

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
October 23rd, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on October 23rd, 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 and Mr. Culbertson. Absent: Mr. Estep

A Moment of Silence was held in honor of Shirley Hausfeld.

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President. Again, my sympathy goes out to the Hausfeld family for the loss of their mother Shirley who spent many years with her late husband Jack raising a great family and making many contributions to our community. This past week I had the pleasure of getting to swear in our two newest patrol officers for the St. Bernard Police Department. Jarrett Thatcher and William Tuttle had their first day of service in the village on Monday, October 13th, and I look forward to them getting familiar with the village and getting to know our awesome residents. This past weekend we had two great fall events in the village. On Saturday, Immanuel United Church of Christ held their annual Fall Festival, and it was absolutely wonderful. They stole the best weather day of the weekend, and we were left with not so desirable weather for our Fall Vendor Market which thankfully was moved into the main hall. We still had a great turnout and thank you to those who helped organize these events and those who came out to attend. I would like to thank our residents on Greenlee Avenue and those surrounding Greenlee for their patience for the last-minute scheduling of the milling on Greenlee Avenue. I know that it was not ideal, but when equipment becomes available and you are coming to the end of a paving season, you seize the moment. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. The Auditor's office has prepared Ordinance 25 2025. I explained at the committee of the whole, but we are creating item opioids settlement expenses and putting \$29,578.83 into that line item. That is the funds the village has received so far from the opioid settlement. It is then transferring \$1,200,000 from General Fund transfer out with 200,000 into the Master Plan account, \$400,000 going into the General Bond cash account and \$600,000 going into the Employee Health Plan cash account. I also included two new transfers on top of the additional expenses of \$30,000 into Utilities, \$8,000 into Police Chief, \$18,000 into Fire Chief, adding \$30,000 into Fire Overtime, \$10,000 for Workers Comp, \$1,800 to Service Employee Overtime and an additional \$8,000 into Department Equipment Outlay. I

am able to report they have fixed the leaf machine for a little under \$8,000 instead of buying a new one. Also, the mayor and Mark started the preliminaries of the budget, so Mark may have more to report on regarding the budget. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you. You have before you Ordinance 26 2025 as discussed at the COW. It includes the changes the Tax Administrator requested to the tax code. This will make it easier for us to access collections and as you can see on the back, the penalty section also includes some changes. This will make things easier for the Tax Department to do what they need to do. That concludes my report.

Treasurer, Ms. Darrenkamp- Thank you Mr. President. The Star Ohio account balance as of September 30th, 2025, is \$10,185,065.02. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you Mr. President. I have a couple things to report. The milling of the pavement on Greenlee Avenue began this afternoon. The crew was able to complete the section between Mitchell and Delmar. They are heading north. The remainder of the roadway should be milled tomorrow. The asphalt leveling course will be laid on Monday, October 27th, with the final course shortly thereafter. We have taken possession of a 2020 Ford Explorer for use by the Village Zoning Administrator, AJ Schweyer. It is a decommissioned service cruiser from Evendale. Work is progressing on the 2026 operating budget for the village. We expect to present it to council once the Finance Committee has reviewed the draft. The Plan of Commission will meet on November 6th to consider several text amendments to the village's zoning ordinance. The commission's actions will be presented for consideration by council in a future meeting. I am continuing to draft the policies and procedures for the village. I will present a comprehensive document that will include personnel, finance, and administrative sections. That concludes my report.

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

- Tax collections for September 2025: \$1,791,906.00.
- September 2025 is up 9.85% or \$160,730.00 from September 2024.
- Refunds for September: -\$19,459.29
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$2,196.56
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$4,991.74.

Important reminders:

787 residents have not filed a 2024 tax return. Letters for non-filing will be going out in the first week of November. If you receive a letter, please do not ignore it. Failure to respond will result in a tax assessment and/or a court appearance. St. Bernard has mandatory tax filing for all residents 18 and older. You must file a St. Bernard tax return regardless of if you don't file a federal tax return or you have St. Bernard tax withheld from your paycheck. Seniors, who have an exemption from me, do not need to file. Please contact my office at 513-242-7710 if you have any questions or need more information.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. We will be

discussing the 2026 budget and how to leverage it to strategically guide our village through this next year. Separately, I wanted to share a development and property tax relief that is moving through our Board of County Commissioners within House Bill 96, which was passed by the State House earlier this summer. County Commissioners were given the ability to increase the homestead exemption and owner occupancy credit, otherwise known as a piggyback option. Not only is this extremely undemocratic as it decides our village's finances without any input from our residents or duly elected officials, it completely dismantles 2026 budgets for our school districts. This content strips these programs that are currently funded by the state. However, the piggyback option, if passed, would force school districts, villages, cities and other political subdivisions to now pay that bill. This amounts to just over \$34 million across our county, including substantial cuts to the Saint Bernard Elmwood Place School District. Property tax relief that harms schools and vital local services is always unsustainable, as these services and the duty to educate our children are non-negotiable. That's why I strongly oppose the piggyback option, and I urge our county commissioners to reject it, and we'll be reaching out to them and encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Waste Collection Fee Report for September 2025 shows that \$24,288.57 was remitted to the Village. As part of the Waste Collection Report for the month of September 2025, the Service Department completed the following:

- Spotted 29 dump trucks at residences.
- Spotted 17 dumpsters at residences.
- Hauled 172.42 tons of garbage to the landfill.
- Hauled 21.5 tons of recyclable material to Rumpke Recycling.
- Recycled 4,940 lbs. of scrap metal.

If any residents were wondering why their leaf piles have not yet been collected, the Service Department's leaf collector was temporarily out of service due to a blown full pump that required replacement. The repair has since been completed, and I'm happy to report that the leaf collector is back in operation and on the streets as of today. In addition to routine service work, I'd like to highlight a community improvement project that came to life this month. Through my role as Service Committee Chair and St Bernard's Lead Community Navigator for WeThrive, we were able to fund the installation of a Free Little Library at Chalet Park. The project was made possible with the help of our Service Department, and I'd like to give a special shoutout to Jeremy Hausfeld for his carpentry work in building it. This Free Little Library will be the first of many to come, and I'm excited to see how it encourages reading and connection throughout our community. I also want to recognize Councilman Moreton, as this idea originally came from a resident who attended his Community Connect meeting. This service is a great reminder that simply showing up and having a conversation with your elected representative can lead to real, positive changes in our Village. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee Meeting, but I would like to talk about the Sale and Silent Auction being held this Saturday October 25 in Centennial Hall from 1pm-3pm sponsored by The St. Bernard-Ludlow Grove Historical Society. In honor of our country's 250th Anniversary, the Historical Society is raising funds for installation of government issued grave markers for eight Civil War Veterans in St. Bernard cemeteries. The grave markers are free, but each marker needs a foundation, and there is also an installation expense. Cost varies from \$250-\$525 per grave

depending on what each cemetery charges. Now getting to the sale and auction. There are too many items to mention them all but a couple of items I'm particularly interested in is a LeSourdsville Lake beer pitcher with a set of seven matching mugs and a complete album set of Topps 1991 Topps Stadium Club Baseball Cards. I tell you this because I dare you to outbid me on these items for this great cause. Sports memorabilia, books and Christmas items are just a few more items available. The silent auction ends at 3:00pm. No credit cards are accepted. Cash or check with proper identification. This is for a great cause. Please come out and show your support. Thank you, Mr. president, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have the month of September police department report. They had 519 total contacts, including 713 calls for service. There were an additional 483 other services and details that were not called in by the public. These calls for service included 39 total criminal offenses, resulting in 71 criminal arrests, 72 traffic citations, as well as 80 traffic warnings. They responded to 22 accidents, four of which included injuries. The police department is proud to announce that they have two new officers that were sworn into were sworn in by the mayor on Monday, October 13th. Both recent graduates from Great Oaks Police Academy, and both have started their training. You will be seeing these new faces out and about soon. Please give them a warm St. Bernard welcome when you see them. Also, I want to thank the public, the administration and all of our departments for all their well wishes for me and my family. Mom was on hospice service over two years, and if it was not for our great departments, especially the fire department and paramedics, I could have never left mom to live at home without their help. Thank you so much. That concludes my report.

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

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. The CIC is looking to fill a vacant seat after the recent resignation of a board member. The open position is for residents. If you would like to be considered, please contact Mayor Stuchell at 513-543-3780 or mayor@cityofstbernard.org. You will be given an opportunity to make a brief presentation about yourself to the board at the next meeting on October 28th in Council Chambers. Please make your calendars for this year's community Christmas Celebration. It will take place on December 6th from 5pm to 9pm. More details to come. Please come out and exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 4th. Thank you that concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- Absent.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. Minutes for the last meeting were submitted on Wednesday, October 22nd and I have no communications this evening.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2025

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO CREATE A NEW LINE ITEM AND
TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 25 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 25 2025.
Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2025
AMENDING SECTIONS 182.21 AND 182.99 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED
ORDINANCES REGARDING REGISTRATION WITH THE ST. BERNARD TAX
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to allow Ordinance 26 2025 to go regular course. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to move the November Council Meeting to November 22nd. Motion passes 6-0.

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

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I am requesting that we have a special council meeting on Thursday, November 13th immediately before the COW meeting at 7:00pm. This is so Ordinance 26 2025 can have its second reading so we can have all three readings before the new council is seated.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Thank you, we will have a special council meeting November 13th at 7:00pm before the COW meeting. Is there anyone in the audience wishing to address the council this evening?

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson- Ray, garbage pickup on October 28th? Halloween?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department does not recognize Halloween as a holiday. Trash pickup is normal that week.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to excuse the absent member.
Motion passes 6-0.

The next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, November 13th immediately following the Special Council Meeting held Thursday, November 13th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

The next regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 22nd at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adjourn. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.