

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Mr. Zix.

Mr. Walden – Before we begin with the regular course of business tonight, we have a special guest who would like to address the Council tonight. I would like to introduce Dr. Odell Owens.

Dr. Odell Owens – I want to first thank you for allowing me to address the Council. It is certainly not in my day role as the Coroner, although if you are going to meet the Coroner, this is the best way to meet me. I've been associated with the Cincinnati Zoo for the past 25 years serving in various capacities and currently serve on the Board for the Zoo. The Zoo plays such an important role in our community. I grew up in the West End and I went to Sans Elementary and in those days we went to the Zoo once a year and that was the best day of the year for a kid, for me, for a kid in the West End. That was our only chance to go to the Zoo. That was the best day of the year. You had a smile on your face from sun up to sun down. I think its important that we keep the Cincinnati Zoo open, keep it vibrant, to let all the little kids keep that smile on their face. Those of you who go to the Zoo as adults or take your children, I'm sure you encounter the same thing, you smile. In a country that is going through so many different challenges, so many different challenges in our neighborhood, it's important that you do smile. It's important that we support those community endeavors and community institutions that provide a real service. Not only does the Zoo provide that service to put the smiles on our faces, it also teaches the young kids about humanity because we take care of the animals. You may or may not know that the Cincinnati Zoo has a frozen Zoo where they have frozen many embryos of animals that if something was to happen to a certain species of animals, it would be the Cincinnati Zoo that would lead the world in bringing those animals back into existence. They're not asking for a lot of money. In the past they were cut back and I think we're

one of the best Zoos in the country. We're rated between the second and third best Zoo in the country, but we struggled with the funding from the community where we rank in the bottom. Many other Zoos get a lot more money from the community and the Cincinnati Zoo has learned to live within their means but you can imagine we need a little extra money to take care of those animals and they do it well. We work hard to recruit an audience from a wide area, just not from Cincinnati or just from Hamilton County. We are a big employer. People do live and work in this area and support St. Bernard as well as different parts of our community. So again I just want to ask you if you would please support the levy. There are a lot of things out there that you support by your taxes that strictly go to help other people. The Cincinnati Zoo is one thing that you can look forward to that will be available to you. THE CINCINNATI ZOO IS FOR YOU. Thank you very much for allowing this pleasurable time here in St. Bernard.

Mr. Walden – Thank you for your time Dr. Owens.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – The mayor’s monthly court report receipts for January, 2008.

Mayor’s court fines	\$3,325.00
Costs	224.00
Parking fines	1,275.00
Miscellaneous police reports	4.40

Total to the City \$4,828.40

State Fees

Victims of Crime	\$ 459.00
General Revenue	765.00

Total Due to State of Ohio \$1,224.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$6,052.40**

I would again like to thank all the fire, service, and police depts. for all their hard work and dedication on the fire on Broerman Ave. All depts. worked cooperatively along with the Norwood and Elmwood fire depts. Their professionalism and compassion isn't something that should be overlooked. I hope the Castor family is doing well and beginning the healing process after their loss.

We extend our condolences to Barb Kalb and her family on the loss of her father-in-law. Barb served as the Law Director and Council Member for many years and she and her family have been very active in the community. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Tom Kathman, the City's Treasurer has announced his retirement and will no longer be serving as the City's Treasurer. I would like to thank Tom for all of his hard work and dedication over the years. He will be missed. The position will be filled as soon as I have a qualified candidate.

In regard to the voice mail system at City Hall, Elaine spoke with a representative from Cincinnati Bell, Jason Winer. She was informed that contact has been made with a VIA rep and they should be able to resolve the problem at no cost to the City in the next few days. We are also looking into updating our phone system so that they are more user friendly.

The first dept. head meeting of the year was held Monday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> with all in attendance except Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser due to a class he was taking. There were many new ideas brought forward as well as addressing the daily operation of our City. The next meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> and I will keep Council informed on any new developments.

Also, Dr. Singer and Laura Schmit, the City Nurse will be at the next COW meeting to discuss the city's needs for returning a nurse to full time status. Lastly, I would like to go into Executive Session this evening to discuss two items. Expanding the office space in the lower level at City Hall and securing City Hall and discuss the Steno Clerk position that will need to be filled in a few months.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The January Auditor's reports are prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report was also distributed to Council.

Expenditures for January, 2008: \$1,771,341.80

Before Council tonight are Ordinance Nos. 5 and 7, 2008, which were discussed at the COW. Ordinance No. 5 provides additional appropriations to the retiree benefit and the Tax Department's temporary employees line



Gerry, Walt and I checked out the barrier wall on Andrew St. behind the shopping center. We called for Oops to mark the utilities underground. We intend to notify the residents on Andrew before any decision is made on what to do with the wall.

Steve Moeller and I talked with Wagner Smith about adjusting some of the traffic signals in town.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – For those of you who probably noticed, you have received your 2007 individual income tax returns in the mail earlier this week. We printed out over 2900 returns. We did it in house this year as they did last year, saved approximately \$4 to \$5,000.00. Again I would like to thank Walt Moeller for his help in getting the printer going that we had to get in because the old one was breaking down a lot. You'll notice on your tax returns the due date is April 15, 2008. Right above that date, you'll all notice a little white out. We had a little problem with the software that generates these returns and they printed out the date of April 17 from last year had not been corrected yet. So you'll notice the white out on forms, the due date is April 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to all the individual returns we printed out the business post cards, the quarterly and monthly withholding coupons and the 1099s. It's been a very busy month this past month of January getting the office up and running, I want to thank Elaine and Bonnie for their hard work this past month, especially with the white out and the stuffing of all the forms in the envelopes. Should anyone need any additional forms, they can be picked up at City Hall or they are posted on our web site and can be downloaded. Go to the city website, click on the link, *tax dept.*, and scroll down to the bottom. As indicated at the COW with their approval of going forward I had Jane Pierman and her assistant Shannon in this past weekend. They spent five hours and got a good start on the 295 year of 2006 business returns that still need to be entered into the system and audited. They are highly experienced and very thorough and we made great progress. They will be here again this weekend to continue and I want to thank Mayor Bill Burkhardt for his support, he came down to see us Sat. to show support and also he opened his office up and showed a little hospitality on behalf of St. Bernard. They were very impressed and felt very welcome to be here.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee will meet next Tuesday, 2/19 at 7:00p.m. with Sweeney, Cartwright Investment Banking & Securities.

We will be discussing the process of putting together a bond and bring it back to Council.

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance Nos. 5 and 8.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – The Safety Committee met last Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss extending the recall list for the fire fighters and the fire officer positions for an additional six months and we as a Safety Committee support passing Ordinance No. 6 tonight which pertains to the recall list.

We also discussed a program that Rodney Chatman, the Safety Director would like to implement or get started to implement. It's called Food for Fines. What this is between the Friday after Thanksgiving to December 25<sup>th</sup>, any motorist that gets stopped in St. Bernard for traffic citations through this period, they would have to still pay their \$25.00 fee to the State but we as a City would wave our \$ amount fee, but we would give them an option. We would either charge them the \$ amount fee or they could donate 10 can goods to the City and in turn we would donate it to a charitable organization. This is a great opportunity to do something good for people in St. Bernard not necessarily for the people that are making the motor violations but it's good PR and it's something that my committee thought would be good to get started and we are just now looking into it and I'll let Rodney explain it a little bit more if he wants to explain anything else to that.

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – The service dept. report for January, 2008 is as follows: 20 trucks placed at residences, 19 dumpsters, 165 special pickups and 227 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. For recycling there were 16 tons of recycling materials, 9 tons of cardboard, 380 pounds of aluminum cans, 28 car batteries, 9060 pounds of scrap metal. In addition the service dept. picked up 34 appliances and 194 Christmas trees. The City received \$891.85 for recycling in December 2007.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – Over the last week or so I've been doing a little bit of investigating. In Ohio we have a master gardener program and what it is, it's a program where training for horticulture is provided to interested gardeners and it's through the County Extension Agency. What they do, master gardener provided educational services to their communities and such things as answering gardening questions from the public but also conducting clinics, gardening activities with children, senior citizens or disabled people. The interesting part of this is also for beautifying community, developing community or demonstration gardens and other horticultural activities. What I'm trying to do is get some more

information to see if we can tap into this program and work either to come up with just some of the things within the city that may be on city property, on some of the lots that city owns or homes of the citizens that would be interested in working together to do a community type garden on those lots so we don't have to look at that vacancy sitting around in the city. Also when we were talking about our home improvement contest, maybe we can get some of the expertise from these master gardeners and make it available to people on a day so they could get some ideas on what they could do with their own homes. I will get more details on this and then provide it back at the next COW.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – Last week was the first Laws, Contracts & Claims Committee meeting. Present were committee members Councilwoman Bedinghaus, Councilwoman Hausfeld and myself. Also present at the committee meeting was Gerry Wiedmann, Walt Moeller and Steve Moeller. Discussed at this meeting were possible vision of St. Bernard, Administrative Code Section 151 prohibiting political activity of classified civil servants. Revisions discussed had to do with the meaning of the language “partisan” how it's used in the ordinance and how that applies to the peculiar situation the City of St. Bernard has. Further addition to the ordinance discussed was a section to clarify that a city worker would not be barred from holding a political office outside the city. Discussions were preliminary and no decision was made as to whether these revisions were necessary or desirable or whether Council even has the authority to revise the Administrative Code. Also discussed was the city's free standing sign ordinance. Again discussions were preliminary in nature and no decision was made by the committee. Also discussed were miscellaneous St. Bernard ordinances that appear to be out of date and out of sync with current St. Bernard practices. Some ordinances date back to the 80s and simply were not updated. The committee will further investigate the updating of these ordinances just to get them in sync with what we're doing in the city now. As of yet St. Bernard does not have any ordinances regulating municipal parking lots. This issue was raised in the committee with the help of Police Chief Steve Moeller who will look into the appropriate ordinances for the regulation of those parking lots.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – I attended the Cognis CAP monthly meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>. We were given detailed reports from both the Cognis Corporation and Cognis Oleo Chemical Company. Since this was the first meeting of 2008 we discussed what we would like to learn and

work on this year. One of the main areas of discussion was regarding how Cognis can get better involved with St. Bernard and Cincinnati. Since Cognis is located in both cities they want to work to better both communities. One suggestion made was having employee volunteers from Cognis work with other groups in St. Bernard to help the elderly with home repair and yard work. They stated that they enjoy working with students at local schools, if any schools are interested. The leaders of Cognis want to give back to the communities where they are located and are reaching out for suggestions.

We also discussed better informing people of what Cognis is and what they produce. In the next few months I will be better educated on the chemicals they produce that go into the products we use on a daily basis. It was also suggested that leaders of St. Bernard take a tour of the Cognis facility so they can better understand the chemicals in our city, the running of the plant and their required safety needs. I will be working with Cognis to set up a date and time for a tour.

I'd also like to ask at this time, I see there's Zoo signs at the exit, if Dr. Owens, if you would like people to take them for their yards. Just so people know, people in the audience, that there are some signs if anyone would like to take them and put them in their yard.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Each Council member received the survey results for the Dial-A-Ride hours and Medical Bus usage that was compiled by the Mayor's office. The committee will meet on Wed. 2/13/08 at 6:00 in Council Chambers. At that time I will have various proposals available with additional hours and the financial impact. I would like to put this on the agenda for the COW meeting on February 14.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm going to try to do something a little different tonight because it was very lengthy last time when I read the COW report.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Could I make a motion that we not read the COW minutes because I think a lot of this was already discussed and I think a lot of it is redundant, plus a lot of the information in the minutes were not correct and I would rather not have them read tonight.

Mr. Zix – I'll second that.

Mr. Walden – We have a motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Zix not to read the COW report tonight. I will note that in looking at the, after

the COW last week I suspected this would come up and I did review the rules of Council. Rule of Council BLJ 8a states that the COW report should be submitted to the Clerk of Council and included in the record of the current meeting. The report will not be read aloud unless a majority of members present concur with a motion for the report to be read. So simply for the purpose of allowing Council to know what the rule is, I read that.

Mrs. Brickweg – The reason I was reading the report is because I was asked to read the report by Council because they decided, we took a vote not to televise the COW meeting, but many of the citizens wanted to know what was going on and that is why I read it. I also talked to Cindi after the meeting and I guess I will go ahead and say it again so everybody knows, I explained to Cindi at that Council meeting, I explained to Cindi last week and in case people didn't notice I've been scratching things out that, so I was not going to repeat anything that was mentioned to make it shorter. I also said that I was going to make it shorter and I sent out these minutes and I did not get anything back from you Cindi so if there are corrections to it I would appreciate it if you could send that back to me. I did receive corrections from some other Council members and some of the Administration and I made those corrections, but I can't make a correction if you don't tell me what it is. I do feel it's important to keep the citizens informed but I guess we'll take a vote and see how everybody else feels.

Mr. Tobergte – Could you please explain the motion first.

Mr. Walden – Yes, the motion as I understand it is to not read the COW report tonight but simply submit it to the Clerk. Is that correct Mrs. Bedinghaus?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – That's right.

Mr. Tobergte – Didn't you say that that is in the Rules?

Mr. Walden – That is consistent with Rule BLJ 8a of the Rules of Council.

Mr. Tobergte – So we would have to change a Rule of Council if we wanted to do anything different?

Mr. Walden – If you want the COW report to be read it would actually require, pursuant to that rule, a motion to read the COW report and a

majority vote in favor of. So the motion that is currently on the floor is to not read the report which would be in line with the Rule of Council.

Mrs. Brickweg – So you are saying, correct, we would possibly have to take two votes. Possibly. The first vote going out is if we do not want to read it and then if that does not win we would need a second motion to actually read them?

Mr. Walden – That is correct.

Mr. Meier – Isn't what you read that, now everybody's confused, but it sounds like what you're reading is that the normal course of the meeting would be to not read the report.

Mr. Walden – That is correct.

Mr. Meier – And so if we did want to read the report then the motion should be to read it. So to make a motion to not read it would be redundant because that's the way it's currently set up.

Mr. Walden – That is the way it's currently set up but I didn't want that to be my decision not to allow the minutes to be read, if Council wishes that, that's fine.

Mr. Zix – So Mr. President I think what we need to do is to rescind our motion and then if somebody wants to make a motion to read it we can then vote.

Mr. Walden – That would be up to Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I will rescind the motion.

Mr. Zix – I will rescind my second.

Mr. Walden – I believe Mrs. Brickweg you indicated that the minutes have been submitted to the Clerk?

Mrs. Brickweg – The minutes have been submitted to the Clerk, but at this time I would like to make a motion that we do read the COW.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'll second that.

Mr. Walden – We have a motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read the minutes of the COW into the record.

## **REMARKS**

Ms. Hausfeld – I also agree with Mrs. Brickweg, at the meeting we did try to get Council to vote to put COW meetings on Cable TV so that the residents were aware of, COW is where we at Council do a lot of our work and some of us felt that it would be nice for the citizens to know what's going on all the way around the board. Unfortunately, if memory serves me correctly, it went down a 5-2 vote with Mrs. Brickweg and myself are the only two who voted for it. In return for that we did talk about just reading the minutes of the COW into the Council minutes and that's where Mrs. Brickweg is coming from now. That's one of the reasons I seconded that motion.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'm not going to belabor this, I'm not going to vote for that because again, it was not voted on by Council it was a suggestion and it was not voted on that we read those. Again there are many items in that minutes that are not correct.

Mrs. Brickweg – Mrs. Bedinghaus, I would like to ask you to please get the corrections to me. Because you did not get them to me, do you realize they're now going into the minutes. So if you have corrections, you need to get them to me before I get them to Sue to put in the minutes and that is part of our job to do that and I did send them out in plenty of time. I guess if there are mistakes they are going to be in there now unless Sue could hold up and I could make the corrections and email them. If Cindi can give them to me tonight I can email them to you first thing in the morning. In the future I ask that everybody give me the corrections, I gave them a couple days to get them back to me and that would make it a lot easier.

Motion to read the COW report failed 5-2.

Mr. Tobergte – Since we're not going to read the minutes, I would like to redo a motion to then put the COW meeting on TV.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll second that.

## REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess at this time I really hope everybody will think about this because we might not have taken a vote Cindi but I know, I'll be honest, I don't remember you speaking up at that point on the COW thing but everybody else said that they liked the idea of keeping the citizens informed so this is kind of like a blind sided thing here. You're told one thing one week and something else the next. I have no problem not reading it, it takes me a while to do, but I think it is very important to keep the citizens informed and we all know last weeks meeting was a three hour meeting. There was a lot of discussion and a lot of things happened and the citizens would like to know that stuff. There's nothing that happens that could not be on television. I know it's a working meeting, we might not dress up but I think the citizens would be OK with that and they could see what's going on and see how our government is run and what we're talking about. I'm 100% for this. It just gives the citizens another forum to see what we're doing, if we're doing the job they voted us in to do.

Mr. Zix – I'll go back to my original vote again and that would be not to put it on and my reasoning is, I didn't want it on TV for the Council meeting for that matter and my reasoning is, for the COW meeting, it's a working meeting, some people do want to come down here and they do want to speak and they don't want to speak on TV so this allows them both options. They can come down here and they can speak and they don't have to be on TV.

Mr. Meier – We had this discussion last week and I'll just bring my point of view out. The way this is set up, the work should actually be done in committees. The results of those committees should be brought back to the COW which is a working meeting and people have opportunity to speak and discuss and to hash through things. When we get to our Council meeting, this meeting, should be a recap or basically making official what was discussed at the COW. This shouldn't necessarily be the meeting where we're working through all the details. All that should be done either in committee or at the COW. The meeting tonight should be where the issues are brought forward and we vote on them, yes or no. In that aspect, I think we should keep the work where it's supposed to be, allow people to have their discussions and their thoughts on the issues without necessarily having to be recorded and Mr. Zix is correct. There are people that would like to come down and talk and really don't want to be on television. So that gives them that opportunity. At this meeting we do have an opportunity for

anybody who does want to address Council and doesn't mind being on television. They can do that at the end of this meeting. Again as was the last vote, I'll be voting no to televising the COW meetings.

Mrs. Brickweg – It sounds a little confusing there. I understand it's a working meeting but then you say we need to inform the people of what's going on at the meeting but then people vote not to read what's going on at the meeting. This doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me on that one. Either you want them informed or you don't want them informed I think it just basically comes down to that and like I said I wasn't going to repeat anything anybody said so basically it was just informing some of the other items that were discussed but for some reason we don't want what we discussed out on TV is what is appearing to me. It's just, I'll go with you on a working committee but when you say we need to inform the citizens but then we say no we're not going to inform them it doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

Mr. Meier – In very simple terms, each one of us is the chair of a committee and that person should be reporting on the activities of that committee. Later on in this meeting there is a section for new business where new business can be brought up and discussed and following that there is a section of the meeting for old business and in those two parts of the meeting that is where the decisions for the issues that have been brought up and discussed in the COW have the opportunity to be brought back and that's why that's the way these meetings are designed is so that you bring your results back to the people and you let them know what went on prior to that. If somebody brings up any issue at the COW and it's discussed and they choose to not bring it up, whether in their committee because it's a function of their committee or in old business which is where it should be brought up then that is their choice. That's their responsibility, when you bring something up and you have the results and you want to bring it back to the people, this is your opportunity to bring those results back to the people. You have the opportunity to tell why you voted the way you did and that's the way it should be done. There's no sense in redoing a second meeting a second time.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I just want to make a comment and I agree with both Greg and Kevin on that because everyone of the reports that we've heard so far has been a recap of what we talked about at COW. It was summarized. So what else is in the COW report is just further discussion, but it doesn't

give the relevancy to what we just discussed as a summary. Again, anybody can give their opinion as to why or why not either voted on something or did not. But again, everything we've heard right now is redundant of the COW.

Motion to televise the COW meeting failed 4-3.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING REPORT**

January 31, 2008

### **NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:**

1. Approved the minutes of the January 17th council meeting.
2. Discussed the city's web site - Mayor Burkhardt and Al Kanters met with Neil Morris and discussed updating the city web site to make it more visually appealing. It was also discussed that this may be the time to change the city logo. Al will look into using students from the University of Cincinnati to help with the design of the web page. Neil had ten suggestions for the web site which will be distributed to council and will be discussed at the next COW meeting.

### **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:**

#### **Mayor, Bill Burkhardt:**

1. Bill sent his condolences for the entire Castor family and said what a great job all the departments did with the fire.
2. Bill went over the Dial-A-Ride surveys and it was agreed to put this in the Highway and Transportation Committee for more study.
3. Bill discussed changes made to the hall rental contract. One change is deposits on hall rental will be returned through the mail. This gives the city more time to check the halls for any damage. The amount of people allowed in some of the halls has also been decreased because the halls are being damaged. Council will review the new contract and discuss it at the next COW meeting.

4. We will have Boy Scout Night at Council at the February 21st meeting.
5. City Hall will be open the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, starting February 9th.
6. Bill asked council to approve five additional hours to the city nurse's weekly schedule. He also recommended that we re-consider the current contract we have with Hamilton County (which ends in March, 2009) for health services. It turns out the only thing we are getting from them is flu shots and the citizens have to pay for them. Laura Schmitt, the city nurse, is not able to do all of her jobs with only 25 hours a week and the people suffering the most are the seniors. I asked that we look into hiring her full time so she can better work with seniors, especially those that are shut in and help those eligible for free services such as meals, house cleaning, etc. so they can get these services. Both Laura and the Doctor Singer will be at the next COW meeting to discuss these changes.
7. Bill announced that Ray Schrand was sworn in as the new Service Director. Steve Asbach left for personal reasons. At this time Bill is not certain if this is temporary or permanent.
8. Bill announced that he met with the Fire Department , the Safety Director and the Law Director regarding contract negotiations.
9. Bill announced that he purchased a refrigerator for his office and that drinks will be paid for out of his own personal money.

**Auditor, Walt St. Clair:**

1. Walt discussed Ord. 55, 2007 which was the pay ordinance that stated newly hires for the Service Director and the Tax Commissioner would not get a 3% raise when they start the job. When voted on by the last council in December there was not enough votes for the ordinance to go emergency, therefore it was not effective until Jan. 19th. Walt asked council what their wishes are, if he should or should not pay Ed the 3% raise. Peggy Brickweg stated she is not in favor of the increase. The rest of council stated they were fine with giving Ed the raise. Don Tobergte asked that the administration work on job descriptions, requirements and pay steps.

2. Walt asked council for an additional \$50,000 for the premium reimbursement line item. The line item in the budget was not correct. He also asked council for an ordinance to remove a property lien for cutting grass that was placed after a person purchased the home. Council agreed 7-0 on both.

3. Walt asked that he be informed who the new C9 trustees are.

4. Walt asked council for an additional \$500 for binders the clerk stores the city minutes in. It was discussed that the administration and clerk look into better ways to store public records, such as micro-film.

**Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus:**

1. Kate asked for an ordinance to update our codified ordinances. She also informed council that we need to appoint a new Juvenile Magistrate and re-issue the city resolution for Juvenile Court. It was agreed 7-0 for Ed Geiser to be the magistrate and to put the resolution on the table.

2. Kate also asked for an ordinance to comply with Ohio Revised Code which increased the cost of Mayor's court cost by \$10.00. Council approved 7-0

**Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:**

1. Rodney thanked all of the departments for their work at last Friday's fire. He said it was terrific how the Fire, Police and Service Department all worked together.

2. Rodney also suggested that next holiday season we start a program called "Food for Fines". With this program, when people get a ticket, for example for speeding, the city would collect \$25.00 which is required for the state, but they would give the person the choice to pay the remaining \$10.00 with money or with can goods. These can goods could then be used to help the needy in St. Bernard.

**Service Director, Ray Schrand:**

1. Ray informed council that he recently was updated by the company that handles the city's health insurance and they informed him that the costs for 2007 were down from 2006.
2. Ray also is working with Gerry Weidmann and JMA regarding P & G connecting to our storm sewers.
3. Ray asked council for approval to go out for bids for the replacement of the Municipal Building roof. It is close to 30 years old and needs to be replaced. He is also working on getting repairs to the City Hall roof, which should still be under guarantee. Council agreed 7-0.
4. Gerry Weidmann reported that he received a bid for \$13,000 from JMA to survey the canal bed property. Don, Cindi and I asked for Gerry to get another bid so we can compare.

**Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser:**

1. Ed reported that he is having a difficult time getting training on the Tax Department software. He was able to find help from Eileen Pope of Madeira and Jane Pierman and her assistant from North College Hill. The cost of training with the software company would be \$800 a day, plus expenses and they are not available until mid February. Ed feels he needs the training now and Jane has agreed to teach him along with the help of her assistant on Saturdays. She will charge the city \$20.00 an hour for herself and \$20.00 for her assistant. Council agreed (7-0) to put \$3000.00 in the temporary employee line item for this training.
2. Ed reported that he found 295, 2006 business tax returns that have not been inputted in the software and that he will enter them as soon as he learns the software.
3. Ed also informed council that the tax forms are now available on the internet and they will soon be going out in the mail.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck:** Mike reported that his committee met that night and are looking at changing the civil service ordinance that refers to political activity of city employees in our city. They

are looking into changing the wording regarding our city being non- partisan vs. partisan. His committee will also be working on updating old, out of date, ordinances and working on laws to better enforce parking in city parking lots. His committee discussed the idea of regulating yard signs, for example election signs, and realized that they cannot do that. It was suggested that the political parties have an agreement that they do not place large amounts of signs in yards, which makes our city look unappealing.

**Public Improvements, Kevin Meier:** Kevin is looking into getting a person that is working for a Masters in Gardening to possibly work with our city. He also will be announcing a meeting for his committee to continue working on the Home Improvement contest. Kevin reported that the property on Rosehill that Cincinnati Housing Partners is working on should be completed and ready for closing near March 20th. They are planning on having an open house around that time.

**Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg:**

1. Peggy reported that she attended the CAP meeting on Monday at Cognis where it was discussed having Cognis employees come and help the elderly in St. Bernard with home and yard repair. They also discussed having members of council and the administration tour Cognis so they better understand what is at Cognis and what safety services they need.
2. Peggy reported that she attended the First Suburb's meeting on Tuesday night where the Hamilton County Commissioners and a City of Cincinnati Council Representative spoke.
3. Peggy asked the status of our city obtaining a 10 million dollar note/bond for the revitalization of Vine Street. There was some confusion on who was supposed to be taking care of this. She suggested that Walt and Al Kanters get together to discuss the terms and requirements of a note. Other members of council thought it was better to wait two weeks and have Al Kanters come to the COW to discuss it first. Peggy stated that she thought it was smarter to start the ground work and not wait for two more weeks and that she would not be in favor of spending more of the city's reserves for the purchase of property. She stated that if St. Bernard is going to revitalize our city we need to obtain financing. Kevin suggested that before we borrow any money we should have a public meeting and ask the citizens if they want us to spend money on revitalizing our city.

**Safety, Patty Hausfeld:** Patty reported that her committee met that night and discussed extending the Fire Department Re-call list. The Safety Director, Rodney Chatman said he will have an ordinance ready for next week's council meeting to extend the department's recall list and promotional list for six months. This will allow the new administration to evaluate its need and budget. Council approved 7-0.

During this discussion Cindi Bedinghaus asked that the City hire a consulting firm to evaluate the man power and equipment needs in the Fire and Police Dept. She reported that she feels the City has changed over time and before she can make a decision about bringing any staff back she needs data to support that.

**Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus:**

1. Cindi asked that the city hire a consulting firm to evaluate the man-power and equipment needs in the Fire and Police Departments. Bill said he will get bids for this.

**Service, Don Tobergte:**

1. Don presented pictures of the cement block wall behind the St. Bernard Square which is cracking, splitting away from the metal supports and in very bad shape. It was agreed that the city will not spend money to have an engineer look at the wall and that the Service Department will look into tearing it down and the cost of planting trees in its place. The citizens in this area will be notified of the work.

2. Don asked for an update on the telephone problem at City Hall. The phone equipment at City Hall is locked because of a password change. It will cost the city \$600 to have the phone company re-program the phone system. Ray is looking into having the company write off this cost. In the meantime most new member's voice mail cannot be accessed. Peggy suggested that we look into a different phone service, because it appears their costs are way too high.

3. Don suggested that when city vehicles need repair and are not under contract that the city use local business to do the repairs.

4. Don also suggested that the city look into combining the three different copier contracts that the city has now for about \$2000 a year. The city could most likely save money if they combine the contracts.

5. Don suggested that the Service Department can get their First Aid supplies from the Fire Department to save money.

**Finance, Greg Zix:** Greg reported that the Finance Committee received a request from the Dial-A- Ride employees asking for a raise. This will be included in the discussion for increases for non-contractual employees. He said the committee will look into this.

### **Other Business:**

Cindi Bedinghaus suggested that Peggy not read the COW report at Council Meeting because they are redundant to what was already reported on Council floor. Peggy stated that Council agreed to have the President Pro Tem read the report since they were not televising the COW meetings. Peggy told Cindi she will still put a detailed report of the COW in the official minutes and she will work on a shorter version to read at Council meetings, as she stated she would at the last Council Meeting.

### **Audience Participation**

John Metz asked if the city was pursuing the Canal Bed Development Project. Kevin told him that he thought it was put on hold. Peggy stated that Al Kanters is most likely still looking into it, from the report he gave at the CIC meeting he is concentrating more on the NuMaid property and Vine Street. John also suggested that there may be State Police and Fire grants for department studies.

Norm Miller stated that he is not in favor of contracting an outside firm to review the manpower and equipment of the Fire and Police Departments.

Forrest Hudson suggested that we utilize our Fire and Police Chiefs for their evaluations of the departments needs and that the IAFF and FOP have standards the city can use. He said it is up to the city if they want to take the recommendations of these national affiliations or not.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with the Safety Director (7-0 vote)

**Ordinances and Resolutions for the next council meeting:**

1. Ordinance for additional funds of \$50,000 to the premium reimbursement line item and \$3000 to the Tax Department temporary employee line item
2. Ordinance for extending the Fire Department recall list
3. Ordinance to take the lien off a property for grass cutting
4. Ordinance to update our Codified Ordinances
5. Ordinance for Mayor's Court costs increases
6. Resolution for Juvenile Court and naming Ed Geiser the new Juvenile Magistrate

Next Council Meeting: February 7th at 7:30 P.M.

Next C.O.W. Meeting: February 14th 7:30 P.M.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2008. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NEED OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, UNOFFICIAL JUVENILE COURT VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 2, 2008.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – On this Resolution, this was brought up at the COW meeting by Kate and what it is there were a couple of things. The Magistrate that had done our Juvenile Court is not coming back and so we are now going to name Ed Geiser, he accepted that he would do that, and in order to bring him on board as the

new referee Kate asked that we pass this Resolution again so we could continue using this.

Motion to suspend with the second and third reading passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Meier to adopt Resolution No. 2, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – I'm not supposed to express my views on motions before they are voted on, but I once was the Juvenile Referee in St. Bernard and thought it was a very worthwhile program and I commend Council for passing that Resolution.

**ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2008. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Peck to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2008 as read. Motion passed. 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2008. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2008.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – In this Ordinance, just so people know, it is \$3,000.00 for the temporary employees in the Tax Office and this is so Ed can get the training on the software in the dept. and then there is the retiree benefit of \$50,000.00 because the budget, in the 2008 budget, it had the wrong amount.

Mr. Geiser – I thank Mrs. Brickweg for explaining, I just want to further explain to the people at home. I brought this up at COW, the office is run by a software called MITS (Municipal Income Tax Software) and they said the earliest they could get out here to train me on how to use that system is the end of February which is unacceptable. So what I have been doing is, I met with some people who have used it and especially I went to North College Hill with the president of SWOTA and I mentioned her earlier in my report. Very experienced with the software and I worked my way through a lot of the software, I probably know how to use about 85% of it already, but the everyday details of putting in the final returns especially the business returns can be a little complicated because you have to audit them. That's who has been coming in so I ask Council for this additional money. There was no money in the budget for training so I am forgoing the training with MITS and basically doing an in house training and learning on the job. That's why I asked for an additional \$3,000.00 to put into my temporary line item. I could bring them in and leave, as I said earlier, they've been here last Sat. already. There is money already in the budget, I'm just asking for additional little bit because that money was already going to be used. Again they will be in here again this Sat. and they are outstanding with the help.

Motion to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2008 passes.

Motion by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adopt Ordinance No. 5, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE 6, 2008. AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE RECALL LIST FOR THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FIREFIGHTERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 6, 2008.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – On the Ordinance No. 6, 2008 at the recall list, to extend that for six months and I will be voting on this, however, I would recommend that the city consider bringing in an outside consultant to do an assessment need of the city for all of the depts. In order to bring any more

employees back into any area of work in the city, I feel that we need data in order to identify what the needs are.

Mrs. Brickweg – I do have a question of clarity, when you suggested that Cindi, last week it was for the fire and police dept., are we now saying that we're going to do it for all the depts. of the city, you just said all the depts. and I was just wanting some clarity on that?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'm recommending that we do an assessment for all the depts.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just to inform the citizens what this is the three firefighters that are still on the list and some of the other firefighters on the recall list for six months and Rodney had suggested that the reason for the six months is if by then him and Bill can get together and discuss the situation of the city and the budget and what they want to do. But they could at least let the three people that were laid off if we decide to hire back, put them first in line to come back.

### **AUDIENCE ON ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2008**

Mr. St. Clair – I'm assuming that this was all okay with Civil Service, it was mentioned that it was okay with Civil Service as far as extending rather than having exams for the residents.

Mr. Chatman – To my knowledge they are aware of this and are okay with it. I believe there is a member in the audience that we can ask to clarify that.

Forrest Hudson – Could you repeat the question, exactly what you are looking for?

Mr. St. Clair – What I'm concerned about is the dept. putting together a recall list for a six month period and I just want to make sure that this was alright with Civil Service, that if an opening did occur on say the fire dept. What I'm saying is that you would not have an exam but that you would do it from the recall list and is that okay with Civil Service and their rules and requirements?

Forrest Hudson – Yes it is, we were approached by the Administration concerning the short time limit that the new Administration would have to

work with this list and we in turn contacted our legal representative and asked him to look at it and if he could, put together for us a recommendation for an ordinance that would extend the recall list for six months and there will not be any additional testing, the funding for testing. We're just looking for potentially ways to go about the three individuals that are on the list.

Bob Hausfeld, 4257 Bertus – Just a quick question, six months extension, at the end of that six months, can that be extended again or is this a one time only deal? I thought it was a one time only deal but I heard somebody else say, no, they can just keep extending it. Does anybody know?

Mr. Chatman – Mr. Hausfeld, I'm not certain what the legal ramifications are but I believe at that time we would be opening ourselves to a challenge since these positions are supposed to be competitive examinations open to the public. I have not researched that particular aspect of it and I have not consulted with our legal dept. on that. But that is my initial recommendation that gives us in the spirit what the ordinance is all about and that is giving the Administration enough time to make a concerted decision on what we can and are able to do.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington – This has been on my mind for a long time but after these list run out and we have additional competitive list, it's always bothered me that if you run a kid up here, particular a fireman where you can go on at an early age, policemen are 21 I think, but the way it's set up, not the way it's set up but the way we've been doing it we're looking for a professional to take that position. A kid that's raised in St. Bernard, his family grew up in St. Bernard, there is no way in the world that he can become a fireman, there's no way in the world he can be a policeman because we're asking already in the past if these guys are experienced, we're saving a lot of money. We got all home town kids, it used to be years ago, that's all we had was home town kids but now if the young boy wants to be a fireman, or if a young boy wants to be a policeman, he's almost out in the cold. How can he become a fireman when no fireman in St. Bernard to train him. What you're telling me is that you have to go out to another community and be a fireman and then when something opens up well hopefully St. Bernard will come in. In if he hasn't got enough qualifications he can't be a fireman so I liked for the mayor and the safety director, whenever we have additional examinations that our home town boys get some consideration rather than we just looking for professionals and our kids don't have a chance. They can't be a fireman in this town, they can't be a

policeman, the only thing that they can be is if they work for our service dept. God knows we got a good service dept. so why can't we have good police and firemen from the City of St. Bernard?

Mr. Tobergte – Just a little clarification, when this first came up I asked if this was going to be, if the firemen were going to be rehired within six months or should we extend it? I'm hearing from Rodney, correct me if I'm wrong, that you want to do six months now but after these six months it's possible that we could not redo this ordinance?

Mr. Chatman – That's correct. In the spirit of what Norm just brought up I believe we would be opening ourselves up to a challenge if there is a young man in town who would like to competitively compete for one of these positions, I think that could be a challenge if we extended that list and keep extending it, and keep extending it, they would have no opportunity to test for these positions in St. Bernard. So the spirit of this ordinance was that the new Administration had taken their seats at this time, this would give them an opportunity to assess if we are able to bring any or all of them back or what it is that we are able to do it gives us some time since we took our positions and the expiration is in March that gave us very little time to research and see what we can do. Within the time frame that I have outlined, six months, we should be able to make an accurate and informed decision and then at that point, from that point on we would have competitive examinations.

Mr. Tobergte – My only concern is that we're worried about being sued or whatever, after six months, wouldn't the same problem be the same with the first six months? I'm all for having a list for these guys to come back, I agree with that. I would think that six months, a year, whatever, if we're going to be sued, we're going to be sued.

Mr. Chatman – The Civil Service as mentioned by Forrest Hudson, we went out and got a legal opinion on it and the actual ordinance, most of that language was drafted by Mr. Burke and I believe in that he recommended six months as well. That's a fair amount of time without, that gives you an opportunity to address the short term issue that we were dealing with since the expiration being around the corner. And as well it doesn't extend it too far in advance where no one else can get on the list.

Mrs. Brickweg – If I'm hearing correctly, I know exactly what you're thinking Don, I don't think we're extending it for the firemen, we are, but the main reason to extend it is because we have a new Administration and we want to give them time to look at it, and I think that is the main reason and that's why it would just be six months because they feel like six months is enough time for the new Administration to look at it and decide if they want to rehire or not hire. Does that make sense? I know we're doing it for the firemen, but I think the reasoning is for the Administration and that's why it's just six months.

Mr. Tobergte – Okay it makes sense to me to have an extended recall list but my only question is, why cut it off at six months. I know Mr. Chatman says there could be ramifications for twelve months, whatever, but if they're there for twelve months, I would assume they're there for six months too. Are we opening a can of worms by extending it?

Mr. Chatman – I don't think we are because there are parameters in the law that allows you to do these extensions of these lists so if there are provisions for us to do so, I don't think there is a problem with doing it, it's simply giving us enough time to make those decisions. Since it is legal to do so, there are provisions for it in the codified ordinances, I don't see a problem with doing that. I don't even know if there would be a challenge six months from now after the expiration of this date. I don't know if there would be a challenge but I like the idea of a 21 year old in this town being able to apply for those jobs in the future.

Bob Hausfeld – Yea, one last thing, we're talking about the right thing to do, the right thing to do is first off, the three guys on the lay off list and I was the fourth guy, all four of us are St. Bernard residents, Marty Gruenwald, Eric Scherpenberg, Brian Young, we all grew up here. The right thing to do is, I'm all for these 21 year olds and I'm assuming Norm, you might be talking about your grandson or something but, I'm all for these St. Bernard kids getting a shot at a good dept. a good job to work for but you know what the right thing to do is do what ever we have to because of the circumstances, when we laid these guys off and took their livelihood away from them and put them through hell, I think the right thing to do is to do whatever we have to, to give them the first shot to come back and if that means we rehire them every three years for one day and lay them off again, you know what, that's what we do and that's what I think the right thing to do is and I don't think any one of the guys laid off would have a problem

with that. You talk about the right thing, well what I think is the wrong thing is to know some young kid 21 whatever 18 whatever is going to get one of these jobs when you got three guys laid off that lost a lot of stuff when that happened because the city had to buckle down. Well I think they should have that right to come back and that's what I think the right thing is, you know, who cares about a law suit. I'm sorry we have to do the right thing for everybody.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – Just to give Bob some peace of mind, I don't have any grandson or granddaughters that's even interested in being a fireman or a policeman in St. Bernard, maybe 20 years for now my great grandson might but I won't worry about that.

Forrest Hudson – Just a point of clarification for you all. There were a number of questions that were presented to the attorney and the idea of the six months came up because he felt that if we were sued, if someone would bring legal action against us that he could present the situation to a judge and explain to him the economic situation, the need for the recall and so forth and so on and that he felt that in a court of law that a judge would understand the request of a new Administration for the extension of the six months. Mr. Burke said that anything beyond six months, we might be stepping into some gray areas, but he saw absolutely no problem with the list being extended six months and I, as an individual think this is a wonderful thing to do.

John Metz, 4419 Kemper Ave – Don, I think you can put yourself at ease, what Peggy said is right. This move is to allow the Administration nine months to research the needs of the city in the area of the firemen that were laid off and whether or not it's right or if we're able to bring those people back and to give the Administration time they need to research it. I think it's wise and well and you should all pass this ordinance.

The motion to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 6, 2008 passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 6, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2008. AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND PENALTIES AND INTEREST**

RELATED THERETO ON THE PROPERTY AT 4913 ANDREW ST.  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Peck to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 7, 2008.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – This ordinance is, to better explain it and Walt did explain it a little bit before is, there is a lien on a property on Andrew St. which was put on because the previous owner was not cutting the grass and the service dept. took care of that so in order to get the money back to pay our service dept. we put a lien on it, but before the lien was actually filed at the Court House somebody purchased the property so he purchased without knowing there was lien on it so that is why we are voting to take it off.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2008. AN ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW TO INCREASE MAYOR'S COURT COSTS PURSUANT TO OHIO R.C. 2949.094, AS MAY BE ENACTED, UPON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF OHIO HOUSE BILL 181 OF THE 127<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 8, 2008.

**REMARKS**

Mr. Chatman – I have a question in regard to this. I was asked to research a method of streamlining the Mayor's Court because there tends to be some duplication between the Clerk at the police dept. and what Elaine does here and sometimes the information doesn't match. In the ongoing process of doing so, I found out that there are at least some Mayor's Courts that have a fine specifically, part of the fees are specifically designed for a Mayor's Court computerization. I believe in that research it was \$10.00 as well and I was wondering if anyone that worked on this knew if we were getting it or if this is part of that?

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – I had that on the agenda for the next COW I was going to supply information. There's \$3.00 to computerize the actual court and then you can go up to \$10.00 to computerize the Clerk of Courts office or other stuff so that's on the agenda so I'll pass information before next Thursday.

Motion to suspend the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 8, 2008 passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 8, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – First I would like to thank Rodney Chatman for keeping Council informed on the actions of the Safety Committee. I would like to ask the Mayor to please keep Council informed. I hated to hear about the Treasurer resigning from a resident that is not involved in City government and that was three days after the fact.

Also a question on the Ross Field ball park renovations, I wonder if we have a scheduled completion date for that?

Mr. Schrand – I don't have any date on that yet. You're going to have to give me a chance, if you would have asked me today, I would have got it for you.

Mr. Tobergte – Also at last weeks COW meeting the Mayor announced that City Hall would be open the second Sat. of every month. My question would be, is the secretary going to be paid overtime for this because I see nothing in the budget for paying overtime for the secretary for that.

Mr. Burkhardt – No she won't, she'll be taking her time as comp.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm going to ask Council because I was just addressed with this matter and I remember last year we discussed repaving the tennis courts or resurfacing them some how. Did we ever come up with if we were going to do anything up there or not? The reason I was asking is someone was just telling me that Roger Bacon, I believe their tennis, where they play tennis at, I'm not sure where it is and they were talking to me the other day telling me

what bad shape a couple of our tennis courts are in and I just didn't know if it was something that we were still considering or if we were still working on it or, I remember vaguely we and Joe you can answer if you want but I remember we were saying something last year in one of the meetings, I just don't know whatever came out of it.

Mr. Burkhardt – I believe there was money put in the budget to resurface two of those tennis courts and we will look at that when Spring hits.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so I can tell everybody, we had that long discussion over these huge minutes that I was going to read, this is all that was left. So it really was not that big of a deal.

Mayor Burkhardt and Al Kanters met with Neil Morris and discussed updating the City's website and possibly changing the way and the logo. Bill also discussed hall rental contract change.....

Mrs. Bedinghaus – This should not be read. We ask it not to be read. I'm sorry.

Mrs. Brickweg – Excuse me, Mrs. Bedinghaus but if I remember correctly, you said and everybody else said that I could .....

Mr. Zix – Mr. President could I call Point of Order please.

Mrs. Brickweg – Excuse me, I'm just talking

Mr. Walden – Mrs. Brickweg does have the floor.

Mrs. Brickweg – Greg, I'm just talking. No, okay Mr. President, correct me if I'm wrong, but did you not say that I could, wait, here's a question, is there a special thing that I'm allowed to read under Old Business or New Business, is there a rule on that. It seems that people up here have rules for me all of a sudden.

Mr. Walden – The rule on Old Business is B-LM, the President of Council shall request any old business, issues, comments or questions brought to the floor at this time. So, anything that is under old business, issues, comments or questions can be asked or brought to the floor during Old Business.

Mrs. Brickweg – Correct me if I’m wrong, I’m reading what happened at last week’s meeting which would be old business. I’m really beginning to wonder why we don’t want the people to know what happened at that meeting because this is ridiculous. If you give me a second, Cindi, it could take a whole 60 seconds. We discussed the hall rental contract. I also wanted to let everybody know that it will be Boy Scouts night at the next Council Meeting and then finally Ray discussed that the health insurance cost were down for 2006 and Gerry is working on getting another bid to survey property and that is all it was.

Mr. Peck – I have a letter from Tyrone Yates, State Representative, 33<sup>rd</sup> House District. The letter indicates and is talking about capital appropriations budgets and parks community projects across Ohio. I was just wondering, we have that land set aside for a new library, I was just wondering if anybody knows if there is an update on that as to what we’re doing?

Ms. Hausfeld – Mike, I’ll briefly, last year I believe it was in June, but I could be wrong I guess. We were asked the following year to give it one more year. Last June, I was the only Council member that wanted to take part in trying to take the land back because we have waited several years for this library to take place and I was assured last year to give it one more year and if they don’t have the funding this year then they would look into what our legal ramifications were.

Mr. Burkhardt – And at this time, Al Kanters is in discussion with Kim Fender from the library so I believe at the next COW we can have him come and give his update on it.

Mrs. Brickweg – And Mike, I don’t have all the information here but the one reason that we did allow this to go one more year is the State is doing a different type of budget and so it’s looking like the library will be able to get some of their money from a different source that they really feel that, I’m almost sure it’s like this June they were going to let us know that they really thought that if everything went as it is supposed to that they would be able to start building a library and that’s why we said that since this is a different type of funding we would wait and see what they had to say.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I would like to ask if the Mayor on the next COW could give an explanation of a payout to a service dept. for some sick time.

Mr. Burkhardt – That was agreed on, settled, so I can go ahead and give it to you now. It was a grievance filed by one of the service dept. employees on sick time payout where they are allowed to buy out their time not used in that year, we get three days and we pay them for one and he was allowed to bring his sick time from the school over and we allowed him to do that so I allowed him to use that toward his CAP which put him at the max, so he was allowed to buy out his time last year. They grieved because the past Administration didn't allow it. I allowed it.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I guess my understanding was that it came from legal advice that it should not be paid out and that it was brought over from the school because it's the same retirement system, it's the PERS, but it should be used for sick time, additional sick time but not to be used as a payout for CAP.

Mr. Burkhardt – It was by Mr. Berninger, but after discussions with the past Administration that allowed him to bring it over, their intent was to allow him to use that and with that intent, that's the reason I let him take that sick time.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I guess my understanding that the last Administration didn't allow him to bring it over that it was mandated by State. That is a State Law that that falls over to his next job since it's the same retirement system. I think that was legally he was allowed to bring it over and then again Mr. Berninger had said that we should not pay him out. We didn't need to pay him out and we should not pay him out because it was for sick time in case he did get an illness that he needed to use more sick time but it shouldn't be used as a payout.

Mr. Burkhardt – I allowed it.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess my question is, if this all happened last year, how come none of Council was informed of any of this. It seems like, you seem to know this but I have no idea of who we're talking about or what we're talking about here. I don't know, I guess I'm stressing better communication all around from the past Administration and the current Administration.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Last year when this was with the past Administration I know that it was just, it happened three years ago when he came over from the schools. It was something that the State allowed him to bring over. He had asked to get paid out, it wasn't allowed, they were given some legal advice as not to pay him out, but as soon as this Administration came in I understand this person grieved it and it was paid out.

Mrs. Brickweg – Like I said, it would have been nice three years ago to be informed of this I have no idea what you're talking about but I'll look into learning more about it.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to add one thing, at the next COW meeting I also had asked Al Kanters, because we had discussed it, I asked Al Kanters if he could possibly make it to discuss the bond money also because when we left the meeting I thought that's where it was, and I know Walt, I have you on the agenda, I just asked him to attend also because that's what we had asked for at the last COW meeting to ask him to attend. If we don't need him there you can let me know but I just wanted to let you know that I did go about and do that.

Joe Lengerich, E. Ross Ave. – He grieved it this year first of all because this is the first chance he had to grieve it. Under the contract he wasn't eligible to start cashing out until the end of this year. He would have grieved it last year if he could have, but he couldn't. Second of all, the days were allowed to be brought over by the previous Administration by law, I think Ray authorized it, he could authorize 10 days, 15 or all of them. He was generous to authorize all of them. Once he did that, that became this individuals bank. We don't have two banks, we don't have a carry over bank. We don't have a yesterday's bank, we don't have a two years and out bank. We have a bank of sick days. Once that became his bank, that made him eligible by contract to be able to cash out sick days which is to your benefit. He gave two back for one. It was denied, the election came and went, we can't cash out until the last pay period of the year, so we grieved. First of the year, the old Administration left, the new came in and it just kind of fell on Bill. It would have fell on Joe or John, whoever, Bill looked at it, reviewed it and came to the wise decision that he should pay him the sick days because that's what the sick days says or you don't want a grievance, you would have lost money, our association would have lost money, it

would have been ridiculous. The man gave you back 10 sick days and got 5 paid out. There's nothing wrong here.

Mr. Meier – As people know with the storms that came through the other day there were 54 people across the south who lost their lives and I grew up in Tennessee and spent time living in Nebraska so I'm very, very familiar with tornados and it's always been, always known that when that siren goes off, that means there's a tornado warning. For some reason in this part of the country, those sirens go off if you're going to have a heavy rain storm. If you'll notice, is there anybody out there that looked to see if there was a tornado when those sirens went off, or if you just thought there was another thunderstorm, please raise your hand. If there is some way, they were off twice on Tuesday and one time I was out and people were just going about their normal business and the other time was at 1:00a.m. If there is some way, and there is an article in the paper today that the director of Hamilton County who makes the decision on doing this, he kind of feels that it's better too early than too late. I think what's happening is that those sirens go off so often that people tend to ignore them. I think that, yes, maybe there was some damages to some roofs when that storm blew through, but at some point there is going to be a tornado and people are going to be so used to those sirens going off that they're not going to pay attention to it and somebody is going to lose their life. If they go off so often and it was not more than just a bad thunderstorm. It didn't last more than 10 minutes or so and didn't even wake up the kids. I think that as a City we should look into seeing whether we need to participate in that, do we make our own calls or could we just let them know that, they're pulling those sirens off when they don't need to be and they're basically wolf. They're crying wolf. I think that at some point we're going to have to pay for it and we're going to have to pay for it by somebody not paying attention to it, not listening to the sirens and somebody is going to lose their life. If there is some way that we could check into that, like I said there was a good article in the paper today again people complaining that the sirens going off and nothing ever comes of it. I think maybe that's something that as a City we should take a look into what we can do just for the protection of our own people.

Mrs Brickweg – Kevin I agree 100% with you. I read that article today and to be very honest, at our house, what happened when it went off, I think there's a tornado, I jump up, I turn on the TV, my husband rolls over and says turn off the TV, it's a thunderstorm. I called my children the next day and I said, What did you do? We kept sleeping, it was a thunderstorm. I

had said to my husband last night, the next time I meet with the Hamilton County Commissioners I'm going to stress that because I agree 100%, I'm still in the old days where it's a tornado. People are going to sleep through it, seems like my whole family did besides me and to be honest, once I got up and listened to it I went back to sleep anyway and I thought man what would happen if a tornado comes and I'm going to sleep through it because I just heard my weatherman say that. I agree 100% and it even said that in the newspaper we're desensitizing people, that we are not going to pay attention to it so I was going to pass on just my feelings so I'll pass on yours when I see the Commissioners and see if they can tell me if there's anything we can do about that.

Bob Hausfeld, Bertus St. – I was watching the news, I think it was Channel 5 doing a story on that and they said that it has to be a severe thunderstorm or be a tornado watch or warning before they'll turn the sirens on. It isn't just a severe thunderstorm, it's a tornado watch. It has to be an issued watch or warning.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I just want to bring to everybody's attention that in the Business Courier, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a great article that was entitled, "St. Bernard works to reinvest itself with eye to the future" Al Kanters was featured for our town. If anybody gets the chance, please read it.

Mr. Zix – I'd like to be put on the agenda for COW to review the Rule of Council, I don't quite understand, I don't really see anything in here, I just had a short amount of time. The minutes, I couldn't open, unfortunately, but I did get them when I got here tonight, and the reason I voted against reading them was I felt they were biased and some parts were incorrect. I will make an effort to make sure I get to them next time but I don't see a procedure to okay these minutes by Council. I think in the future if we're having disagreements we should have a process in place to okay these.

Mr. Walden – Mr. Zix I would agree with you. I looked at that myself. There appears to be a position to vote on the minutes of Council but as to the COW there is no direction whatsoever.

Mrs. Brickweg – Correct me if I'm wrong, I just always assumed that the minutes that we're voting on at the beginning of the meeting are those minutes. They're not?

Mr. Walden – The minutes that are voted on at the beginning of the meeting are the actual Council minutes from the prior Council meeting.

Mrs. Brickweg – Do we vote on those twice, do we vote on those at the COW meeting also?

Mr. Walden – I believe there is a vote initially there to allow any corrections to be made at the COW and then they are actually finalized at this Council or at each Council meeting.

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay because we get the final draft before the Council meeting.

Mr. Walden – Right.

Mrs. Brickweg – Well that's why I just assumed. Well I agree, I apologize, I assumed when we all vote that that's what we were all voting on. I even sent out an email again, if you cannot open them, please let me know and I'll get them to you. It's kind of funny, you come here to a Council meeting, everybody has these changes and nobody sends them to you. I'd be more than happy, Don Tobergte had some changes, Bill Burkhardt and I made them. It was no big deal, but if you don't send them to me I can't do it. I would just appreciate it if you would get them to me and I will change them.

Mr. Burkhardt – Technically you do approve the COW minutes because they are in the final draft of the minutes so you do approve the COW minutes in the final draft.

Mr. Walden – When the actual Council minutes are approved, they are a part of that meeting.

Mr. Burkhardt – Yes, they are a part of those notes.

Mr. Tobergte – I make a motion we go into Executive Session to discuss what Bill had talked about at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll second that.

Mr. Walden – We have a motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, and was there one other issue?

Mr. Burkhardt – Yes, securing the inside of City Hall.

Motion to go into Executive Session following the Council meeting passed 7-0.

Mrs. Brickweg – At this time, since there do seem to be changes, I would appreciate, Sue I will get you another copy and I will email it to you so you won't have to worry about typing them, but if everybody can please get me their changes, hopefully tomorrow or Saturday at the latest so I can give Sue some time to prepare it. I would like to have everybody change it so I can change the minutes and for those that are wondering why there is some confusion here is basically in the past the minutes from the COW reports were one or two sentences. I never felt like when I missed a meeting that it explained everything that happened so I'm trying to give a more detailed report and for those who are on my email list, it's very similar to a couple page report that I've always did that. I have no problem making any changes that any Council member wants, just please get them to me.

Mr. Meier – We've had a couple of mentions of bringing in an outside agency or somebody. I think originally it was to look at the manning of the fire dept. and again earlier tonight it was to look at all the depts. I think we've just gone through 4 years of a lot of uncertainty with employees and their jobs and whether or not they're going to have the jobs and whether they're going to continue. I think that we should put this on the COW so we can discuss it and resolve the issue. We've got very good staffing, very good people, they're part of our community and I think when you bring these things up it's very easy for outside agencies for somebody to come in and make recommendations to eliminate positions or to combine depts. or whatever. I don't think that's the right thing for our City. I think we need to, as I've said to people before the election, we need to take care of the people that we have. I'd like for this to be brought up so we can discuss it so we can put it to bed and it doesn't come back up. Personally I'm not in favor of bringing in an outside agency. If the chiefs believe they need help or need something reviewed, that's fine but I think we're opening up a can of worms if we do that and so I would just like to resolve this and put it away so it doesn't keep coming up.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Greg Pfierman, 5010 Kemper Ave. – I believe you need to look at your police force because it's wrong. You only got certain laws that exist for certain people. If you guys don't see it you never will. If you don't see it really, you never will, because you only have certain laws that exist for certain people. If you guys don't see it, you're blind.

Forrest Hudson, Redwood Ter. – Last week at the COW as a resident I brought up when I first heard about the outside agency, I think we have some wonderful employees in this town, I think we have some wonderful dept. supervisors. I don't think there's anyone available that is better qualified than your dept. heads to make these assessments. That's what we pay them for, that's their job. I think that if there are questions about staffing levels, equipment, whatever the question may be. I think it would be the proper thing to go to the dept. heads and ask them before we go out to an outside agency. Last week at the COW when this was brought up, it was brought up to look at the fire dept. I don't know why you've extended it to all depts. But last week it was just mentioned for the fire dept. The second thing I have is, I'm confused about this fine business for can goods. If someone commits a crime in our town and the fine is \$100.00, \$125.00 are we going to let him get off with just bringing in \$10.00 worth of can goods?

Mr. Chatman – There are crimes that are committed and this is designed for moving violations that do not require a mandatory court appearance. These are minor violations that do not require a court appearance and the spirit of it is during that period of time the stopping of that individual, the fine assessment that's necessary to the State of Ohio does in fact correct the wrong behavior, it does have monetary consequence and it allows the City of St. Bernard to put itself forward in a good light and do something in the community for a very short period of time. I am in no way suggesting that if someone commits a serious violation or if there is a reckless operator or a DUI or something of significance that this program would apply to that.

Forrest Hudson, Redwood Ter. – Okay thank you Rodney, I was just confused, stopping at \$10.00 if it's a \$100.00 violation and doing it for the spirit, shouldn't we have them bring \$100.00 worth of can goods? That was my only issue.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mr. Hudson, in my committee when we discussed this, I actually said the same exact thing but it was good PR is what I was told. It was in the spirit of the Christmas season or the Holiday season and the violator, from what I've been told could choose, either pay the fine, which would be substantial or do a charitable thing and pay the State fine but then donate the can goods. We just felt that it was a win, win situation for not only us but the violator and the charitable organization that we will be donating it to.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I just want to comment on bringing in outside agencies. It was I who suggested that last meeting and of course I brought it up again tonight. I totally agree that we have great chiefs, we have great depts. we have great service to our City. The chiefs I believe have expertise, but I also think they bring bias too when you do some kind of an assessment. That's nothing against them, that's just natural, they've been in that dept., they've been in the City and there are some biases. An outside person will bring some neutral ideas into the City and give us recommendations and suggestions. I think we need to really look at our City. We have changed. We have changed over time. Our businesses are not the same, our housing is not the same. We really need to look close at what our City needs. I don't want to jeopardize any safety. Trust me, that's not what I'm here for. I want to be fiscally responsible but also make the safest environment for our citizens. I really think if we're thinking about, with that recall, and bringing back these fireman, and bringing them back without anybody going into retirement or replacing anybody, then I really think we need to look at that assessment because it puts three more fireman on without doing an assessment and have data in front of me that's says this is what we need, I can't very well vote for that without the facts in front of me. That is the reason why I'm asking for an outside assessment.

Mrs. Brickweg – Those three firemen, or those four firemen were laid off because we were told there was a financial crisis, not for the lack of work. That's fine with consultants but I would ask the question, and I thought it was kind interesting, we had a lot of industry that pretty much none of us on Council really understand and they think our fire dept. does and I think our police dept. knows a lot more about the crime around our area and just like the service dept. knows what they do every day. But the question is, what would happen if the consultant came in and said we did not have enough employees in any of the depts. Would we hire more? I thought, good question. Didn't have an answer for it, but that's just something that I was

asked and it said if you are going to do consulting, is Council going to agree to do it either way it goes. We can't pick and choose what we want.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Last week I specifically did make mention that as a Council if we did bring in an outside consultant that we as a Council have to agree on following the recommendations of that outside consult.

Mr. Meier – I understand about with the firemen, but to bring in an outside consultant to review all the depts. is not a thing that a consultant can find in the service dept. or the police dept. that should affect the hiring and firing of the fire dept. All of a sudden this got real broad. If there's more to it then just those three firemen, otherwise it wouldn't have been expanded to three depts. My concern is if you bring somebody in, and I'm going to be real blunt, if you review depts. and you put something out there, you could have Rumpke come in here and say well I can do this for a lot less. And if we vote to follow the recommendations and it would lead us down that road, I don't want to go that way. I don't, I haven't seen that there has been any problems with manning or staffing brought up that would necessitate the need for having an outside review of the depts.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Last week I did include the police dept. as an outside assessment so that was just not an extra. After thinking about it all week, we have three main depts. and so I thought it would be the right thing to do for the assessments of all three depts.

Mrs. Brickweg – We have four depts. We also have City Hall and the Administration. Just to be fair and we have Council. There is a lot of things, if we're going to do it, I don't think we should pick and choose. That's just my opinion, but there are four depts. in our City, not just three.

Phil Stegman, 19 Orchard St. – I just wanted to comment, this is the second time I've been up here this year, commending you guys for extending that six months for the firemen. It's also the second time I've been up here to commend Council for leaving the COW off of TV because it is a working meeting and a lot of things get done and I do agree with Mr. Meier, that's exactly how that's supposed at the COW meeting and at the meeting tonight. Every committee member should state what was talked at the COW, express what had happened so we don't have to have you read three hours worth. I was here for three hours last week and I don't want to hear a half hour of you reading a report that everybody should be talking about in their own

report. That is the spot where old business and new business is where things that were left out that were important that maybe the Mayor had forgot to report or some other committee member forgot, that might be something of value to a person out to the residents that didn't get to be here at that meeting. I think that's the place where the old and new business should apply. I hope we don't have to have every other meeting, take a vote that we bring this back to TV, the COW. I hope we can just work on the COW and then bring the Council vote back and bring that at the Council meeting so we don't have to put the COW on TV.

Mrs. Brickweg – In case people are getting confused, just so people know. It was not my idea to read those, I was asked and you were at the meeting Phil when we discussed it. After I read it last week I realized it was way too long and I said that and I said I was going to correct that which you noticed tonight I did correct it. It lasted about 60 seconds. It wasn't like I did that on purpose or that I wanted to do it. Sometimes I go over board, I try to do a really good job when I'm given a job. I realized in the middle of that last, two weeks ago, but there was nothing I could do at that point. That's why I said I was going to change how I did it. I did change it tonight but nobody even gave me a chance to change it to the big 60 second report. I apologize to those, I thought it was too long last time, I agree it was too long. I tried to learn from my mistake and change it and I do agree Phil, I'll continue to do just a little bit and if I think things are very important I'll put them in under old business so you will not have to worry about that happening again.

Bob Hausfeld – Just a couple of things, I wanted to actually welcome Ray back. Glad to see you back here Ray, you're a good service oriented person for the City and I'm actually glad to see you there. Secondly, I guess I came in late and I guess I'm hearing the Treasurer stepped down. I was wondering how, if I heard right and how that goes about being replaced. If anybody can answer that?

Mr. Burkhardt – I believe it's an appointment by myself to fill that term until the next general election that the City has.

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't know, I thought it was kind of odd that an elected official was appointed then. I don't know but I heard that Kate was looking into it. Am I correct or not correct. I'm not saying you're right or wrong but it is kind of odd to appoint an elected official so I was wondering if Kate, if you have a chance, if you could.

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – The Auditor, the Law Director or the Treasurer can be appointed.

Mrs. Brickweg – They can be appointed even though they are elected positions?

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – I don't have it with me ...

Mr. Burkhardt – It's probably no different than if Council couldn't appoint somebody in thirty days, I would have appointed that person.

Mrs. Brickweg – I totally understand that but I would think and this is just my guessing that it would be similar to what we had to do with Steve, but since it is an elected official....

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – (the first part of this statement was inaudible) it would be appointed by the party, but I can pull it for you if you want me to. It's in the Revised Code.

Mrs. Brickweg – OK thank you, I think that's why Bob's asking so I guess if we could be better informed how to do it because I don't think it's ever happened in the past, I guess we can all learn how it works.

Bob Hausfeld – The last thing, Cindi, you talk about this study and that which one way or the other I could care less. You're talking about before they bring back these firemen, I've never heard anybody mention other than the firemen would love to see three men come back or four. I have not heard anybody up here in the Administration talk about bringing three guys back. What I'm hoping to see at the very least is the Fire Inspector brought back. That's kind of what I'm under the belief that that's what is going to happen, whether it happens or not, I don't know. I just heard you say we got to have this study done before we bring back these three guys and I might have missed it but I didn't hear anybody talk about bringing back three guys. That's all, I was just wondering if I missed something.

Greg Pfierman, 5010 Kemper – You guys got a lot of people working here making \$60 - \$70,000.00 a year and you all get free medical benefits. I'm self employed, I have to pay for my own. What's wrong with you all paying for your own? Really? I mean I have to pay for mine. What's wrong with

you all? A lot of you guys around here's gotten fat and rich. A lot of you all own property here. I know, I work on it. You guys make \$60 - \$70,000.00 a year. I have to work for mine. I don't get free medical benefits. I have to pay for mine. What's wrong with you guys? Maybe you should pay for some of your own and maybe you'll know what it's about, what the real world is about.

Mr. Walden – Just in response, I believe I make \$6,000.00 a year and I have no medical benefits and I believe that applies to the rest of Council as well.

Mr. Chatman – I don't want to beat a dead horse but in relation to the survey issue, I don't know if it's appropriate for me to ask this but I would hope that there's discussion at the COW that the heads of these depts. be invited to make presentations as to how dangerous a course that would be, especially if you're going to commit to whatever the decision would be because they could, I know Peggy gave an example but the opposite is true as well. They could come in and say you only need two police officers. If you guys are, would be really going find a lay off of all of those people, if they said the same thing with the fire dept. are you going to commit yourself to laying off all of those people. Mrs. Bedinghaus I have all the respect in the world for you, I really do. I believe and I like the fact that our government governs. I believe we put people in positions to make informed decisions and like I said this is out of total respect to you but you're making decisions with Dial-A-Ride and I want and we trust in you to make those decisions because we looked at your qualifications and Council decided that you would be an appropriate person for that and we're going to trust in that. I don't think we're going to go above your head and bring in outside agencies to question the decisions that you make as well. I like the idea of the City governing itself and the people that we are choosing to put in these positions. They study the aspects that are particular to those positions. In the case of the full time dept., these guys have expertise, most of them have worked these jobs for 15, 20 years before being promoted and I really agree with Kevin Meier. That is a dangerous, dangerous course to take.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Rodney, I am doing proposals for the Dial-A-Ride hours and the Medical Bus usage. I'm not doing any proposals as far as the need of the Dial-A-Ride in the City. I think there is a difference there and the proposals for the extra hours for the Medical Bus that people have been requesting will be given to our committee and then brought back to Council.

In my opinion I think that's a little bit different as far as giving or doing a survey about the Dial-A-Ride.

Mr. Chatman – Still, the decision would be made in house. Correct?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – For hours, increased hours, but not in general, is a Dial-A-Ride needed in your City. That's not what I'm looking for. That's not the survey that I'm doing.

Mrs. Brickweg – So, are we saying we might not need a fire or police or service dept.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – That is not what I'm saying at all. Okay, I'm not doing a survey to say do we need a Dial-A-Ride. And I'm not saying do we do a survey to say do we need a police and fire dept. What I'm saying is, what is our assessment need? What staffing do we need? What is the need for the City of St. Bernard?

Mr. Chatman – I promise this is my last comment. The way that I'm viewing is they are basically one and the same. We're assessing the amount of hours needed for the bus and if we're talking about these depts. we're assessing the amount of full time hours that we need to fill these spots. There are assessments on man hours that have budgetary ramifications but I'm looking at simply wanting us to understand if we are going to abide by some outside agency, pay this expense for it, if there is a chance that we will not agree with laying off that many people or if there is a chance that we agree that we are not going to hire all these people, however that survey that survey might go. If there's simply a chance that we might not want to commit to abiding by that decision, then I think we should go the way that we always do and that is let our chiefs and heads of depts. make those decisions because it wouldn't make sense to spend that money and not abide by the recommendations they give. I promise, I'm done.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just have a question for Rodney. Were you asking that the chiefs be put on next week's COW agenda to give a presentation, I didn't understand if that's what you want?

Mr. Chatman – Yes, if I can make that recommendation. I didn't know if I had the authority to ask you that, but that was my hope that I see that done.

Mrs. Brickweg – As the Safety Director you can ask for anything you want to be on the COW agenda so I will put that on there. Will you be informing both chiefs then of that?

Mr. Chatman – Absolutely.

Mr. Walden – Council will go into Executive Session at this time. If anyone would like to wait around until we come out, you are welcome to return at that time.

Mrs. Brickweg –The next COW meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:30p.m.

Council went into Executive Session.

After Executive Session a motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adjourn passed 7-0.