

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2008**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, January 17, 2008 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: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Mrs. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix.

Mrs. Brickweg made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Tobergte seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – The Mayor’s monthly Court Report: Receipts for the month of December, 2007:

Mayor’s court fines;	\$2,202.00
Costs;	288.00
Parking fines;	410.00
<u>Miscellaneous reports</u>	<u>1.75</u>
Total to the City	\$2,901.75
State fees;	
Victims of crime	315.00
General Revenue	525.00
Child Restraint	125.00
<u>Total to the State</u>	<u>\$ 965.00</u>
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$3,866.75</u>

The Safety Director, Service Director and I met with the Fire Dept. Union Reps earlier this week and we discussed current contract negotiations. This is an ongoing process and I will keep you informed as the meetings progress.

At the Senior Citizen’s weekly Wednesday meeting, a questionnaire was passed out to all who attended regarding increasing Dial-A-Ride hours and the possibility of reinstating the use of the Medical Bus or Van. We are currently reviewing the information and should have a report at the next COW meeting.

Gerry Wiedmann, Steve Asbach and I met with Jennifer Vatter, John Goede and Bill McCormick with JMA Consultants to discuss present and future projects for the City. As our meetings continue I will keep Council updated with any new developments.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – At Council’s request, Ordinance No. 3, 2008 was prepared for tonight’s meeting. This Ordinance transfers \$1,000,000 to the Master Plan Cash Account for the Community Improvement Corporation and makes the appropriate additional appropriations to General Fund transfer out and CIC Grant other expenses.

At the next COW I would like to discuss the implementation of Ordinance No. 55, 2007 which goes into effect January 19th. The question is will this Ordinance affect the current pay of the Service Director and Tax Commissioner or not?

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Bedinghaus – There were a couple legal research requests that I answered this week, including one regarding disclaimer language for the Civil Service Commission and a matter regarding the City’s public records policy.

This brought to my attention that the City is not in compliance with legislation enacted in September 2007. I spoke to Walt about this matter and I believe that the Public Records Committee is going to be reopened to update our public records policy to conform with the Ohio law.

I have read through most of the open files in my office and have contacted either by phone or email those individuals involved with each matter to check the status and to see if there is any action on my part that needs to be taken. I am still awaiting responses and I hope to get through the couple of remaining files early next week. If anyone is waiting on legal guidance on a matter and you have not been contacted by me, please do not hesitate to call or email me to let me know you are waiting for a response from me.

I am also looking into classes and/or books that may be available that can help get me up to speed faster with general Municipal Law, and Mayor’s Court matters.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – Todd Portune of the Hamilton County Board of commissioners has advised us that the sale of delinquent real estate tax liens by the County will increase our revenues this year that arise out of property tax receipts. The projected increase in revenues is estimated at 8-10%.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Chatman – The only thing on the agenda for me is to request to be on the agenda for COW next week to go forward with the process of extending the expiration date of the Firefighter recall list.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Asbach – (read by Mr. Burkhardt) The Service Director would like to recommend passage of Resolution No. 1, 2008 and Ordinance No. 2, 2008 this evening. Resolution No. 1 is to file an application for a Grant for the Nature Works Program for craft area and bathroom improvements at Vine St. Park. Ordinance No. 2 allow for repairs to the Zero Depth area of the pool.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance No. 3, 2008.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – Right before this meeting tonight, the Safety Director, Rodney Chatman, asked if we could meet, the Safety Committee and him, meet before the next COW. I did not get a chance to ask my Safety Committee yet, but if everybody can make it on January 31, at 7:00p.m., I know we have a Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting, but I was hoping to do that first and then go to the Safety Committee because Rodney said it won't take long for what he needs to talk to us about.

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – The Service Committee recommends passage of Resolution No. 1, 2008.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – Last Thursday before the COW meeting, the Public Improvements Committee met and at that meeting we had Mr. Mike Osgood, he was a friend of mine from Dayton. He was very active in the Huffman Neighborhood Historical Group up there and in the renovation of that neighborhood. One of the things that we talked about in our Committee, and kind of a take off of what they have done up there in Huffman's, they have done a home improvement contest there in the City and they had pretty dramatic results in improvements with minor cost to the City. One of the things they recommend doing is forming a neighborhood association and what they did there, with their program is in order to participate in the home improvement contest, you had to belong to the Neighborhood Assoc. The annual dues in that were only \$5.00 and that was used mostly to defray cost of mailings and part of it went back to some of the money that they used in the contest. What I would like to do is, I would like to have individuals in the City who would like to participate in this effort to contact myself, my phone no. is 227-6427, you can contact Patty or Peggy who are also on the Public Improvements Committee. The general idea of what they did was, they organized their neighborhood in small areas and each area had a block or block captain who was a volunteer. The people who were able to participate, and it didn't depend on your participation, you could have a very large house, a very small house, you could be a renter, each thing that they had they were given points for. You might get points for painting your house, they gave substantial points for people who removed chain link fences from their front yards. You may get points for planting new flowers in front of you house. That's the type of thing that we would like for us to get involved in and get going here in our City. It can make a dramatic difference in the City. If we want to get the City back to a destination place for people to want to live, it can't be done just by the CIC, or by the Mayor or by the Council or by any individual committee. Everybody in this City is going to have to participate in whatever small amount that they can. If that amount just means that at night you have your porch light on so that our City is lit up and looks safe and inviting for people driving through at night time, it means planting some extra flowers in your front yard so your yard looks more inviting, it means just coming to a meeting and meeting your neighbors and getting out and being visible in your yard, all those little things together make a huge difference in the livability of our City and that's what we need to bring people in here to buy our houses and to bring their families here. Anybody that's interested in volunteering, we need your help. Please contact myself, you can contact Patty, you can contact Peggy, if you want to call down here to City Hall and

leave your name and phone number, somebody will get back to you. I'd like to compile a list of people who would like to get involved and we will schedule a meeting when everybody can get together and let's get this going and get it kicked off.

Aside from that, I did receive a letter, actually Walt this is an invoice from the Hamilton County Planning Commission, I guess our invoice for this year is \$1,205.00 and I suppose I need to give that to you. At the next meeting I will let everybody know when we will have our next meeting on the home improvement committee and please, if you want to get involved in the City, contact one of us, come down, volunteer, any small amount of time or effort is greatly appreciated.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – I would just like to announce that the first committee meeting is at the same time as the Safety Committee meeting but it will be a little earlier, 6:30p.m., January 31st in Council Chambers before the COW.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – On Wednesday, January 9th, our Economic Developer, Al Kanters, held a meeting with various St. Bernard business owners. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. This was the first of many meetings to discuss the planning of St. Bernard's Commercial District Revitalization. Al gave a 26 page power point presentation with many ideas and concepts. Since a lot of information was discussed, I will break down my report over the next few meetings so each can be detailed but not too lengthy. Al has been working hard behind the scene starting the revitalization of our City. Because I am the Chairperson of the Business and Industry committee, citizens and business owners have been asking me what is happening to revitalize our business district. I hope by reporting on some of Al Kanters projects it will enlighten the citizens and show them we really mean it this time when we say "We are going to revitalize our City".

The first part of the presentation was asking key questions in the planning process regarding what the target area is and who the stake holders are in the business district. They discussed the business district boundaries, who the stake holders are, and how to include them and what they envision. They also discussed who the customers will be and what will have to be done to draw them to our business district.

The stake holders included business and property owners of both local residents and homeowners/tenant associations. Al provided a stakeholder outreach form for each of the attendees to complete before the next meeting. These answers will be used to assist the *CIC* with developing a Streetscape and Façade Improvement Plan for the Vine Street Corridor. He asked them to rank their top three most pressing issues in the business district. For example, public safety, merchants keeping limited hours, the neighborhood reputation, lack of cleanliness along the corridor, pedestrian safety, storefront appearance, the availability and quality of goods and services, lack of parking and lack of foot traffic.

Al asked the attendees if they would be interested in attending more meetings and if they would be interested in serving on advisory committees. He also is looking for anyone else that would like to be a part of these

committees. These committees are for businesses owners and citizens. Please contact Al if you are interested in participating in any of the following committees:

1. Design and Physical Improvements – this committee would plan for and educate the community about the physical design of the district.
2. Economic Restructuring Group - This committee would work to strengthen the local economy by supporting local businesses and attracting new ones.
3. Marketing and Promotions – this committee would develop and implement promotional strategies for the business district.
4. Special Events – this committee would plan and prepare for events to promote the corridor and raise funds for the program.

This is just a small part of the meeting with the business owners, but I hope it shows the citizens that our Economic Developer is working on moving our City forward. He also asked me to announce that the CIC will be meeting next Wednesday at 6:00p.m in Centennial Hall and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – I have been looking over the last couple of years data relative to the Dial-A-Ride hours, passengers per hour, cost per hour as well as talking to the Dial-A-Ride workers, both drivers and dispatchers. I have been talking with the citizens about their thoughts and ideas concerning the fitness center hours as well as the Dial-A-Ride hours. I contacted Betty Bishoff, the Senior Citizens’ Director, to ask her what would be the best way for us to get input from the Seniors as they are our priority passengers. I was informed by Betty that the Mayor had already sent a survey to the Seniors’ meeting to get their input. As the Chairperson of this committee, I would like to ask the Mayor and Service Director to please include me on their ideas and communication to the citizens about the Dial-A-Ride so we can work together on this issue.

Mrs. Brickweg – The COW has been submitted to the Clerk. At this time we discussed last week when we decided not to televise the COW meeting that I would actually read the COW report so everybody knows what happened.

Mrs. Brickweg read this report.

January 10, 2008

NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:

1. Council approved the minutes of the January 3, 2008 council meeting, 7 to 0.
2. Council voted (7 to 0) to go into Executive Session to discuss the back pay request from John Estep and Joe Kempe, because it is a legal matter. After Executive Session council voted 7 to 0 not to pay John or Joe the back

pay they requested. Council requested that the Clerk of Council prepare and mail each of them a letter in regards to this decision.

3. Council discussed televising the COW meetings. Council voted not to televise the COW meetings (Mrs. Brickweg and Ms. Hausfeld voting yes) The various reasons that were stated were that this is a working meeting where people like to speak freely and sometimes think out loud, some citizens will most likely be more comfortable speaking when it is not being televised and it is an open meeting to anyone that wants to attend. Patty and Peggy voted "yes" to televise the meetings. One of the main reasons that was stated was that a lot of citizens have contacted them and said a lot of detailed city business happens at these meetings and they would like to be able to watch them, the same as they do our regular council meetings. It was decided that the President Pro Tem will read the COW report at council meetings, instead of just submitting it the clerk. That way the citizens that watch the council meetings will be able to hear what happened.

4. Council discussed extending the time for the recall list in the Fire Department for the employees that were laid off. This is the only city department that has laid off employees on a list for call back. Rodney Chatman (the new Safety Director) has been investigating this with the Civil Service Commission and working with an attorney, who provided us with a sample ordinance. Rodney explained that it is best to extend the list for 6 months and we can continue to extend the list if we desire. He also explained that if one of the men on the list is called back and declines, their name would then be removed from the list. Rodney will be working on an ordinance for council to vote on so it can go into effect before the current list expires.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Bill Burkhardt: Bill was absent due to his son's surgery. Steve Asbach read Bill's report. Bill introduced the new Safety Director, Rodney Chatman. He said he is a great addition to the city and explained that he was sworn in on Sunday. Bill also thanked Glenna McCarty for training Elaine Sipe as the new Mayor's Secretary and wished Glenna and Jeff a happy retirement. Bill announced that he will be meeting with the Fire Department on January 14th to discuss contract negotiations.

Auditor, Walt St. Clair: no report

Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus: Kate informed council that she had a letter from attorney, Paul Berninger requesting us to renew his contract with the city to provide outside legal advice. Since this is a discussion the Mayor makes we held off on discussing it and Kate will get with Bill to discuss if we will want to renew the contract.

Safety Director, Rodney Chatman: Rodney informed council that the Police are currently understaffed and that there is money in the department's line item to hire two new officers. The Department currently has one officer injured and our newly hired Police Officer still is required to ride along with another officer.

Service Director, Steve Asbach: Steve asked council for a resolution so he can prepare an application for a Natures Works grant to repair the Vine Street Park bathrooms. He also asked for an Ordinance to go out for bids for maintenance to the zero depth part of the swimming pool. Council voted 7 to 0 to put these ordinances on the table for the January 17, 2008 council meeting.

Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser: Ed reported that he will be going to class to learn the software used in the Tax Department. He is also looking into purchasing a more heavy duty printer to print the city's tax returns on, which saves the city money from having to pay an outside printer.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck: Mike informed council that his committee will be meeting on January 31st at 6:30 PM.

Public Improvements, Kevin Meier: Kevin reported that his committee met before the meeting with Mike Osgood from Urban Dynamics in Dayton. Mike informed us about two projects he worked on to help improve the housing stock in Dayton neighborhoods. He explained the concept of a "Home Improvement Contest" where city neighborhoods are divided up and compete with homes in their neighborhood on a point system to improve their homes. Example projects that are scored on the point system are painting a home, re-siding a home, new landscaping, new roof, etc. At the end of the contest small prizes are awarded to the winner based on the score. Each community also creates "Neighborhood Homeowner Associations" that work on the contest. Mike also informed us on a "Rehabarama" they had that was basically open houses so people could go through homes that had been re-habed.

The committee agreed these are great projects we need to look into implementing. At this time Mr. Meier, Ms. Hausfeld and Mrs. Brickweg are looking for citizens that want to assist with these ideas. Individuals that want to get involved with encouraging residents to fix up their homes. The goal is to keep this out of politics so it is a great way to get involved. These groups will meet between one and two times a month. Feel free to contact anyone on the Public Improvement Committee if you are interested.

Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg: Peggy discussed the current way our city is tied into Hamilton County Commissioners for our pay scales. The counties have a chart which provides salaries for employees based on each individual county's population. Hamilton County uses the scale for 400,000 to one million people. She questioned why we tie in with a scale calculated at such a high population rate when we are fewer than 5000 citizens. The city currently ties in with percentages of these salaries, but these are high percentages. The majority of council did not have a problem with the salaries of our city officials and appointed positions. It was explained that the reason for the high percentages was because when it was voted on to tie in with Hamilton County Commissioners, they used the current salaries being paid out by our city. Peggy stated that even council members are overpaid, but that came to no avail. Council agreed to have the Mayor work

on job qualifications for each job and to possibly look at pay ranges in the future.

Peggy also explained what she found out regarding an article in the Enquirer regarding Hamilton County Officials freezing their salaries. She talked to the person that prepares their budget and he explained that they did vote to freeze their salaries but they will be paid their original salary and then they can write a check back to the county for the difference between the raise and the freeze.

Safety, Patty Hausfeld: Patty congratulated Rodney Chatman on being appointed the new Safety Director and she looks forward to working with him.

Highways and Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus: Cindi reported that she signed up to be the city's representative on the OKI. She was not able to attend their meeting this week because of the time of the meeting. She also reported that she is talking with Dial A Ride employees to see if they can come up with better hours for the Dial A Ride operations.

Service, Don Tobergte: no report

Finance, Greg Zix: no report

Audience Participation:

Al Kanters introduced Sara Von Such as a new intern from the University of Cincinnati School of Planning and Design that will be working for our city. He also informed council that he had a meeting with local business owners this week, which about 30 people attended. They discussed their thoughts about the business district and discussed committees they would like to form along with other people to work on. The committees they came up with the business district were:

1. Design and Physical Improvements
2. Economic Restructuring
3. Marketing and Promotions
4. Special Events, Safety and Quality of Life

The reason council members were not informed of this meeting is because Al thought it is a good idea to take the politics out of revitalizing our business district. Al also asked that council go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

Al asked council to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property. After Executive Session council voted 7 to 0 put an ordinance on the table to transfer funds from the general fund to the CIC for purchase of property.

Barb Kalb stated she read an article in the Enquirer about the City of Cheviot buying HUD homes for \$1.00 and fixing them up and selling them to owner-occupied homeowners. Gerry Wiedmann explained that the city has been working on getting involved with this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Brickweg

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATINS – None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Meier to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2008 AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NATURE WORKS PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC RECREATION PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 1, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Meier to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2008 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO REPLACE A COMPRESSOR AT THE POLICE STATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to amend Ordinance No. 2, 2008 to read; **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO REPAIR THE ZERO DEPTH SWIMMING POOL AREA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2, 2008 as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 2, 2008 as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2008, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 3, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 3, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zix – I would like to be placed on the COW agenda to discuss the upgrade of the City website.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I think we were doing some type of a traffic study on Ross Ave., Rodney, is that in process still? Do you know if that involved the parking along Ross Ave. there in front of the corner of Broerman up through by where the beauty parlor is? OK because the citizens have been questioning that area of parking for safety purposes. I thought it was in this study but if not I'd like to put that on the COW agenda.

Mr. Burkhardt – It is in the study Cindi. They're studying the whole length, parking, traffic, everything will be addressed.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Do you know when it will be completed?

Mr. Burkhardt – No I don't. They're just in the preliminary stages of it now, so I think it's going to take a couple of months but I will get a definite date for you.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Thanks.

Mr. Burkhardt – Also, as far as the City website, I've been in contact with Neil Morris and I'm waiting for his return call. He's out of town right now. As soon as he calls we'll have a meeting with him about our website then.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mrs. Brickweg – Due to there being five Thursdays in January, the next COW meeting will be Thursday, January 31st @ 7:30.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.