

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed five members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, and Mr. Culbertson. Absent: Mr. Schildmeyer and Ms. Rytov.

A motion by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to approve the written minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, council meeting. Motion passes 5-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

Business and Zoning Administration, AJ Schweier- Good evening, AJ Schweier, Zoning Administrator. Ordinance 31 2025, this is a text amendment to remove references to walls and fences from the current zoning ordinance, and it would be replaced by landscaping. The current regulations state that any parking lot of five or more spaces requires a fence or a wall. Parking lots with over 30 spaces requires a solid wall. That language is being changed to go to landscaping, which is a minimum of four feet tall. The next two ordinances, 32 2025 and 33 2025, are both map amendments. One is for the property at Friars Club the other is at the Safety Service Center. Friars Club is number 32 and the Safety Service Center is number 33. A parking lot is being built currently for the Friars Club. The Safety Service center already has a parking lot built. Those lots are built on different zoned parcels than the primary structures are located on. That can be done within the zoning code, but certain steps have to be taken. I could not find records showing that those steps were taken. So, what I have done is requested that the text and the zoning map line up, the parcels line up with the principal structures. The Friars Club parcel goes from an R3 zoning district to an R2 zoning district. In the case of the Safety Service Center, it would go from the R3 zoning district to the B1 district. Ultimately, this will allow us to have those lots combined because we should not be building over multiple parcel lines. So, by making the map the same zoning districts, we can then combine those parcels. Any questions?

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- I know there has been a lot going back and forth about the residents up there. They were feeling like they were not in the know.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- That is not this parking lot.

Business and Zoning Administration, AJ Schweier- Yes, that is correct.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Just to be clear, is the Friars Club aware of this and in favor of this?

Business and Zoning Administration, AJ Schweier- Yes, that is correct. Friars Club was informed, and they were present at the planning commission meeting, and they had no issues with it.

Motion made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Ordinances 31, 32, and 33 2025 on the table. Motion passes 5-0

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- The next item on the agenda, and I am going to defer to you, Valorie, is the discussion of an ordinance. I gave everyone copies of what we voted on previously by council, but per the discussion at the last COW meeting in November, these were both voted on 6-0 when they passed. I guess they were never put into the codified ordinances per our policies and procedures. Do we need to add them to the codified ordinances?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Yes, the changes that were made just to the council records do not override what is in the codified ordinances. We will need to amend the codified ordinances. I can try and get something prepared for next week or I can move it to next month.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I just wanted to see if anyone had any questions. Obviously, we talked about it then, and the papers I handed out to everyone is the documentation of when we did in fact vote on it.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I did not get a copy of those papers. (Clerk gave Ms. Hausfeld a copy.)

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Is next week enough time to prepare an ordinance or would you like this to be moved to next month?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I'd rather do it next month.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to move the December Council Meeting to December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Motion passes 5-0.

## **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. I couldn't be more thankful for everyone who made the Light Up St. Bernard and Will Light for Food event this last Saturday such a great event. It was a huge success and may rank as the best to date in the 10 years that it has been held. We have the best volunteers which I am not going to name, but you know who you are, but our Recreation Department and the Village Pac knocked this one out of the park. The evening started with St. Bernard's own Delta Kings and then followed with a beautifully written poem by Rev. Jonathan and then a blessing of the tree by Fr. Jud. Santa and Mrs. Claus got to do the official lighting of the tree, and then they welcomed all of the kids to get their pictures taken. We also had a representative from Yard & Company. there to show the conceptual renderings of the Heritage Hill District which was a huge success. Again, thank you to our Recreation, Fire, Police, and Service Departments, members of council and the administration, our awesome volunteers, and to our community for showing up. The Will Light for Food contest generated 3595 canned goods for the St. Clement Food Pantry which directly helps those in need. Congratulations to 1 place, The Sowders on Jefferson, 2nd place, The Cranks on Washington, and 3rd place, The Temples on Delmar, and a huge thank you to all the residents who decorated their homes for the event and helped collect food for the food pantry. You are all the best! The

CIC will not be having a December meeting and will be back on schedule for Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm unless a special meeting is called. We will also be holding elections at the January meeting. There are 3 positions available, 1 for Elected or Appointed, 1 for Business Rep., and 1 for Resident Rep. If you are interested, please contact me at 513-543-3780. You will be given an opportunity to make a pitch to the board at the next meeting. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President. I'm currently working on the end of the year ordinance that we usually do where we decrease some line items and increase others. Right now, the major ones that I see that are not only decreasing is I do need an additional \$5,000 to Medicare, and that's just to make sure we get to the end of the year because it's pretty close. We always put into Miscellaneous 2-K-2 \$100,000, which I normally don't use it all, or I'll just use a little bit of it. That's just so there's enough for the two weeks in the year for anything that you guys aren't meeting. And then the fire employee seems to be a little low, so I was asking for an additional \$10,000 into that. The rest as of now are all decreases which I don't think anybody would really be concerned about. I would like to decrease the capital improvement line item and then I'm going to increase. I am asking for an additional appropriation into capital equipment, but they will balance each other out. That way we can buy some equipment for the end of the year. Once I get that all completed, as I'm paying bills and looking at it every day, doing what I can, I will send it out to you all before the meeting next Thursday. And that concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to add the ordinance for the increase and decrease appropriations. Motion passes 5-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you Mr. President. I had Ordinances 31, 32, and 33 to discuss but that has already been done. So, no report.

Treasurer, Ms. Darrenkamp- The Star Ohio balance as of November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is \$10,570,867.47. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you, Mr. President. I'm glad to report that the Greenlee Ave. project is complete. The speed cushions have been installed, sealants have been applied, and crosswalks have been painted. Any outstanding concerns should be addressed to the Village Hall. Similarly, the installation of the additional speed cushion on Langley Ave. has also been completed. The crosswalk on Vine Street in front of Roger Bacon High School was recently repainted. It had become faded and was causing a safety concern. Also, the RFB, which is for rectangular rapid flashing beacon signal on Mitchell Ave. that provides traffic control at the pedestrian crossing to the stadium, will soon be reinstalled by Capital Electric. You recall it was knocked down several months ago by a motorist. We discussed the text amendments tonight. I think that's going to be a positive change to our code. And then finally, we've been eagerly anticipating the weather forecast this evening. It is calling for snow tonight into tomorrow morning. Accumulations between 3-6 inches predicted. Our streets have been prepped for the weather and are ready. Additional snow is predicted for this weekend with advisory from Saturday morning through Sunday morning. Accumulations between one and three inches are expected and that concludes my report.

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

Tax collections for November 2025: \$683,019.

November 2025 is up 14.13% or \$84,550.00 from November 2024.

Refunds for November: -\$100,280.

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$305.75.

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$7,538.

Final reminder to those who have not filed their 2024 St. Bernard tax return. Please get your return filed before the end of the year, as Tax Assessments will begin in January of 2026.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you. Mr. President. The Finance Committee met tonight to discuss additional changes to the draft 2026 village budget. The Finance Committee had all of our questions answered and any concerns addressed, giving us confidence in this budget is a reflection of our village's bright future. Thank you to Safety Service Director Wenling, Mayor Stuchell, and Auditor Brickweg for preparing the budget and answering our many many questions. Next week we will vote on this budget, and I highly encourage its passage. Because of no immediate agenda topics, the finance committee meeting that is currently scheduled for next week has been cancelled. Thank you that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President. As Mr. Wendling stated, the Service Department has begun pretreating all major roadways and side streets throughout the village and anticipation of tonight's snowfall. So please be safe tonight if you're out driving on the roads. Crews are also working to finish collecting the remaining residential leaf piles. I would also like to thank the Service Department for their assistance in setting up for our amazing Light Up St. Bernard event this past weekend. I also want to extend a special thank you to Jeff Probes from the Service Department who remained on site for the entire event to ensure all electrical needs were met. Lastly, the service committee will meet next Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers to finalize the revised hall rental contract. Thank you that concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to place an ordinance for the 2026 budget on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 5-0.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President. There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee Meeting, but I would also like to thank all the volunteers that made this year's Village Christmas Celebration the great event it was and continued the yearly tradition it is. Seeing Washington Ave. at 1'clock and then seeing it transformed by a relatively small group of motivated Elves was truly magic. By 6 o'clock there were farm animals, tents set up for a DJ, food, refreshing beverages and gas heaters to keep everyone warm while waiting to ride the trolleys to see our Village lite up for Christmas. That was just outside. Inside was Santa Claus, bags of candy, cookies, and hot chocolate. There were also many vendors you could support with a purchase or just browse. Hundreds attended and had a great time. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, thank

you to the Recreation Department and everyone else who made this possible. My entire family had a great time. Just one of the many reasons St. Bernard is such a great place to live and visit. Thank you, Mr. President this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report, but I do have a question for Gus. We are having a committee meeting on Wednesday?

Council Member, Mr. Stuchell- When we were initiated on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we changed the committees. Ms. Rytov is now on the Service Committee. You are still more than welcome to come.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Ok, I do not have my new paperwork in front of me. Thank you.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Absent.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- I'd like to thank the following 2025 Recreation sponsors for helping make all of this past year's sports programs and events possible!

Platinum  
City Electrical Supply  
Klosterman Baking Company  
St. Bernard Pub

Gold  
Next Generation Insurance- Agency/Iris Wainscott  
St. Bernard LaRosa's  
Wiedemann's Fine Beer  
Wyoming Air

Silver  
Engraved in the USA/Everlast  
Immanuel United Church of Christ  
Rumpke Recycling

Bronze  
Baxter Burial Vault  
Biggby Coffee  
Central Insulation Systems  
Commonwealth Inc.  
Electric Motor Technologies  
Friars Club  
Idle Hour Social Club  
Jerry Day Auto Service  
Progress Supply  
Skyline Chili - St. Bernard  
St. Bernard Dairy Queen

St. Bernard Eagles  
St. Bernard Market  
Stripes Lawn Care

The next St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society program will be on Monday, December 15th at 7:00pm in the Main Level of the Municipal Building. This month's topic is 'The Origin of Santa and Other World Gift Bringers", presented by Dann Woellert. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- Absent.

No audience participation.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to excuse the absent members.  
Motion passes 4-1.

The next council meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting is adjourned.