

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was given in honor of Pat Weiterman. Pat was the wife of former President of Council as well as former Planning and Development, Jerry Weiterman. She was the mother of Mike Weiterman, the former Service Department Forman.

Roll call showed all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Schildmeyer.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to approve the written minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who made Light Up St. Bernard and the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Light Up for Food contest a success. We had great participation from the community and all the volunteers. This event could not have been possible without the Village PAC, Recreation, Service and Police Departments. Santa and Mrs. Claus were also very impressed with the number of kids who came out to see them. Santa may be challenging the Grinch next year, so we may have another visitor out and about. It was a great night and by far the best one I have seen. Congratulations to the first place winners, the Robin's on Orchard, second place to the Sowder's on Jefferson and third place to the Luken's on Tower, and to all of the participants. We were able to collect 11,867 can goods for the St. Clement Food Pantry. What a great event! Also, Connor Morton, a St. Bernard resident, has volunteered to consult Mark Wendling on the proposed changes to our charter. A link has been posted to the village website and Facebook page and we need your input. I'd like to thank Matt Durbin and Nicole Klungle who notified me of a fake Facebook page in my name and tried to join "Keeping St. Bernard Informed" and "St. Bernard Neighbors." What was alarming was the survey had just been posted an hour earlier. Whomever was attempting to use my likeness, also had the graphics for the survey. I do take this seriously and I promise this will not go unresolved. I'd like to give Connor a quick plug on the survey.

Survey Consultant, Connor Morton- Thank you so much for letting me be here tonight. I live on Greenlee and just love living here in this community. After graduating from Miami, I was excited to leverage some of my skills and qualitative and quantitative research to help survey the community on the proposed charter amendments. I am really encouraging people to take the

survey. Please feel free to reach out to me to help distribute them. I am encouraging people to add them to their group chats, with friends and family, with all St. Bernardians. It is really important we got people to fill out this survey so everyone's voice can be heard. As for safety, all data is help as unidentifiable. They do ask for your first and last name, but that is completely scrubbed from the results of the survey, so you can feel safe giving your true authentic feedback. So, please fill out the survey.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Are we utilizing the newsletter to push this thing out? Maybe an email blast?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, as of today it is on the village website and Facebook page. We actually did pre-promote it in the last newsletter, but there has not been a special link sent out as of yet. We did let people know to look for it and it would be forthcoming.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- There are still people out there that do not do things on the computer. It might be a good idea to do another newsletter or something like that to promote the survey. I'd much rather do a paper or hard copy. Could they pick up a form here at City Hall?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- As a back-up, we could do a push in a special addition newsletter or call command and try to get the word out on a paper survey. Is that something that is reasonable for people who can't log on or don't feel comfortable?

Survey Consultant, Connor Morton- Yes, that is absolutely reasonable. The survey is printable so we can do that. The other thing I have built into the distribution is door to door. I can have my laptop, table or phone and help them fill it out on the spot. The averaged time it takes to do the survey is 3 minutes. This was we are not excluding people who are not as tech savvy. I am open to any and all recommendations.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I won't go into detail on the budget or the ordinance since I did it in the COW about a half hour ago. I would like to let you know that as of November the revenues are over the expenses by \$2,217,304.34 and I was able to transfer another million into the reserves. I'd also like to inform council and administration that our bond rating might be raising. Currently we are at an 82. They are very impressed with our increase revenues and the amount of our investments. I will hear back next week on the decision.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- You have before you ordinance 37 2022 which will be on the table tonight. I would appreciate you voting and approving that. I do need to go into executive session to discuss ongoing pending litigation.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- I have not yet received the STAR statement but after November and after the million-dollar deposit, our balance of \$10,120,000.00.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- Our leafer service will stop in December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please place leaves in cans or bags for them to be picked up after this date. The new fence at the pool is nearly completed with just a few finishing touches which needs warmer weather to complete. GCWW is nearly ready for their supplies for Orchard Street. Once they give the go ahead, we

will go out for bids. I am hoping to have Vine Street completed at the same time. The work on Vine Street by Martin and Church will start with the electrical circuit. I have opted to go underground again to keep the streetscape uniformed. We are working on walking trails for St. Bernard. I have mentioned to council about leveling trip hazards on our sidewalks. I have requested an estimate walking trail sidewalks only. That estimate was \$37,839.38. I recommend we do this. They do move quickly, and the demonstration was pleasantly surprising. Our playground equipment company is trying to get plastic and paint and aluminum from their supplier. This will delay our start till March. To My Community: Once again the spirit cast its spell and the merry season is upon us. It can be a bustling time. Make sure you save time for memories. Do not dwell there but rather let them fleetingly enjoy them and let them fade. You may brighten your own spirit and others by sharing these temporary recalls. We are very lucky to have memories. I believe they are magical. So, close your eyes and listen for the sleigh bells. Let your spirit ride and relish a wonderful season.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent, no report.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion passes 7-0.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- No report. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- No report. The Christmas function the city had was spectacular. Everybody that participated to make it a successful event, it was outstanding. Merry Christmas.

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- Tonight I have the service department report for November 2022. Trucks placed at residence 23, dumpsters 16, special picks up 130, 168.49 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. Recycling report shows 19.64 tons of recycling materials, 16.20 pounds of scrap metal, 8 tires and 8 30 yard roll offs. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- CIC has a meeting scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We are trying to arrange a guest to come in but if that doesn't happen, that meeting will be postponed. Keep an eye on the village calendar or Facebook. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Laws, Contracts and Claim, Ms. Bedinghaus- No report. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to all the people who helped with the Christmas event and thank you to all the administrators here at City Hall.

Marketing, Ray Culbertson- Thanks again to everybody who played a part with the holiday celebration. This year was by far the best year yet. I look forward to topping that next year. I'd like to thank, on behalf of the recreation department, the two platinum sponsors, St. Bernard Pub and Weideman Brewery. Also, the three gold sponsors, Caldwell Banker- Brandi Schildmeyer, Wyoming Air and St. Bernard LaRosa's. The next Historical Society meeting will take place in

the Municipal Building, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There will be a presentation on Cincinnati Radio history led by Mike Martini of WMKV. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Business and Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- No communications.

#### ORDINANCE 36 2022

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS, AND TRANSFERING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 36 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 36 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE 37 2022

AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNT FOE THE YEAR 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 37 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 37 2022. Motion passes 5-2.

#### ORDINANCE 38 2022

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND ESTABLISHING NEW LINE ITEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 38 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 38 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE 39 2022

ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND THE ST. BERNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT, OFFICERS, SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to amend Ordinance 39 by adding “sergeants” to the title. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the amended Ordinance 39 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt amended Ordinance 39 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I just wanted to thank the paramedics. The last few weeks have been rough. I’ve had covid. I was in the hospital with for my heart. The professionalism they showed, along with the prayers and well wishes, I just really want to say thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I’d like to be placed on the next agenda for the next COW to review the part time pay ordinance because we will have to work with the minimum wage. Even though there are raises in this budget, we need to appropriate them before we can provide them. I would also like to present the meals and entertainment resolutions.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- we have Chris Sauer, one of our recreation directors, who wanted to give a recap on the community garden.

Recreation Director, Chris Sauer- In early 2022 Carol Brown wanted to start a community garden. What began as a project here in St. Bernard has grown into another successful organization. We have raised over \$5,000.00. This money along with 100s of volunteer hours built 36 beds in the community garden. This summer, all of those beds were filled with vegetables and flowers. The St. Bernard Garden Club was officially formed. We have hosted parties and working days in the garden. We have sold vegetables at the fresh markets. Starting next month, we are going to begin starting gardening classes. We wanted to thank you for this opportunity and for your support. As we grow and hope to be a vibrant organization for this community for all the years to come. We are always looking for new members so please join us on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6pm in Centennial Hall where we will host our first gardening class.

Next COW will be held January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Council met in executive session.

Motion made by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adjourn. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting adjourned.