

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 21, 2007**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, June 21, 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 six members were present: Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier and Mr. Zix. Mr. Schildmeyer was absent.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Before I read my report I would just like to ask for a moment of silence for Jerry Clements, life long resident who passed away this week.

We have a great community event coming up planned by the Holiday Activity Committee and the Recreation Department on Tuesday evening July 3rd. Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and plan a fun and entertaining evening with your family at a concert in the park featuring the music of the Rusty Griswolds. They have a huge following and they have been in our town for several years and do a great job. Plan to arrive at the park by 6:00p.m. We will have pony and regular rides for the kids and lots of fair-type food items. The Griswolds' concert is from 7-10:00p.m. followed by a fantastic fireworks display by the Rozzi Brothers to celebrate Independence Day. For residences' convenience Dial-A-Ride will add a shift from 6:00p.m. until 12:00p.m. to get residents to and from the fireworks. There will be plenty of parking down by the Save-A-Lot, the City lot, as well as the IGA parking lot, always available thanks to Mr. Kwan.

On a different note, the Bertus St. Park project has been placed in the Public Improvements Committee. Mr. Zix and myself have agreed to be a part of this committee. We all realize and agree we need to improve this situation in that area. We will gather some specific plan and then ask Council for permission to allow Mr. Kempe to pursue bids on what the project will cost. We will keep you posted.

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

A notice of Public Hearing has been issued, but, just to remind everyone, a Public Hearing on the 2008 Tax Budget will take place before the Council Meeting on July 5th at 7:30p.m. This budget is to be adopted by Council and be in the office of the County Auditor by July 20th.

Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 25, 2007. As discussed at the COW, this Ordinance provides for an additional appropriation to building maintenance at the Police Department. The amount of the additional

appropriation is the amount we have been reimbursed by our Insurance for damage to the air conditioning unit.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – The National Safety Council (NSC) designates June as National Safety Month. “Celebrating Safe Communities” is this year’s theme and one of the focus points is on driving.

DRIVING SAFETY

Whenever you get behind the wheel and drive, you are putting yourself and others at risk. Here re a few driving risks to consider.

Driving Risks

- Speeding is the most common error cited in fatal accidents, reducing reaction time and increasing vehicle stopping distance and crash impact.
- Impaired driving, due to use of alcohol, or medications is also a factor. In 2005, alcohol was a factor in more than 40 percent of road fatalities.
- Distracted driving accounts for as many as 25 percent of car crashes. Most common distractions include radio/CD tuning, cell phones, eating, and personal grooming or trying to grab out-of-reach objects.

As requested, I followed up with Jennifer Kunz, Marketing Director for TEC Engineering, and the company that I had originally contacted about doing a traffic safety study for Ross Avenue. She has informed us of the availability of a grant through the Governor’s Highway Safety Office. Each year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration allocates funds to the GHSO to aid in the achievement of GHSO’s important mission: to save lives and reduce injuries on Ohio roads. These funds are used in part for, but not limited to, engineering projects, traffic safety education, and enforcement. Funding is limited, so monies are administered on a competitive basis.

TEC Engineering, as a consultant partner, will team up with the GHSO’s office to facilitate and implement safety studies at high-accident intersections and corridors in eligible communities. This company is qualified by ODOT to conduct traffic safety studies and they will make the application for St. Bernard if desired. This grant requires no local match and is a reimbursement program. Once safety studies are completed, they can be submitted for additional funding for infrastructure improvement projects necessary to improve traffic safety. So basically, you can’t apply for grant money for improvements with having a study like this done. This could be a planning tool for us but there is no way to predict what might happen to our traffic flow or volume with events like the I-75 project. However, TEC can reference the Valley Study to better help us as to how we fit into the whole picture. We can look at other high incident areas in St. Bernard to see if there are qualifying statistics. I will provide to her the needed information to determine our qualification based on the number of incidents. And I would like to discuss this further and have more dialog about it, maybe when we get to the New Business or Old Business section if that’s OK.

Also I would like to let you know that we will have the Resolution prepared for Thursday, July 1st Council Meeting for the St. Bernard Fire Dept. to switch to the Hamilton County Communications Center for 911 dispatch.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – No report.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance No. 25, 2007 and Ordinance No. 26, 2007 tonight. All members of Council and the Administration should have received their budget tool for May for their review.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – The Police Dept. report for May, 2007. Officers calls for service 1001.

The Police Dept. would like to remind residents of general safety tips regarding bicycles, other items, as well as articles in your car. During summer, we see increases in bike thefts as well as other articles left in yards or on porches, also an increase in thefts of articles left in cars. Remember to lock or secure bicycles at all times. It just takes a second for someone to steal your bike from any location. Be aware of your surroundings. If something looks suspicious or out of place, call us. Many times we see items such as yard equipment, or other children's toys left out in yards overnight. This is an opportunity for a criminal to steal it. Try to police up your yards before locking up for the night. Most if not all of these types of thefts are thefts of opportunity. Keep items out of view or locked in your trunks and keep your vehicles locked at all times with windows up. And lastly, watch out for each other, if you notice a potential problem, let us know.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – Recently we've had a couple of opportunities to take advantage of ICRC televising events for the City. They recently taped the performance by the High School and we should be getting that replay schedule shortly and also there was a "Concert to Remember", it was a benefit fund raiser for the Alzheimer's, it was held Saturday and ICRC came out and they video taped that as well. Again with that we will get the replay schedule for everybody. I think this is a good opportunity for the City to showcase some of the things that we have available, it gets the word out about some of the good things that happen in St. Bernard and whenever we have an opportunity to take advantage of doing that and putting the City on display for everybody else, I think we should do that.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – The Committee will meet next Thursday, June 28th, at 6:30p.m. here in Council Chambers to discuss the Bertus Park improvements.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – My Committee met this past Tuesday evening to start some discussion on playing in the streets and the portable basketball hoops. We came up with some recommendations and I have to get back with Chief Moeller and Eddie Geiser and hopefully I'll have that done for next COW, if not it will be two weeks from now.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – The Safety Director reported at last weeks COW meeting that he was contacted by TEC Engineering. This is the company was going to charge us \$22,000.00 to study the traffic and speed problem on Ross Ave. They informed him that they can get a 100% state grant to do this study and they wanted to know if St. Bernard would like to try for this grant. I said yes, and asked him if there was any way they could incorporate the increased traffic we may have after they close the Town St. exit. The other Council members did not think we should pursue the Grant. Some were afraid that the residents of Ross would like to incorporate any suggestions the study may conclude, while others were concerned that the repair suggestions would cost too much so they thought maybe we should not do the study. At the time I was a little confused, I thought free grant money to study a problem was a no brainer to me, but I thought I would listen to what the citizens on Ross Ave. thought. The residents from Ross that did contact me could not believe that we would pass up on a free study. They appreciate the increased Police presence but wonder how long this can keep up so why not see what a study would say. Others fear the increased traffic that may happen when the close the Town St. exit with the highway expansion. One particular resident that called me, she called me from her hospital bed was Sarah Spradlin, she has been ill and had surgery this week, for those that may not recognize her name, Sarah is the resident on Ross that went door to door to ask residents their thoughts and experiences with speeding and car accidents. Then Sarah presented her findings to Council for us to act on. She asked me to quote her tonight, she said: “When you are sick, you have tests run. You may not always choose to have the procedure that the tests results show, but you still have the tests to see what is causing the problem and then you make your decision.” Sarah showed Council the problem and we have tried various ideas which are helping but she was very angry to hear that some Council members think that we should not try to get a free professional study done. I would like to ask those on Council that do not want to apply for this grant to reconsider this. This would not cost the City anything to do this study and we may be able to learn a lot from the study and I know the residents of Ross would really appreciate it. We have no idea what the study suggestions may cost but why not find out for free what is needed to fix the problem and then address the cost?

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

Committee of the Whole
June 14, 2007

1. Council approved the minutes of the June 7th Council meeting, 6-0, Ms. Hausfeld absent

2. Mayor John Estep

A. Council held a moment of Silence for Mrs. Mayborg. John also asked to put the Bertus St. Park project in the Public Improvements Committee. The Committee will meet to discuss the possible upgrades to the park.

3. Auditor, Walter St. Clair

A. Walt asked the Director of Law to look into the Tax Dept.'s legality of the temporary clerk and the full time clerk positions.

4. Director of Law, Edward Geiser, no report.

5. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

A. Jonathan reported that they are looking into wireless video monitoring. Also, we will get more information on a possible grant for the Ross Ave. traffic study.

6. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Council voted 6-0 to put an ord. on the table for an additional appropriation of \$5,400.00 for the Police Bldg. line item to cover the repair costs to the air conditioning unit. Council voted 6-0 to allow Joe to go out for bids for the work on Advance and Errun Lanes.

7. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.

8. Council voted 6-0 to put an ord. on the table to turn over the deed to 564 Rose Hill Ave. to the CIC. This will allow the CIC to give the property to CHP to remodel and sell the property.

9. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Hausfeld, absent.

10. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach

A. Steve will announce a date for his committee to meet next week to discuss Bertus St. Park.

11. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.

12. Safety, Bill Burkhardt

A. Council voted 6-0 to a resolution on the table to allow the Fire Chief to start the process of changing their dispatching from the Police Station to Hamilton County's 911 dispatching.

13. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy has talked to Reading's economic developer and is working on her Ward newsletter. Walt Moeller is looking into prices of copying the report by Dr. Ramonos to give to businesses and interested citizens.

14. Service, Kevin Meier

A. Kevin asked the Safety Director to look into the problem of speeding on Bank Ave.

15. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg reported that he had a call on the concert that was advertised on the Call Command. John said that it is a fund raiser for Alzheimer's Research. It will be held June 16th at Ross Park.

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

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read this evenings Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2007. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2007.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so the public knows, this is to pay for some air conditioner repairs at the Police Station. It's for \$5,400, but Mr. Kempe did work with our insurance company and get quite a lot, most of the money for this paid for but he needed this additional money to pay for the bills.

Motion to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2007 passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to adopt Ordinance No. 25, 2007 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2007. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD TO CONVEY REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 564 ROSE HILL AVE. TO THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 3, SECTION 1 OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN BETWEEN THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 26, 2007. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adopt Ordinance No. 26, 2007 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm going to do my best to summarize, I sent out my newsletter and after Mr. Miller talked at a couple of meetings, he said basically that a lot of the items that we discuss at the COW, people don't know what is going on because those are not televised and what I did and I'm going to try to be very brief with this, is when I sent out my newsletter this time I tried to summarize Dr. Romanos 80 page plan into one page so people kind of got a bit of an idea of just some highlights from the plan. The City is also working on ways to get copies to the public of his plan because one of the things that Dr. Romanos said was very important is that this plan

goes to the public, it goes to the businesses, and people can read the plan. We're looking into that right now. But he did give the City an 80 page plan and in the plan it lists some challenges that St. Bernard has and it also lists some opportunities. Just a few of the challenges that he said our City has is that our City lacks vision and we lack leadership. He suggested we hire experienced professional people to help us implement the redevelopment of Vine St. We have some problems with traffic congestion and lack of parking. The housing stock is old and right now is quite low. He said another problem is we don't have a Civic Center. He felt Vine St. and the Spring Grove intersection are underutilized and that we possible need a pedestrian connection so the industries feel part of the City and they would have a way to walk here and use restaurants. He also said that the population currently is decreasing and we have a lower education level compared to Hamilton County and we should work on increasing that. Some of the opportunities he said that St. Bernard has that the location of the City is regarded as a primary strength. We're very close to the universities, the hospitals to major highways and downtown. We're lucky to have a public and parochial school here. He also stressed that the opening of the green space here is very positive and he stressed that we need to preserve and promote the agricultural land marks. Some of the suggestions that came out of the plan were that we implement our plan by hiring experienced professionals, that we develop a streetscape design, including roadbeds, sidewalks, landscape planning, do more landscaping, benches, tables etc. He suggested we might want to look at our German roots and go with a theme on that. He said that we should start revamping our zoning codes, which date back to 1966. He also suggested that citizens get together and form a community advisory council and that the business chambers get back up and running and then that way he said that the more groups that we have representing the City the better. Like I said, this is just an extreme highlight on an 80 page report but I just wanted people to know what he did come back with and hopefully we'll continue to work on getting some copies of the report so everybody can get a copy that would like one.

Mr. Estep – Just to follow up on that, Walt Moeller was kind enough to do a little research and if we would like to make multiple copies of that CD Rom or DVD whatever it is, you can get 100 of them for \$184.00 in five days. I have the information here given to me by Walt, if Council is interest in that, I'll give that I give this information on to you guys and you got the same thing so you can look at that, that might be a way to get the information out.

Mrs. Brickweg – Should we put that on the agenda for the COW to discuss that? Thank you, thanks, Walt.

Mr. Zix – Concerning Ordinance No. 26, I forgot, I just wanted to thank Gerry Wiedman and Walt for their work acquiring this property, I think its really going to be a help to clean up an eyesore.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stuchell – Its kind of old and kind of new at the same time here, but I wanted to go back over this if possible, in discussing the proposal from TEC Engineering, the reason its being brought up ultimately is the fact that when she got a hold of me, we're running out of time, and we're taking a week,

and its kind of last ditch effort if we are interested in the way she proposed it to me and I felt a lot more comfortable after being able to talk to her at length, because we're actually, we're not committed to anything, and there's no guarantees that we're going to get the grant. They would do the application for us based upon our statistics that we will provide to them. There's qualifying factors and again its based on need. They are going to go on based on our community, the number of accidents, based on the other people that are applying and their statistics, so there is no guarantee but they're going to do all the work for us. There is no charge for it, they are going put all the man hours in to make the application, but the outcome of it doesn't mean that we're forced or we don't have to sign anything stating that we are guaranteeing that we're going to make the improvements that they recommend, but what it does is it is a planning tool. What they will do is, when they come back with a set of recommendations, what this has for us, puts us in place, they also have available to them the awareness of any other grant funds available thru ODOT or anyone else for any type of reconstruction or reconstruction or reconfiguration of that street, so that they know that there's funds available for us to actually perform some of the improvements, we can't apply for those fund without a traffic study. So this is just leading into it. Chief, I asked these questions so because otherwise are we wasting our time or are we wasting your time by doing it if we're not going to do anything in the future. She said, if you are going to make an improvement and actually look for grant funds, you have to have this, so basically I told here I would get her the statistics, let her determine whether or not we even really have a chance but I'm going to get it altogether for her, I'll have that in here hands but I just wanted to know, is it OK that I proceed with this? She put it back in my plate, I don't think it's out of line to ask for it and one of the things that she actually had for us, yes, she is very aware of the I-75 project but there is no way to predict what type increase. They're also, they're company is also very involved with the valley study as a whole so that might be some use to use. This is a company that works with ODOT and the GHSO on a regular basis so they are very familiar with what funds are going to be available. This is one of the things that they do, grant writing, so how do you want me to proceed?

Mr. Burkhardt – Jonathon, I guess just recently I've had a couple of complaints from residents on Broerman saying, coming up out of Broerman since we increased that parking, they have trouble seeing down the street I guess to pull out. Maybe this study could help alleviate some of that problem so maybe it would be best if we went ahead and got the study so that what we need to do up there will make it safer.

Mr. Stuchell – I will take the blame wholeheartedly there for the Broerman issue there, but I authorized that and I'll tell you exactly why. It also kept people from being able to zoom around people that were making a turn on Greenlee at 45mph so, I'll take the blame.

Mr. Burkhardt – I'm not blaming anybody I think the problem is it seems like every time we do something we create another problem and that's probably because we don't have a professional telling us what to do but as far as I'm concerned I don't have a problem with going out to try to get the grant.

Ms. Hausfeld – Since I was on vacation last week I missed the whole Ross Ave. study subject that just came up and since I was the one that about two or three weeks ago I had a couple, I call them customers, but citizens that actually were complaining to me about the whole Ross Ave. situation and I did ask Jonathan and Peggy to look into it and since they have looked into it I believe it's a good idea, I am for going ahead and giving him the recommendation to let Jonathan go forward and do what he needs to do for this grant or this study.

Mr. Asbach – I guess the question is, Jonathan, are you looking for a motion to allow you, you're simply giving her these statistics and then she is going to tell you whether we qualify for the grant or not, correct?

Mr. Stuchell – What she is going to do basically, after I present to her the statistics on a number of runs we've had for that particular area, as to whether or not she really believes we really have a shot but she can tell us right away because by doing so she is not going to waste five or six hours preparing the grant for us. If we have enough to substantiate a dish request then she can move forward with it and go ahead and send it in. We have to provide all the documentation, it's one of the nice things about the way that our system works, our computer system, we can punch in the particular area we want to see the number of reports and be able to go out and pull all that and right there and provide all the documentation for her instantly. It won't be a labor intensive issue for us to provide it but I just wanted to see if, hey, if we look like we can do it, can we move forward because what it comes down to, I'm not going to talk to you about this until next Thursday, she has until July 1st to make this application. Yes, I'm putting you on the spot.

Mr. Zix – I don't think you're putting us on the spot, I really think it lies in your camp, you're the Safety Director, you can go ahead and do whatever you want to do because when you come back with those recommendations to us, I do wholehearted agree with it now that we do have more information. I think I do appreciate you going out and getting more information on it but I think if you want to do it that's your call and you bring your recommendations and then we implement them.

Mr. Stuchell – The last time I came to you because I needed \$22,000.00, so I this time I guess, yea, I guess I could go ahead with it but I just thought once I started something I could at least tell you.

Mr. Zix – Yes, we appreciate that.

Mrs. Brickweg – You do know I'm in favor of it but you know what Jonathan you're probably the smart thing to do because at the same point I seen the Service Director get ripped when he went out and got grants for the matching funds and stuff so I appreciate you asking about that but I do think it's a good thing to retry for the grants because I would love for us to be able to do the study

Mr. Stuchell – Real quick and then I will finish this, the, I'm going to have to just be dealing with her directly because of the time limit, but she's willing to come and talk with us and when I at some point, but trying to organize a meeting with people that are interested is going to be very

difficult between now and July 1st so I'm going to provide the information to her on my own and just move forward with this.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Walden – I will advise Council that Mr. Miller has a presentation to present tonight and he may need a bit more than five minutes to do so, so I ask that he go ahead and proceed.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – It's early yet, sit back and relax. I want to start off, I'm kind of tired of the waiting game that we play here, we've got a lot of things that we talk about, some of them have been talked about for years, some of them even longer; to start off, the Bertus St. Park. We've got the property at Delmar and Sullivan Ave., we've got the area down when we just finished at Ross and Vine, we're waiting now maybe three months for Dr. Romanos so everything is wait, wait, wait. So what I did, I found out tonight that there is a, what do we call it, the Public Improvements Committee was formed, I wasn't aware of that, so during my waiting period I had a real good friend that I worked with for a lot of years at the Home and Garden Show, they were into heavy landscaping if you've ever been to the Garden Show they do some wonderful, creative work. I met this gentleman and his name is Jeffrey Allen, he owns the Jeffrey Allen Corp. Their specialty is landscape designing, landscaping and irrigation of landscaping. Some of the, just so you know we're not dealing with some fly by night guy, some of the things, he gave me a list of about 50 jobs that, and I just wrote down a couple of them here. Right now he's involved in the fountain square restoration, the Miami University Engineering School, P&G Child Care facility which is up on North Bend Road, they've done the twin towers down town, the landscaping, the Reeves Golf Course, Springfield Twns[Fire Station, the UC Basketball Stadium, the National Underground Railroad Bldg. down there they done that work, the Great American Ballpark, the perimeter, not the field itself, Paul Brown Stadium, the Village of Evendale, if you've ever noticed the Village of Evendale the center part where they got the huge ferns and flowers and landscaping in between their roads, that was their work. They done the work at the Ohio State Capitol, the done the Golf Course at Hidden Valley Lake for the golfers whoever went down there, so these are just the ones that we might be familiar with and you got a hole, painfully, wanted to know if you're concerned about is legitimacy, there're very good. What I did, rather than wait any longer, I wasn't aware that you had formed a Public Improvements Committees. I learned that maybe a half and hour ago, I called this gentlemen up and told him the situation about Bertus St. Park. And I says and I'm going to refer to Mr. Schildmeyer, he brought up green space. So green space when you talk about green space, you don't want to hire an engineer to build bridges of somebody that puts buildings up you hire somebody that is in the landscape designing and landscaping itself. That's what this gentleman is. He told me that he would come out and we met on Wednesday and rather than me be there on my own, I stopped and talked to Gerry Wiedman, Walt Moeller and they too went along to hear his conversation about what we could do. The Bertus St. Park, as Mr. Schildmeyer and maybe a lot of the other ones agree with this, green space, I say green space is green not black top. I see green space is for the public, we're spending a lot of dollars if we do something up there, we're spending a lot of public dollars and it should involve the tax

payers money and that means me and you and everybody else that is not a place where a few can play basketball or whatever. Green space is green space and it could be created, it could be good but we need a professional to do it just like was mentioned before on the street business, you need professionals to do the type of work they're professionals in. Mr. Allen came out and Gerry and I went up there and it was a lot of ideas thrown around and a lot of them were real good. I'll give you a burst of concerns that they had.

One of the concerns was security. Everybody know that in security, the kids will tear up anything they can get their hands on if they get a chance. The security part of it, we talked about it and we had a gentleman here just a couple of months ago, or weeks ago, talking about you can put cameras here and cameras there, so security could be taken care of through cameras at the Police Station. Whatever we do. The other concern was parking, we got a parking lot up there that it shouldn't be there if you're going to have a green space. There ain't anything more beautiful than a bunch of trees and shrubbery and you got ten cars parked in the middle of it. Parking was a concern and there were some thoughts given I think Walt or Gerry brought up the idea that Park Place is just one way that you could even put diagonal parking in. I've passed several times within less than 100 yds that there is a parking lot there that when I pass last night there were two cars in it and there is additional parking there, Gerry said there is a lot of driveways there, the people that live there are not utilizing their parking can be taken care of and getting out of the Green Space.

One of the other things that was brought up was maintenance. We're short on Service Dept. so we don't want to tax them on having to do maintenance on some kind of a target, if there is a lot of landscaping it will take a lot of maintenance. It takes a lot of know how. That's what these people specialize in is irrigation. Whatever they landscape, they specialize in irrigating that landscaping so if we put landscaping in and it's irrigated it take the load off the Service Dept because there is no sense in putting in landscaping in and the first thing you know we get a know we get a dry fill like we got now and everything turns brown and dead. If it doesn't stay green, it's useless.

The other thing was lighting, it should be lit and we didn't want to use high intensity lighting on a thirty foot pole that lights the whole world up. Lighting was brought up and it was suggested that village lamppost lighting would get it back into the period of the 1940s or 30s even, with lamppost lighting. Some kind of lighting on some of the highlights. Some of the highlights that they suggested and I think Dave Holt was here a few weeks ago, a centerpiece for this here. I think Mr. Meier talked about this here and we talked about a water fall fountain in there. I think a lot of people misunderstood, the water fall fountain isn't something that comes out of the ground and people can go over and put their kids in and play in the water. This could be a fountain and it would have to be maybe be 12, 15, 18 ft. tall with maybe a three or four tier of water drop to it. You've seen it elsewhere, it doesn't need a water supply, it has it's own water supply, that could be a highlight, the lighting on that could be a spot light that would be lit even in the middle of the night so somebody wants to fool around and you got security at the police station, that could be picked up.

Another thought was, down towards the kiddy playground which he said that we should keep, you could put some kind of a gazebo. Another thought, I think Walt brought this in and said we could make it in the design of the old

bandstand gazebos that we had back in that era. The gazebo he talked about maybe would be down where we're going to keep the kiddy playground, in between the residence that are there now and coming this way with a kiddy playground. Maybe the parents that have their children down there they can keep an eye on them and still enjoy the benches around this, the lighting in the gazebo would be another factor, maybe you could put low voltage in the ceiling of this here building and it would be lit 24 hours a day with a security camera on it so security could be watched all the time.

What we've got here with a landscaper though and we talked about a lot of greenery, a lot of evergreen type greenery, both tall and small evergreens, to keep the park green during the winter as well as the summer. We don't want to put a lot of greenery in and its dead in the winter time. A lot of that that we talked about incorporating a lot of greenery, maybe some raised beds to it isn't a flat surface anymore, you got flower beds, everything in this would be something that would come up next year and the next year and the next year. Not something that we have to go around and plant flower beds every spring. There's a lot of stuff out. The concern that he had or I have by not having a professional, you can't plant shrubs and trees where its 90 degrees and no shade and you can't plant these when they're not sun tolerant and this is where we have to have a professional. We can't go out there as a city and buy a bunch of trees and dig a hole and plant them, there's a key to it. The key to them is whatever they plant, they're going to guarantee, and I think that Gerry will back me, he said that they'll guarantee anything that they put in for two years. We've got the option to know that if they do anything, in two years it ought to be alive and not dead. Most of them will only go one year, but now there's so much competition they'll go two years on it.

I think that if what he suggested if you get a lot of greenery in there for the winter time, if we put maybe a centerpiece, if you would come in where the parking lot is now on a diagonal and you would walk diagonally into the centerpiece, maybe the big towering waterfall and you'd bring another walkway in from Bertus St., and another walkway in from Park Pl. and they would all walk directly into the centerpiece of this here area, the centerpiece then would be the highlight lit day and night. The walkway he suggested that we would put the walkways in and could be stamped concrete or it could be some kind of a masonry that would discourage skateboarding. We don't want the kids up there and first thing you know we got a nice smooth path and they go skateboarding down through there. So he's talking about maybe stamped concrete would be a thing or uni-stone or any or that type thing. On each one of these walkways maybe we'd have a couple of park benches with landscaping behind them and these village lampposts maybe six or eight of them in there. It would bring a period back into our City that we enjoyed a lot of years ago.

I didn't know that this committee was formed. I kind of fidgety guy, I'm tired of waiting, now that we got a committee formed, I believe that what I'm telling you tonight is being told to the City, if you got a committee formed then the people should know. Meetings by meeting and not a meeting every six months. Time is running out for the building part of this stuff, first thing you know we'll be in the winter time and we're still thinking about what we're going to do. If we're going to do anything we need an idea to start and right now we got no ideas, I haven't heard an idea from anybody at any time what we're going to do other than that we're not going to build houses. I think that when this guy gets back, I wanted him to deal with Gerry and Walt at the time I didn't know about your committee and he said

that he would appreciate that if he could deal with me. So if he's dealing with me and we got a committee I'm willing to share with anybody that's on the committee or anybody that's sitting up there or anybody wants to come in to get something going on some of these projects.

From there we went over to Bertus St. and Gerry and Walt was with me at Bertus and Sullivan, that lot has been sitting there for a lot time now, all we did is throw some straw in and this was going to be a beautiful green area where the citizens could sit down and talk on a bench or whatever, well it's still the same old grass that don't grow and the mud that's underneath it. So we went over there, we took pictures of that and he's going to work with us on that with some ideas and the other thing, Joe said that the project down at Vine and Ross wasn't completed yet, well it's completed now. I took him down there, there is no landscaping yet but there's supposed to be. The point is, if we get a professional landscaper down there that knows what we can plant in that sun area, it's all sun down there, there's no water supply and it has to be a professional that knows what to put where and why. So I took him down there and he took photographs of that and he's going to get back with us on that.

The guy spent a lot of time with us and I think his ideas are going to be well worth waiting for. As far as the cost, and Gerry can verify this, these initial drafts won't cost us nothing. But if we keep playing with him and change this and change that and getting him all jacked around then there will be fees to start. We got to have a vision of what we're going to do with this and this is a way that we can start getting a vision maybe from this guy. If you got a committee, I'm not part of the committee but I'm willing to share anything I know with the committee if it starts. I think it's something we should look at because God knows we're not getting anything done, we're waiting on the Bertus St., we're waiting on Vine St., we're waiting on Nu-Maid, we're waiting on the Library, all we do is wait and we don't do nothing so I think it's time that somebody gets in gear and we get something done. Something has to be put above ground for the citizens. I think the citizens are happy to pay all the taxes they are paying if they can see something. They can't see anything, nothing is happening. When the citizens think, what do I want to pay taxes for, what are they doing? They can't see what's under the ground, the sewers, they want to see what's above the ground to make St. Bernard look better and I think we can do it but we got to get our rear ends in gear and do it. We can't sit back on our haunches and just say, well, we're making progress, we're on the right track, that's Greg's famous recipe. Let's get things going and if I hear from this guy and he wanted to know how long it would take, how much time I'd give him, I said as soon you can get it, tomorrow if possible. He said that's not possible but he said he'll get it as soon as he can.

I think if Gerry or Walt would say something to verify that they were there, I don't want to be in this on my own.

Gerry Wiedman – I was there. Norm stopped by because he was meeting with this gentleman and asked for some plans for Park Pl. Park and we gladly got him what he needed. I think we need a lot more of that from a lot more people around town, so I commend him and I thank him for his efforts and I know he's more than willing to share whatever it is that this gentleman brings back with the committee. I'm definitely trying to put him on the spot but if he has the time and the where with all he might be a good member for the committee. Just a thought.

Mr. Asbach – I was just going to suggest the same thing. The meeting next week is open to anyone, Norm you are more than welcome, that is why I want to do it in Council Chambers, that if anybody wants to come and throw some input, the more the merrier.

Mr. Zix – The other thing I think we need to keep in mind too is that if we're making green space or if we're making a park for the kids. You know some of the people that we heard from that didn't want the houses were the children in the community so we have to have a good balance so just keep it in mind.

Mr. Estep – I too want to thank Norm for his time and effort, I know he is very concerned about the City and I hope he comes and brings those plans.

Mrs. Brickweg – I can't thank you enough. When you stopped by my house yesterday, you told me some of these ideas, you made my day, I mean this is part that goes right along with what Dr. Romanos was saying and this is where a lot of other communities do and I can't thank you enough for what you did and I know you said you're busy because I suggested you be on the committee, but like I said, you only have to go to a few meetings, maybe you can somehow fit it in your schedule, but I would love to see more citizens like you take the initiative and do stuff like this but I can't thank you enough.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – I just wanted to mention you mentioned the Park, this fellow here, that's what he, he's designing this park into it. He suggested, as far as the park goes, we got a lot of very expensive equipment that's duplicated in the park closest to you to remove some of that and put the better stuff there and make it nicer and more professional looking. The park is included, he doesn't want to take any part of that away. He wants some sort of a visual where parents want to be there, they don't have to be sitting right there in the park right there in the park with children but it would be visible from where ever they're at. He don't suggest that we're doing away with the park. I'm suggesting that a boy or a girl that's big enough to play baseball or soccer or basketball, we don't need them in the Bertus St. area, we should keep it for the children. If he's big enough to do that, he's big enough to walk another couple hundred yards and be in a park where we got a two million dollar facility and not have him up there. This should be for the people, the tax payers, for everybody, for you, for me and for anybody that's out there. It should be designed to put something on the board that the people can enjoy.

Mr. Zix – I agree with you Norm, I just see that everyday that there's a lot of people playing in that park. I think we can find a good balance for both ends.

Cindy Bedinghaus, 516 E. Ross – I first want to commend the City Administration, Joe, Jonathan and all the City workers for a great job that they did at the park. I thought for the fund raiser, like you said Kevin, it was a time to showcase our City and I think that the Kramer family did and excellent job of putting that together it was a lot of hard work. Everybody did a great job and I want to thank everybody for that.

The other thing that I would like to ask is Peggy, you talked about your newsletter today and I just want to let people who don't get the newsletter, I just want to let them know a little bit of information that is in the newsletter which I am really concerned about. It says here that the tax projection for a year, she's talking about the budget here and how we need to let people know what we actually have in our budget now because we're going to be asking to appropriate monies for buildings and so forth for our City. But she quoted that the projections for the tax revenue was 45% off in a given year and that I am here to tell you that we were not and are not going broke and as you can see when we're all told that there was no money and we would have to lay off employees, cut and charge for services and raise taxes that we were not told the truth. I just want to say for myself, that I sat in for a lot of the meetings and when I heard Sheri and Walt and everybody say is that that is the information that we had at the time. It's very hard to project the tax projection and I just think that the decisions that were made at that time for all the Administration, the very hard decisions, they did a great job in using the information and I just think that this is another step back of information about what happened.

Mrs. Brickweg – Cindy I'll be honest, I don't see a set back when you give out the true numbers. These are the numbers that are from the budget, these are the numbers from the budget way back then, I'm not making up numbers, so I don't see a set back. A lot of people are upset and you kind of forgot to read the second part where I went on and I explained all the numbers and I'll be more than happy to give anybody a copy of this. So I guess so they know exactly what's in here, I'll read, if it's OK I'll go ahead and read it. With all the talk of redevelopment on Vine St. which will cost money, I thought I would give everyone an update on our financial situation. Years back, we heard we were going broke with the rate of our spending, the lack of revenues coming in. The citizens then voted for a tax increase to help our City. I'm here to tell you that we were not and are not going broke. The tax projections that year were off by nearly 45%. Since then the City revenues have continued to grow. As of the end of May, the City had \$7,774,704.67 and the Cities revenues at the end of May were at \$5,079,497.00 with expenditures at \$3,896,565. Council will be voting on the 2008 budget in July. In this budget it is projected that the City will be bringing in \$11.9 million dollars. The budget, spending is \$11.7 million. As you can see we were all told that there was no money and we would have to lay off employees, cut and charge for services, raise taxes, but that was not the truth. On the brighter side of having a surplus of money in the bank and with us paying more taxes, I think now is the time to spend the money wisely. I propose we do this with investing in our City, start with the hiring of experiences professionals in fixing up Vine St. The City will need to invest in the purchase of property, the cost of construction etc., to revamp our main street. I am not happy to be paying more taxes but if that money is put to good use in fixing up our City I am all for it. We need to invest in our future before it is too late. The reason I am writing this to you is because Council will need to make some big money decisions soon and I want the citizens to know what the finances are. Our hope is that when we hire the correct group of people they will be able to lead us and help us obtain grants and financing to help us to redevelop our City. We may have to borrow money for the future of our City. With all this in mind, I want you to have the facts and the numbers, I want to encourage all of you to contact your

Council members and let them know your feeling on this so that we can vote appropriately.

Mr. Estep – I just want to add and I'm not going to blame anybody but what has happened has happened. Four years prior to my coming into office I think we had somewhere around 13 million in reserves. I think everybody knows we had a history of overspending about two million per year more than we had. The City was headed in down ward spiral. I walked into a tough situation. I don't know what money we had in reserve. I'm not going to be quoted on that. If you'll check the Council minutes, Council controls the purse strings. Council gave me 1 million dollars, there was a little over 2 million dollar deficit facing me in that budget. When I asked how we were going to get through this, all I heard was, that's an Administration decision, and it was. Had we not made the decisions we made, we would be in a lot worse shape than what we are today. The only service that we actually did away with was two people, through attrition in the Service Dept. who carried garbage to the curb. We did access these. That's the real world. Show me a community that doesn't charge for a Knothole Player. We had to start to live in the present. We couldn't live in the past much longer. We charge fees now for the halls. What a deal, \$50.00. I hope Peggy is right that we have \$4 million, \$6 million, \$8 million, I wish we had \$50 million in reserves, I'm very proud of the decisions and the people that work with us to make those decisions. There were a few lay offs, we brought back one of the firemen, we never laid off a police officer, we did lay off Service Dept. and through attrition we replaced some and we've done a fine job and I am very proud. Most importantly, thanks to the citizens, they supported that levy by a 2 to 1 ratio to get us over the hump and had we not made some of those decision, we wouldn't be able to sit here today and say we're in the black again and you can't continue in your own household to over spend and over spend and over spend. I'm not going to blame anybody because also thanks to this Council we worked together to get through that. Again, I can't thank the citizens, and the Council and this Administration and all the people who supported us to help us through this and I see brighter days ahead and we're going to continue running this City as efficiently as possible.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, June 28th at 7:30.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Asbach to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.