

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2009**

Mayor Burkhardt – Before the regular order of business tonight I would like to introduce our newest member of the City of St. Bernard – our mascot. The Holiday Activity Committee has purchased a St. Bernard mascot for our fine City. He will participate in City functions and bring a smile to everyone’s face. We are currently looking for a name for our new mascot, so if you have a suggestion please drop it off at City Hall in the mailbox outside the main entrance. Please include your name, address and phone number along with your suggestion. We will be taking your suggestions through March and will announce the winner and award a small token of our appreciation at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, March 5, 2009 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Mrs. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix.

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

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – Curtis Walden will again be representing St. Bernard next Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> during the “Mayors-for-Meals” campaign which will run from Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Curtis for such a wonderful contribution to our community. At this time I would like to read the proclamation into the minutes”

*BE IT PROCLAIMED WHEREAS;* the Meals on Wheels Association of America in March, 2009 declares the seventh annual national “Mayors-for Meals” campaign intended to increase public awareness about the nutritional needs of Seniors living at home.

*AND WHEREAS;* Wesley Community Services fosters and supports Seniors seeking to remain in their home for as long as possible through the provision of the central home based services.

*AND WHEREAS;* Wesley Community Services Meals-On-Wheels annually provides nearly 250,000 nutritious meals, including physician prescribed Senior choice meals for individuals with cardiac disease, kidney disease,, and swallowing and chewing problems

*AND WHEREAS;* on Wednesday, December 27, 2006, Wesley Community Services delivered its one millionth meal since 1999.

*AND WHEREAS;* in 2008 nearly 2,500 individuals received one or more services including homemaker housecleaning, medical transportation and Meals-On-Wheels.

*NOW THEREFORE; I William Burkhardt, Mayor of the City of St. Bernard do hereby proclaim March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as “Mayors-for-Meals Week” benefitting Seniors served by Wesley Community Services.*

Summer employment application deadline was Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be reviewing the applications over the next few days and will be sending out letters to all applicants by the end of March.

City Hall will be open next Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1pm. The Recreation staff will be on hand to continue selling pool passes. Beat the lines and the crowd at the pool and buy early. Pass prices remain the same as 2008 with the return of the Grandparent pass. The grandparent pass is limited to 4 grandchildren and each additional grandchild will be an additional \$5.00.

Also, the St. Bernard Women’s Club is currently accepting donations for our Troops overseas. Please drop off any nonperishable food item, toiletries, DVDs, etc. at City Hall. I don’t think we can do enough to support our men and women of the armed forces.

I would also like to acknowledge Officer Minshall who was hurt while in the line of duty. He is in our thoughts and prayers and we wish him a quick recovery.

Also, following the regular order of business I would like to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The February Auditor’s reports for the cash balances in our various funds and for the expenditures from those funds are prepared for tonight’s meeting. The receipts report was also distributed to Council and the Treasurer.

Expenditures for the month of February:	\$ 749,607.27
Expenditures for the year thru February 28 <sup>th</sup> :	\$ 1,785,607.73

Before Council tonight is Resolution No. 3, 2009. This Resolution establishes a letter of credit for the St. Bernard Community Improvement Corporation for up to \$1 million for projects approved by City Council.

Also before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 9, 2009.

The Ordinance provides for the transfer of \$1,855,000 from the General Fund Cash Account and \$1,025,000 from the Master Plan Fund Cash Account to the cash accounts of the following funds: General Bond Retirement Fund for \$1,550,000 and Master Plan Fund for \$1,330,000. The transfer from the Master Plan Fund is in the amount of the proceeds from the \$1.5 million note, which the City issued last September, less the amount already loaned to the St. Bernard Community Improvement Corporation. The City is redeeming this one year note because one of the specific purposes of the note is no longer a viable project. The transfer from the General Fund covers the interest on the note as well as replenishing the Master Plan Fund to cover its appropriations.

This Ordinance also establishes line items to receive and expend the funds received from FEMA for the remnants of hurricane Ike that passed through the City last September.

This Ordinance also provides for an additional appropriation of \$73,032 to FEMA expenses, \$30,000 to Building Maintenance City Hall and \$800 to Health Department Licensing. All these items were discussed at the COW except the \$800 for the Health Department Licensing. That particular line item covers what the City has to remit to the State of Ohio from licensing fees the City charges for commercial, non-commercial and vendor food service operations. Last year expenditures from this line item were over \$1,300. Why the appropriations for this year were only \$560 I do not know.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Sipe – The receipts for the month of February: \$ 712,238.33  
Receipts for the year through February: \$1,356,792.28  
With Ordinance No. 9 and Resolution No. 3 on the table this evening it is my understanding and comment to please pass these Ordinances so that we can take care of the issue with the Bond repayment to save the City a little bit of money in interest by calling in the note early and also allowing the CIC to have funds available to them for the purposes of advancing the City.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Chatman – I want to start off my report with an apology and that apology is that I'm looking through my paperwork and I see that I did not bring with me the fire report or the report of the Fire Dept. for the month of February, 2009. Oh, Ms. Hausfeld has it, great. I do have the Police report in front of me, however. During the month Police officers investigated 19 accident and took 21 offense reports. Of those offenses, 12 have already been cleared. Officers made 55 misdemeanor arrests along with 3 arrests for felonies. We responded to 46 parking complaints and issued 13 citations for parking violations. We have issued 99 traffic citations and 125 warnings for traffic violations.

You may have seen in coming into City Hall this evening that we have taken delivery on one of the new Police cars. We had the officer outside with the car and the lights going. As I mentioned in the COW, I'm excited about a lot of the new safety features on these vehicles, up to and including the color of the vehicle, the placement of the equipment inside the car that makes it user friendly for the officers and some of the equipment that is installed like the camera equipment that is inside the car and the placement, the unique placement of the lighting on the car that helps keep the officers safe and enhances their ability to see in the night time hours.

Just prior to tonight's meeting we did have a Block Watch Meeting. I am still very encouraged by the conversation and questions from the citizens. I'm very optimistic about the future of that program within the City and you will continue to hear more from my chair in relation to Block Watch in the future.

Also, we are now in the month of March. We do have a program underway for the month of March. It is a free gunlock program. If you have hand guns and you would like a safety lock for your hand gun, please come to the Police Station. We are not doing a big brother attempt. We're not going to ask you a bunch of questions. We just want to help keep our citizens and especially our children safe as we enter some of the warm months where children are coming outside and they're visiting one another. It is only a good idea and a good recipe for preventing a tragedy if we take some safeguards in securing the weapons that we have in our homes.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – I'm asking Council to approve Ordinance No. 10, 2009. This is for the Municipal Building roof, also to OK Ordinance No. 9, 2009 for additional money to replace the roof. We appropriated \$50,000 and the winning bid was for \$76,275. If passed tonight we can start the work on March 10<sup>th</sup> and weather permitting be done by April before the rainy month.

We had 3 more sewer catch basins needing to be replaced at the St. Bernard Square at the cost of \$1990.00. We had a sewer line break above the ceiling in the Teen Center Hall and the cost was around \$2200.00. I'm just informing Council how the money is being spent, because these are not things you can budget for and if I need more money for the things that was budgeted, Council will know where the money went.

Duke Energy will be working on 2 transformers in Alpine heights on March 10th and the weather date of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Power will be off from 9:00am until 3:00pm. It might not be that long but they have to cover themselves. This is being done around the condos. Please unplug your appliances.

I have been in touch with the company who was delivering the flyers by throwing them out the car window. I have stopped their services until they can put them on the porch or door handle.

I want people to know the new salt we purchased is brown in color. It comes from Peru and it is pure salt. People have been asking about the color so I wanted to report it so they know it is not sand.

I would like to be put on the agenda for the COW to discuss an invoice I received from last year.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – I have no issues with tax tonight. At this point I would like to mention something. Since Phil took office early this year, there were two issues that I needed to be corrected that hadn't been fixed all last year. I mentioned that the doors in the back some didn't lock when going down the hallway. Phil took care of them right away. Also the door leading out to the elevator did not lock properly and we have to lock that, we're responsible for locking that every night. He took care of that. I want to thank Phil for his attention for getting things done. On a personal note, I mentioned to him one day that a light on Errun Lane was out, when I came home that night it was fixed. I want to thank Phil for his dedication and attention on getting the job done.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance No. 9, 2009.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – First of all I want to apologize to Rodney. The Chief gave me the report during your little meeting tonight. I do have the Fire Dept.'s monthly report for February. Fire runs were 4, motor vehicle accident response 2, false alarms 8, other 7, total calls for February, 21. Emergency medical responses transported to the hospital were 38, not transported – 23 which was a total of 61. Inspection activity, for sprinkler inspections were 3, permit inspections were 2, commercial fire inspections were 22 for a total of inspections of 27. Also, under the training activity, we have paramedic protocol, aerial ladder job performance requirements which was a total hours of 88 for training in February. That is the Fire Dept. report.

I also, last week, was given a little tip thing to share with the residents and it says help make your hometown safer. Watch "Crime Stoppers" videos of most wanted criminals. Tipsters can call the "Crime Stoppers" hotline and can be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000. You can tune into Time Warner Cable Digital Channel 1111, for category "Crime Stoppers"

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – The Service Dept. received a letter from Mike Balz, the Community Outreach Coordinator for Hamilton County Solid Waste Management. I would like to read it: Congratulations St. Bernard residents! In 2008 you recycled 351 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper. Residents saved resources, conserved energy, and reduced pollution by recycling.

The recycling efforts in St. Bernard:

- Saved 3,037 trees
- Conserved enough energy to power 61 average homes for an entire year

- Avoided the need for 87 tons of iron ore, limestone, and coal
- Reduced greenhouse gases equivalent to removing 223 cars from the road for a year

Recycling reduces pollution so the air we breathe is cleaner, conserves natural resources so we will have them to use in the future, and decreases the energy needed to make new products. Recycling also boosts our local economy by creating 169,000 jobs and \$6 billion in annual wages just in the State of Ohio. On average, each household in St. Bernard recycled 339 pounds in 2008. That's 11.47% of all the waste you generate. Don't have a bin? St. Bernard makes it easy! Call 242-0086 to request your bin or sticker today.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – Just a reminder that the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee will be meeting at 6:30 next week before the COW. We will be discussing a number of Ordinances, one of which Mr. Zix brought up last week. It was an Ordinance regulating satellite dishes, I believe, so we have something proposed there. I would ask Mr. Wiedmann and Mr. Moeller to be present as well.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – For the first part of my report, I'm sad to announce that Graeter's has decided to build their new plant in Bond Hill. It actually is not a done deal, they still need to wait for the city to approve the construction and all the permits. The City of Cincinnati actually gave Graeter's five acres on Paddock Rd. for the plant as well as a ten million dollar loan to be paid back over 20 years. These incentives still also need to be voted on by City Council and as much as we tried to get them, it's really hard to compete with somebody giving somebody a ten million dollar loan. It's not like we can afford to do that.

On the second part of my report, at last night's Business Assoc. meeting, Al Kanters announced that he spoke with Jeff Zeigler, Director of Revitalization for the Heritage Ohio Main Street Program on Tuesday and he advised him that St. Bernard was not selected for the Main Street Program, primarily because we are not focusing on the preservation of historic buildings. When Al made our presentation on Friday to the selection committee, it was clear from the questions that they were primarily focused on historic building preservation rather than developing a vibrant commercial business district. I got the feeling that Jeff and the Main Street staff, the ones that came down for the visit, thought that we were a good candidate but we just didn't fit the mold of the way Ohio has been running the Main Street Program. However, Al believes the application process accomplished much of what we wanted for our Main Street Program and that has helped us formalize our approach to our business district revitalization and helped us to focus our efforts and develop a team of business owners, residents and Council members to work on Vine St. revitalization. The City of St. Bernard can still become an associate member of the Main St. Program at the cost of \$1,000 per year which gives us access to all the same support services. We would still be able to attend the annual conference, access the quarterly training workshops, telephone consultation with the Main Street staff, staff visits for strategic planning, and access to all the information and resources in their library. In essence, we get access to all the same support and programs there is just less accountability, which means less reporting on our City's end. And we can't review Heritage Ohio Main Street name. In other words, we can't say we're an Ohio Main Street Community. Jeff will be sending us more information regarding what we need to do and what

an associate membership is. Al thinks for \$1,000 we might want to become an associate member for at least a year and take advantage of the training for members of the steering committee. We'll discuss this at the next CIC Board meeting which will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Main Street Committee which will be changing its name to the Vine Street Committee will meet at 5:00 pm before the Board meeting. The associate membership may actually work better for us since we don't have to meet all of their attendance requirements and we can take part in their program and use what we want.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – No report.

Mrs. Brickweg – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

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

1. Approved the minutes of the February 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
2. Council and the administration discussed what was needed as a commitment to the CIC when the bond is repaid. It was determined that a resolution stating the city will distribute one million dollars for future projects which will be voted and approved on with each project will work. Council voted 6 to 0 to place a resolution on the table for the next council meeting.

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

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

1. Bill informed council that at the last Board of Health meeting the City's Health Sanitarian, Robert Evans, requested a raise of \$4,267.00 (18%) which would make his yearly salary \$27,600.00 a year. Robert stated that with all the new federal and state health regulations his responsibilities have increased and he is working four or more days, instead of his usual three days. Council discussed this and agreed this raise is too high and that raises need to be presented during the budget process in the fall and not after the yearly budget has been approved. Bill stated he will inform the board and Robert.
2. Bill thanked Walt Moeller for all his hard work and dedication in setting up the City's new phone system and various computer work.
3. Bill showed council the new city dog mascot suit and announced that there will be a naming contest for the mascot. Anyone wishing to enter the contest can drop off a card with their name, address, phone number and their idea of a mascot name at City Hall. The City will be placing a mail box outside City Hall, similar to what is done at Christmas time. All entries must be in by the end of March and the winner will be announced April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
4. Bill stated that JMA is working on a rendering for a possible Bertus Street Park housing project. When the drawings are complete he will organize a town meeting.
5. Bill informed council that the City's web site update is continuing and that a list of "for sale" properties was provided to the City from the CIC and it will now be available to view on the City's web site.
6. Bill announced that the "Mommy and Me" swim class appears to be very popular and it will start March 12<sup>th</sup>.

7. Don Tobergte asked Bill if the City web site can have a link with the full version of City ordinances. Council and the administration agreed to start listing the ordinances from January, 2009 and forward.

**Auditor, Walt St. Clair:**

1. Walt informed council that he needs an ordinance to create new line items for the FEMA money that the City received from the Hurricane Ike cleanup. He needs a FEMA Cash Account, FEMA Expense Account, FEMA Transfer Out and a FEMA Transfer In line item. The City received \$73,032.00 of FEMA funds. Council voted 6 to 0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.
3. Walt informed council that the State Auditor has requested the CIC and Holiday Activity Committee run their accounts through the City instead of on their own. Walt will continue to work with the State Auditor on how to do this.
4. Walt asked council for the following transfers to cover the City paying back the 1.5 million dollar bond:  
\$1,550,000.00 to the general bond retirement cash account  
\$305,000.00 to the master plan cash account  
For a total of \$1,855,000.00 from the general fund  
Council voted 6 to 0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.

**Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus:** absent

**Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:**

1. Rodney reported that the city has received one of the new Police cruisers. He is very pleased with some of the new details such as the in-car cameras, lighting, and the color. He will have the new cruiser outside of City Hall before the next council meeting for people to view.
2. Rodney reminded everyone that the City Departments weight challenge will begin March 14<sup>th</sup> and run through April 25<sup>th</sup>. The contest will be between department teams with a combined person weight. Each person will be weighed privately with the City Nurse and the totals combined.
3. Rodney announced that he will have a Block Watch meeting at 6:30 PM before the March 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
4. Rodney reminded everyone that during the month of March residents can go to the Police Department and get a free lock for their gun. If anyone needs more than one lock they can stop back to the Police Department after March to see if there any left over.

**Service Director, Phil Stegman:**

1. Phil provided council with spreadsheets regarding bids for repair to the Municipal Building roof after last week's council meeting. At this COW he provided additional information and reviewed numbers and asked councils permission to enter into a contract with Kerkan Roofing, Inc. to do the work at a cost of \$76,275.00, plus any possible incidentals that they may incur after they remove the old roof. Phil asked the ordinance be for the amount of \$80,000.00. Council budgeted \$50,000.00 so Council will need to an additional appropriation of \$30,000.00. Council voted 6 to 0 to place this ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.
2. Phil stated that the salt the City threw this past Sunday is brown, but it is salt not sand. It was purchased from Evans Landscaping and is from Peru. This salt is mined differently so it is finer and brown in color.
3. Phil asked council their thoughts regarding advertising carriers throwing their papers in resident's front yards, instead of placing them on resident's porches or doors. This is starting to cause a problem because the papers do not weigh enough and they are flying

4. Phil reported that juveniles given community service have been working in the City the last few weekends and will continue to do so.
5. Phil informed council that the backstop-fence and telephone pole repair have been completed at Ross Park.

**Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser:** absent

**Treasurer, Jamie Sipe:** Jamie reported that the City will save between \$28,000.00 and \$30,000.00 if the bond money is paid back by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck:** no report

**Public Improvements, Kevin Meier:** no report

**Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg:**

Peggy reported that she contacted the Hamilton County Board of Elections as requested by council and obtained the information regarding how to amend the City Charter. Council previously discussed the idea of changing elected positions to four year - staggered terms. She informed council of the requirement of a majority approved resolution and the dates when items need to be filed. Some council members said they would like to speak with citizens to get their thoughts on this idea before it is voted to place it on the November ballot. Peggy said she will read a detailed report at the next council meeting to inform the citizens and encourage them to contact their council members regarding this issue.

**Safety, Patty Hausfeld:** Patty reported that Rodney provided her with information regarding Crime Stoppers and she will read a report to inform the citizens at the next council meeting.

**Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus:** absent

**Service, Don Tobergte:** no report

**Finance, Greg Zix:** Greg stated that he saw on the news that the City applied for some of the stimulus money. He also suggested that our current library get a larger sign. Phil stated he has been discussing this with the library.

**Audience Participation:**

Bob Hausfeld stated that he was unhappy with the way the City recently handled the promotion and demotion of an officer in the Fire Department. Bob was informed that the promotion should not have occurred. There was confusion with a 1999 ordinance that stated the city could have four lieutenants in the Fire Department, but this was a temporary ordinance.

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

1. A resolution stating that the city will provide one million dollars for future CIC projects which will be voted and approved on with each project.
2. An ordinance to create FEMA line items and transfer funds to pay off the bond and a \$30,000.00 additional appropriation to pay for the new roof.
3. An ordinance to enter into a contract with Kerkan for a new roof.

Next Council Meeting; March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.

Next C.O.W. Meeting: March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Dear Mayor Burkhardt,

I'm so sorry this has taken me so long in writing. On Jan. 26, 2009 I fell and broke my femur. A call was placed and the Fire Dept. and our Paramedics came to my house. These wonderful men in our Fire Dept. braved the elements (snow), put me at ease, took care of me and took me to the hospital.

We are so lucky to live in this town, with such dedicated, caring men who happen to work in the Fire Dept. We are truly blessed. Thank you and our wonderful Fire Dept.

Sincerely,

Lillian Ashbrook

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to receive and file the communication and give a copy to the Fire Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

### **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2009. A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN LOANS FROM THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO TO THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION FOR FUTURE PROJECTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 3, 2009. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Resolution No. 3, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2009. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO ESTABLISH NEW LINE ITEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 9, 2009. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 9, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2009. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A PROPER CONTRACT WITH KERKAN ROOFING INCORPORATED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ROOF ON THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 10, 2009. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Hausfeld – I should have done this right before this but I just wanted to thank Phil for all of his hard work. He gave us a list and he informed us earlier on as far as what was going on as far as the roof and stuff and what it was going to cost and I just wanted to thank him for checking into the different things and letting us know what is going on. Thanks Phil.

Mr. Stegman – Just to let Council know, I have been talking to the Seniors. I've also talked to the Library. We are not going to have, we're never going to shut them down. We're going to have some blockage of doorways and different things throughout the project. The Dial-A-Ride and the Fitness Center will have to come back down and around to the steps when they're tearing off the roofs and parts and sections of that but I have been in communication with all those folks and they're all aware and they're all willing to work around it. Just so the people out there know that the Fitness Center will be operational, even if it's barricaded off down there, they will be able to gain access around the building.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Tobergte – First off, I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property and also personnel problems.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'll second that.

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – I was going over the Auditor's report and I have a question for Eddie. The receipts for the first two months are down 4.5%. Can we expect that for the rest of the year? Do you have any indication on that?

Mr. Geiser – I have no way of knowing. It would just be a guess, Donny. Receipts are down, the economy is down. For me to say, yes, it's going to be down, would be making a projection on something I don't have any basis for.

Mr. Tobergte – Also on the same report for Rodney, the Police Comp Time we used 30% of the budget in only two months. I wonder if we could put that on COW. I talked with Rodney and he's going to check with the Chiefs and see if we need to add more money especially with the officer being out for a while with his knee injury.

Mr. Chatman – That's no problem, I'd be glad to look into that. Would you like the discussion to be next week?

Mr. Tobergte – Yes, at COW. Also, for Phil, there's an apartment building at Sullivan and Delmar, they finally cleaned it all up, but they put the trash out by the street. It's not by the curb but in between the garage and the sidewalk and it blows all over. Is it possible to get a garbage truck up there tomorrow and pick it up? I know it's not their regular day but they finally got it cleaned up and I'd like to get it out of there before it gets trashed again.

Mr. Stegman – Sure.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to ask Eddie a question based on what Don said. Is there any way you could look and just let us know at the COW if it was like one company that was down or if it looks like it was across the board because that might help us a little. You don't have to say it tonight if you're not ready.

Mr. Geiser – The only thing I can say is a lot of times how well we do depends on when certain checks from certain companies roll in. At the end of the year last year, very close to the last day of the year, a large check rolled in which may have normally come in January. Obviously that would make a big difference, it was a very large check. If it would have come in January it would have been a good start for this year and not so good for last year. It's just a matter of where it rolls in.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Zix – I'd like to be placed on the COW agenda to discuss the gateway signage next week.

Mrs. Brickweg – Al Kanters also said that he's going to be at the COW next week if anybody has any questions of the Main Street Program. I guess since the signage was in under his committee he said he would assist with that also.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Should we be talking next week at the COW about that Auditor's committee that they would like for us to set up? Let's put that on the COW.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. Chatman – I do want to bring something up, it's maybe more appropriate under Old Business, I don't know. Just for information purposes if you hear this. The Safety Dept. and the Recreation Dept., we have undergone a weight loss challenge throughout the City where the Police Dept., Fire Dept., City Hall, and Service Dept. are competing against one another on our teams and the % of weight loss that we have. This challenge will begin March 14<sup>th</sup> and conclude April 25<sup>th</sup>. What I'm hoping will occur out of this is, one, we're not doing the individual things that you see on TV where you're standing in front of everyone and having your weight seen and broadcast. It's going to be a private affair between the challenge members and the city nurse, Laura Schmitt. However, what I'm hoping will occur out of this is that we begin the process of dialoging it as a City with some healthier ways to go about our day to day business. Incorporate it in what we're going to do with the information coming out of the Health Dept. on diet and fitness and things of that nature and hopefully this will begin throughout the challenge a process of lifestyle changes for all of the participants and if successful, we probably have no reservations at all of doing it again and opening it up to the residents.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just a comment on that because I was telling a couple of people about the weight loss program and stuff and a couple of comments to me were, and this is more directed towards Bill, they would like to see, not your weight, I did not mean that, what they would like to see is something not necessarily roped off but maybe like, their suggestions were to put a counter, like a mile thing so people know like, and I don't know how you would do it, I have no clue, but I told

them I would bring it up and then also if anybody is interested maybe starting like a walking routine or program if people wanted. A lot of people don't like to walk by themselves and then there are other people that do like to walk by themselves. But if there's something like that and people were interested then maybe we could start something like that, like a walking program or something like that. Just a for instance from a couple of the residents that were talking to me.

Mr. Chatman – To address that issue, we have submitted to the Recreation Dept. a one mile, a two mile and a five K path for people who want to engage in any walking, jogging or running throughout the challenge and myself and Phil Stegman talked briefly about possibly trying to set up some of those times when we can do this as team exercises. Exercises where teams go out and walk or just anybody involved in the challenge. Those things are underway and all of these suggestions that we get are welcome because I do want to see this as a lifestyle change.

Mrs. Brickweg – We did have it on, I did have it on the COW to discuss the Audit Committee, but I also want to let the public know what this is about because they might need some assistance. Basically before the COW last week with the State Auditor, met with the Council members and to summarize it pretty simply is, the State is going to start watching everybody up close and they have recommended that we have an Audit Committee because the ORC has changed and in a nutshell, if something would go wrong and like say somebody committed fraud and Council voted on an Ordinance that might be included with that but we didn't even know that part, it doesn't matter. Council members are now held liable and so they're going to be watching a lot closer. He recommended getting a CPA to come in and he would actually run the Audit Committee, not be on Finance Committee pretty much though and then that person would then pass it on to Council would vote. My opinion on it was that I would like to see us either hire somebody or hire a firm or a group to help do this and I did talk to them after the meeting and he said that wasn't a half bad idea. I said I personally am not comfortable having say some ones aunt come in who has a CPA and says yes this is OK and then Council votes on it and I'm held liable. I would just like to see a little bit more of professionalism and he said if we had somebody that we were actually paying to do it, they would be putting their license on the line also. That's just food for thought but if anybody, any residents know anybody that could help with this, if they know any CPA, any attorneys, anybody with financial experience, if they could come to the COW that would be great but this is something we're really going to have to look into because like he said, when the reports come back from the State Auditor, if they find the City of St. Bernard at fault with anything this Audit Committee is going to be in charge of making sure it gets fixed and making sure the practices are put into place where it doesn't happen again. So this is pretty important and I just think we need to take it very seriously when we're doing it.

Mr. Walden – At this time then we will recess for Executive Session. Council was in Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property and personnel matters.

Motion by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mr. Meier to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.