

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
May 22nd, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on May 22nd, 2025, in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed all seven members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson, and Mr. Estep.

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I would like to thank our awesome Recreation Department for another great concert this last Saturday where Slow Train played for our opening event of the season. They were fabulous, everyone had a wonderful evening with the great music, hanging out with family and friends, and of course all of the great grilled food prepared by our Rec. Dept. Thanks for showing up. I will most likely be announcing that during the time in which the Aquatic Center will be open that all access to the pavilion will need to be through the pool. That means that access cards will be deactivated for the pool season so that we can better monitor the pool and pavilion so that everyone can enjoy our facilities. We have been having issues with some undesirable conduct in the pavilion and with people propping the gate open so that those who do not have access cards can enter. I will be posting a code of conduct in the pavilion and for those who choose to not follow the rule will have their access eliminated. Please join us on Monday, May 26, at 10a in the lower-level parking lot of City Hall as we honor the following veterans from our community who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Donuts, coffee, and orange juice will be available after the ceremony in Centennial Hall.

Veterans Killed in WWI

Edward S. Dumler

Elmer J. Ellert

Fred W. Kalkbrenner

Stanley L. Masters

John H. Richter

Ambrose Simpson

Charles O. Stover

Carl G. Throenle

Veterans Killed in WWII

Hubert Backherms
Richard Brausch
Leslie O. Davis
William J. Devine
Kenneth Devore
Walter Dundes
Donald Hancock
August Hinnenkamp
Donald Huddleston
Arthur Manthey
William Montgomery
John Nunlist
Floyd Robbins
Gilbert Robbins
Ernest Samed
James R. Schaeper
William Seufert
Paul Schwartz
Leo Telintelo
Leonard Torbeck
Robert Volz
Carl Wallenhorst
Irvin Ward
Randolph Weir
Jerome Witzman

Veterans Killed in the Korean War

Edward Engelhardt

We will never grow tired of hearing their names and they will continue to be honored for their ultimate sacrifice.

May 29th, 2025 will be the last call for 7R91 LT Bill Ungruhe.

LT Ungruhe has been a resident of St. Bernard for his entire 66 years; he is a graduate of St. Clement, Roger Bacon, and Xavier University. He served five years in the US Army, leaving as a captain acting as a personnel / computer operations officer. He started at the St. Bernard PD on April 1, 1996, as a patrolman and was promoted to lieutenant in 2004; with his retirement in 2025 he completes nearly 30 years of service. He has worn many important hats during this time:

- patrol supervisor
- TAC (computers)
- public information officer (PIO)

- accreditation/collaborative standards manager (wrote the first policy/procedure manual, set up four RMS systems and social media programs)
- training LT
- founding member of the Hamilton County honor guard

LT Ungruhe said his three fondest memories are:

- policing in his hometown and the friendships with residents, co-workers, and other first responders over the years
- being a founding member of the HCPA Honor Guard.
- establishing the School Threat Assessment Team, training for the local schools and businesses

While missing his co-workers and citizens, he is looking forward to retirement to travel to his favorite spots in Colorado along with his supportive and loving wife of 43+ years, Elaine (Freese), and spending time with his children, Ben and Christina, and the grandkids. Lt. Ungruhe, we wish you and your family the best in your retirement. Be safe and healthy; we appreciate your 35 years of service to your community and country; you will be missed. If you have a chance to see Lt. Ungruhe before May 29, please stop him and thank him for his dedicated and faithful service to our village. Congratulations, well done, good and faithful servant!

In closing, great news for St. Bernard. US Medical Glove Company will now be occupying the former St. Bernard Soap location. They are projecting to create over 200 jobs for Ohio workers by the end of 2025, where they will operate 16 glove production lines here in the village. As soon as they announce hiring events, I will make that information available. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. First on my agenda is, I'm going to start working on the summer budget. My goal is to hopefully have the public meeting before the June council meeting so I can get it to the county by July. The second thing on the agenda tonight is, Ordinance 15 2025. The ordinance has a general fund transfer out of \$2,040,000 with \$1,500,000 going into master planned cash account and \$540,000 going to the capital improvement cash account. It also includes the following additional appropriations: \$5,000 into 2-C-2 Bureau of Inspections. That is the fee for the State Auditor to review out reports. \$2,000 into 2-O-9 Equipment Maintenance. We have had a lot of minor expenses that have been adding up. We are putting new electric for cameras and the pool area needed a lot of repairs. \$525,442.34 into 2-33-4 SCMR Contracts is the money for our portion of the Greenlee Ave Project. \$10,000 into 2-33-12 Traffic Lights. We have been noticing a lot of traffic lights are going out that need to be replaced. \$1,487,876.00 into 05-MP-9 Streets and Sewers. This is for the Greenlee Ave Water and Langly Water Projects. We will be getting this money back from the Water Works. We have actually received \$218,000 this week for the Langly Project. Last is \$542,910.00 into 07-01 Capital Improvements for the second payment of the new fire engine. Any questions? That concludes my report.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Peggy, when you mentioned last week, you needed more money for additional reports or audits.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- The Bureau of Inspections line item will cover that.

Director of Law, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you. You have before you this evening and to be voted on, is Resolution 5 2025. This deals with the agreement with energy alliances, as you recall, this is the organization that's going to assist the village in having an energy aggregator should that pass the ballot initiative. They're going to provide services basically essentially free of charge to the village and as championed by Mr. Moreton. I also have for you Ordinance 16 2025, which I understand was discussed at the Committee of the Whole. This ordinance is transferring the now empty lot at 4416 Greenlee Ave. to the Community Improvement Corporation. It's my understanding that any tax liability would pass to that entity as well and it would now be marketed and sold. I do need to go into executive council this evening toward the end of the meeting to discuss pending and potential litigation. That concludes my report, thank you.

Treasurer, Ms. Darrenkamp- Thank you Mr. President. I'm going to report on the Star Ohio account balance as of April 30th of this year. At that time, we had a share value of \$11,292,250.71 and that concludes my report. Thank you.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Williams- Thank you Mr. President. I have supplied a written report to the Council previously, but I wanted to point out a couple of items in there. First, I think I mentioned this briefly last month, the village is working on, through a grant that we received from Hamilton County, on the Vine St. Historic Business District. We have a committee that was set up to review 4 proposals that we received from very good firms, then we had our committee narrowed it down to two. Those two firms will be coming in next week for interviews and we hope by sometime next month that we'll have a recommendation to the council for approval of a contract with a recommended firm. Again, that our committee consist of myself and Mayor Stuchell, two residents in the community, one business owner and one resident in the community and their representative from Alloy, who's helping us through the process. It's gone very well so far. Secondly, I wanted to bring it to the council a potential project that kind of came out of the blue in some discussions, early discussions a few weeks ago with Fifth Third Bank regarding a sidewalk issue. We found out that they were going to be paving their parking lot. If you're aware of how the property lines run in our municipal parking lot, it's sort of odd. It is an election of three different pie shape parcels of property, one owned by Fifth Third, one by us and one by the Eagles Club. So that contains all the parking, both on the side of the building as well as here behind us. So, we looked into that, and this question came up because the parking lot. Obviously, it's old and it's been a while since it's been paved. Is there a possibility that we could work jointly to be able to get that parking lot repaved? So, we started exploring that a bit, sort of gone through and I put that in my report to you and gone through long and winding road to determine that ultimately back in 1981, the city at the time, Saint Bernard had agreed with the Eagles Club to obtain an easement because part of this building was built on their property, inadvertently, I guess, and as part of that easement agreement at the time, the city had agreed to maintain in perpetuity their portion of the parking lot. To pave it, stripe it and keep it clean and so forth. There's a little recall in there and that we had a hard time trying to track down exactly where that easement group and signed agreement was. We still haven't quite found that and whether it was filed or not. But I did send the information to our law director, and she agrees with me that the intent is clear. That the council did pass an ordinance for that easement. We just can't seem to find the signed copy of it at this point. I think the law director is going to make a stab at the county recorder's office to see if we can find it. If we don't have that, the council probably will

need to go back and just get a signed copy of that easement agreement so that we have it. You can record it properly with the county anyway. We wanted to see if the council would have interest in moving forward with the shared project. The shared project would be between Fifth Third Bank and the village of Saint Bernard. Again, there's three parcels, but two of which would be our responsibility and one that we own plus the one that we have the easement on and the total of cost of each of those properties, ours would be roughly \$51,000. The one that's on the Eagles property would be \$22,000. So, it would be a total of \$74,000 to pay for the project. It is slightly under the state bid limits. I know it exceeds the limit that the council has approved previously. I did ask the law director to look at that to see if in fact you wanted to move forward with this as a joint project versus trying to coordinate two different contractors paving one parking lot, if we could do that. She could suspend on those rules or make a change just temporarily for this particular project. And you know, she probably has not had much time to look at that yet. But in talking to the mayor, it would be our recommendation that based on the age of the parking lot and the fact that 1/3 of it is going to be paved anyway, that it might make sense for us to join in that project. So, if in fact it's something that's possible we'd like to bring it back to the council for approval at another meeting if possible. That concludes my report unless anybody has questions.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- April 2025 end of month receipts:

Tax collections for April 2025: \$1,164,470.00

April 2025 is down 7.51 % or \$94,548 from April 2024.

Refunds for April: -\$149,716.00

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$359.00

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$82,595.00.

Sharon and I are still auditing 2024 tax returns, we should be done by the end of June.

Letters have been sent out to those missing tax documents needed to complete our audits.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President, the Finance Committee met yesterday to discuss vacation payout policies in a home improvement fund. In collaboration with LISK, we approved the vacation payouts for Chief Simos and Chief Young, identified A mock vacation payout policy moving forward and aligned on next steps for a 0% interest home improvement program to assist with code infraction remedies. I want to say thank you to Chief Young for providing his research and sample materials for vacation policy and to Mayor Stuchell for joining the meeting at offering insight on both topics. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 18th at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. I would like to again bring attention to Head Start. This is a program that provides a variety of services to families here in Saint Bernard, including comprehensive preschool programming for income eligible children ages three to five years old, nutritious snacks and meals, and health, speech, language and hearing screenings. Early Head Start also provides comprehensive in-home programming for children ages 3 years and younger. In weekly home visits with the qualified home educator, Jennifer Boggs from the Head Start program informed me that they already have 14 children signed up through Saint Bernard Elmwood Place Elementary that have the capacity for two more, so please reach out to her at 513-674-4329. Additionally, I was happy to join elected leaders from around the nation, in signing a joint letter to Congress asking that they oppose any legislation that would allow any increase in the truck weight or length limit. This advocacy is led

by the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks in an attempt to protect our streets and other transportation infrastructure from unnecessary damage. This group cited that the currently proposed increase in weight and length permits would result in over \$3.6 billion of emergency repairs to infrastructure around the nation, thus further rationalizing my support. Lastly, I'm excited to have Resolution 5 2025 up for a vote tonight, which kicks off our collaboration with Energy Alliance to bring the opportunity of energy aggregation to the polls this November. This financially smart opportunity for our village is a surefire way to bring relief to folks already dealing with regular bills like the utilities. I'm excited to vote yes and anticipate my colleagues on council to do the same thank you that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Waste Collection Fee Report for April 2025 shows that \$25,527.10 was remitted to the Village.

As part of the Waste Collection Report for the month of April 2025, the Service Department completed the following:

- 45 dump trucks spotted at residences.
- 20 dumpsters spotted at residences.
- 165.99 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.
- 23.3 tons of recycling material sent to Rumpke Recycle.
- 2,160 lbs. of scrap metal
- 82 tires have also been collected and recycled with the Hamilton County tire amnesty program over Earth Day week.
- Additionally, during our Hazardous Waste Collection Day with Hamilton County Resource, St. Bernard alone contributed an average of 391 pounds of diverted material per household, helping divert waste from the 50,314 total tons of hazardous waste collected countywide during this initiative.

Lastly, as a last reminder we invite you to join us for Shred Day at the Safety Center at 4200 Vine Street this Saturday, May 24th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

- Enter the Safety Center parking lot from Vine Street
- follow the signs through the lot to reach the shredding truck,
- and then exit onto Mitchell Avenue from the back of the building.

This event is free and open to all residents, a convenient way to securely dispose of old documents as part of your spring cleaning. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 513-543-9044. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee Meeting but there are a few things I would like to highlight. First, I would like to thank Barb Jennings for giving such an informative presentation for The St. Bernard-Ludlow Grove Society on the Union Terminal construction and the art, types of art and the artists that made the Union Terminal such a unique beautiful building. For those of us who love to learn the history of our area, these meeting are the place to be every third Monday of the month in the Main Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm. Next, I would like to let everyone know that The Summer Reading Program begins at our Public Library on May 31st and runs until July 31st. Every kid or teen who signs up will receive a free book. Kids can turn in their completed 25 day challenge any time between June 24th-July 31st and receive a prize. Check in at the library for all the details. The last thing I would like to do is ask everyone to attend our Memorial Day program on Monday honoring those who paid the highest price for their country.

These are our greatest heroes, they're from our Village and we have the privilege to honor them. Thank you to those who gave so much! Thank you, Mr. President this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- I just want to reiterate the Safety Committee did meet on May 6th. I just wanted to thank everyone who showed up for the Safety Committee Meeting. The overview of the safety committee meeting addressed parking and speeding issues in Saint Bernard. Key points included the need for better parking management on streets like Sullivan and Ross, with suggestions such as eliminating verge parking in certain areas and installing speed cushions. For other calming measures, the committee discussed the ongoing challenge of accommodating on street parking while ensuring significant space for emergency vehicles access. Ideas were raised around converting some streets like Tower Ave. to one way traffic to reduce congestion and to improve safety, particularly around the schools. The discussion also covered resident's frustrations with frequent speeding and the need for immediate action, including temporary speed mitigation devices. Additionally, concerns were brought up regarding the presence of commercial vehicles on residential streets. Members noted that the importance of enforcing regulations that distinguished between work vans and oversized commercial vehicles. The Committee also emphasized the need for clearly displayed house numbers to assist emergency responders, and addressed trash can placement at certain recurring code enforcement issues. Some of the action items included conducting a traffic study on Ross Ave. to assess vehicle counts, traffic speeds and feasibility of new parking configurations. Explore converting Tower Ave. into one way street at least near the schools to improve traffic flow and student safety. Investigate installation of temporary speed mitigation measures like speed bumps or cushions on problem streets like Sullivan. I provided Valerie with some information about house number requirements in the Ohio Building Code for ordinance review and potential updates. Coordinate with the police departments to begin issuing warnings and citations for parking on sidewalks and improper trash can placement. I also want to thank Bill Ungruhe for his years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors. Thank you that concludes my report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thanks Mr. President. The Outdoor Aquatic Center will open for the season this Saturday, May 24th for Memorial Day weekend and then daily starting on May 31st. The pool will be open seven days a week from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. On Saturday, June 7th there will be family night at the Aquatic Center from 6 to 10:00 PM. The next Garden Club meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 10th starting at 6:00 PM at the lower level of City Hall. Also, on June 10th there will be the next We Thrive Meeting. This meeting starts at 7:00 PM in the main level of the Municipal Hall. And then lastly, I'd like to thank Don Middendorf and the service department for the amazing job they do down at the ShurFine property. I go by there every morning it's amazing how clean and clear it looks like coming home at night, it couldn't look any worse, but I applaud everything they do to make that property look nice. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- No report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. The minutes for the last meeting were submitted May 21st and I have no communications this evening.

RESOLUTION NO. 5, 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OF OHIO, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY ALLIANCES, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 5 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 5 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RENEWAL OF THE SEVEN (7) MILL TAX LEVY ON THE CURRENT REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO, CERTIFYING SAID RESOLUTION TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 6 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Resolution 6 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2025

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL HAMILTON COUNTY 911 PLAN PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE CHAPTER 128 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 7 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 7 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO AND PARTICIPATE IN THE METRO TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 8 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Resolution 8 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2025

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND
APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 15 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 15 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2025

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A CERTAIN PROPERTY TO THE COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 16 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 16 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- At this time, does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business?

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Tim, this question is for you. I have some residents who live up by me on Tower Ave. There are a lot of workers out there that have been marking the streets. We are assuming it is the water works because they have been doing some work on Church Street. Do you have any ideas?

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Williams- I believe it is the continuation of the gas lines that are coming up Church Street, so it is part of that project for natural gas by Duke. I do not know when the project will be starting, but I can find out and report back to you.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This evening I was supposed to have the respective ordinance for fund we are sharing with Cincinnati for the improvements being made on Mitchell Ave. Unfortunately, the City of Cincinnati did not produce the documents, so I do not have the corresponding legislation. It will be pushed out another month. Just wanted to let you know why I did not have it this evening.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to enter into executive session to discuss possible and pending litigation. Motion passes 7-0.

Audience Participation:

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson- Garbage out Monday or not? Memorial Day parade?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- No garbage collection on Monday due to Memorial Day. If Monday is your normal collection day, it will be moved to Tuesday for collection. Please do not put your garbage out on Memorial Day. There will not be a Memorial Day parade. We will be having the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at City Hall at 10am. You are invited to come to the ceremony.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I would like to be put on the agenda for the COW to discuss moving our purchasing bids to match the state at \$75,000. We discussed this in the past, but it fell through. I would also like to have the public hearing for the budget at the June COW meeting at 7:00pm.

Council left Council Chambers to enter into executive session to discuss possible and pending litigation.

Council returns from executive session.

Next Committee of the Whole will be held June 12th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.