Fire Chief.

B. There will also be a public meeting at May 24th at 7:00pm in the Main Hall of the municipal building to discuss the Bertus St. Park Project.

4. Auditor, Walter St. Clair

A. Walt announced that he would be working on a new ord. for the fees charged by Med-a-Count for ambulance runs and hopes to have something ready for the next COW meeting.

5. Director of Law, Edward Geiser, absent.

6. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, absent.

7. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Joe informed Council that USEPA would be installing a water monitoring system in the police station to keep track of the quality of water in the City. Council agreed 6-0 to allow the USEPA to install the system.

8. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.

9. Laws, Contracts, & Claims, Patty Hausfeld

A. Patty informed Council that her committee would be meeting on April 19 at 6:30pm.

10. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, no report.

11. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer

A. Mike reminded Council of the open house at the new photo studio opening on Greenlee Ave. on April 17th and 18th.

12. Safety, Bill Burkhardt

A. Bill announced that the committee would be at the public meeting on April 17th at 7:00pm.

13. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy informed Council that she was contacted by SWMD in regards to any Garden Clubs in St. Bernard. Peggy said she would check into it and report back to Council.

B. The St. Bernard Clean-up Day will be April 28th from 9:00am to 12:00noon. Steve Asbach will over see the day in Peggy's absence.

14. Service, Kevin Meier, no report.

15. Finance, Greg Zix, absent.

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

COMMUNICATIONS – None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Norman Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – We're right on track, we're, all the business that needs to be done in town, we got another 15 minute Council meeting. The last meeting I went to, it was a 10 minute, 15 minute, we got another 15 minute. There has to be something going on. Maybe I can get somebody to say something, I think we did have a little bit of a report. What happened to, just to get somebody to talk to say something, maybe somebody will say something in this, I hope so. What happened to the thing that was going to change the look of St. Bernard Square, months ago we've seen pictures and we hear that their going to start this and they going to start, what happened to that? What happened to the Dr. Romano? Somebody has to know something, these kids are going to be out of school pretty soon, we'll be doing another year waiting for a Dr. Romano report. Something has to be going on Vine St. It's election year again and now we're talking again about senior housing. Just what we need, senior housing to make this town look more impressionable. There has to be something besides senior housing to make St. Bernard come to life. Senior housing, we're almost dead that isn't going to help us. What are we going to do about some of the other things that we had in the past? We used to have a tree planting program, that really started to live up St. Bernard, the trees they used, I think, are not right kind of a tree, it seemed they're med summer they're all falling all over the street, they're dying the way they look. Surely if we're trying to fix the town up and we're not fixing it up maybe we can plant some trees and hide what we're not looking at. If we could get this tree planting program going back again. You're all sitting up there, there has to be something you can tell us what's going on in St. Bernard besides what we hear. 10, 15 minutes in a City, \$11,000,000 City, there's got to be more business in this town, so maybe somebody can open up here and we can stretch this out to a half an hour.

Mr. Walden – For those who were not able to hear Mr. Miller, I know the air conditioning is on and the microphone was not working well, he was asking about the gateway project and the St. Bernard tree planting project and Dr. Romanos, the status of his interest.

Mr. Burkhardt – I know that Mr. Wiedman did meet with Dr. Romanos this week and I'm sure he will probably have a report at COW, or can you enlighten us I guess. Sorry Gerry.

Mr. Wiedman – We did meet with Dr. Romanos this week, he had just got back from Greece. He had another three week session in Greece but the students are progressing with this thing and he assured us that probably by the end of April, I think there were three contacts he was supposed to send emails to as per our last meeting and he assured me that they would all be getting emails letting know when we were going to have the presentation for Vine St. It is positive, it's moving forward so I would think probably being the date is it now, probably in the next month we should have something in front of us. That's about it on Dr. Romanos.

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Miller I can touch on a few things I was working on but I was going to wait and give it in more detail. The FBI did call me at work and they were interested in looking at the Nu-Maid property. They flew somebody in to look at it. I have not heard back, he said he was going to meet with me and possibly meet with Frank Torbeck who works for the Everest Co. but apparently they were not satisfied with it, I'm not sure but I am going to follow up it, but I would think that's a no go. I did have lunch today with an economic developer, to interview him and see what he does and what an economic developer could do for our City and if he would ever possibly be interested in working here. Like I said, I did have lunch today with this person so I am, I might not be reporting on all this but I am working on things to further get back into the groove of City work this week, but that's what I've been working on.

Mr. Estep – The tree planting thing was before my time, Norm, I'd like to find out more about it too. I guess the other thing on the side that we're trying to do right now is 4th of July, we're working with Duke Energy trying to get a sponsorship for the fireworks and we're in a little conversation with them right now. We are trying to move forward with that.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW will be Thursday, April 26th at 7:30pm.

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