

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

COUNCIL MEETING

March 27th, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on March 27th, 2025, in Council Chambers.

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

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

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 OFFICIAL

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to welcome Mr. Tim Williams to our wonderful village as the interim Director of Public Services and Safety. I am very excited about his level of experience he brings to Saint Bernard, and I look forward to working with him as he guides us through this transition. So, it is only appropriate that we do the ceremonial swearing in during this time so I'm going to ask Mr. Williams to please stand and raise his right hand.

Mr. Tim Williams was sworn in by Mayor Stuchell.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I'd also like everyone to please keep our auditor Peggy Brickweg's family in your prayers. Last week her husband, retired St. Bernard Fire Captain Kurt Brickweg, suffered a major heart attack and is now fortunately home, with a long recovery ahead. Unfortunately, today Peggy's mother Sheila had a heart attack as well. Peggy will not be here this evening so again please keep her family in your prayers. Peggy also wanted me to just give a brief explanation on Ordinance 10 2025. There was a grant that was received after Ohio EMS grant for \$3,264.88. We're asking that is to be able to be put back into the ambulance supply line item. The contract staff for \$70,000 that was for what was left out of the budget from Mr. Werdmann, where he was looking to transition potential contract staff out, so that needs to be put back in and that was discussed previously. The \$134,000 is for the engineering for the Greenlee Ave, improvement project so that needs to be taken care of for the engineering side. Lastly, since our last meeting we were able to get the fire department contract finalized and the appropriate ordinance has been drafted, I know we didn't have a lengthy period of time to talk about it. There wasn't really an opportunity because it literally just was finalized, so I'm asking for that to either be placed on the agenda for this evening. If it cannot, I will be asking for a special council meeting to be held after next committee of the whole. Their contract expires April 1st and their first pay period of for the month is 2 weeks later. I'm hoping not to extend beyond that and to eliminate the need for retroactive pay if at all possible. Whatever council's pleasure may be whether or not it's the desire to go into executive session and discuss collective bargaining this evening or whether you want to talk about it here on council floor I'm open to whatever. It's

pretty cut and dry as far as contract negotiation or if you want to have time to discuss it going into executive session after the COW, I'm open to whatever. I just want to let you know that we just were able to finalize this, so I wanted to bring it to the table as soon as possible and whatever your pleasure is either today or at the cow I'm fine.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I would like fir the ordinance to be discussed or at least let and the citizens know what changes were made, if any.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This is similar to that of the police contract. Mr. Werdmann and I decided this year because of the loss of Saint Bernard Soap and the loss of Raugh Brothers that there was some reduced revenue that was to be expected. We thought it was prudent to go into contract negotiation this year and to not offer an extended contract being anything beyond one year. We wanted to make sure that we were putting ourselves in a good position and not overextending for a period of time. The police contract was a one year, fire is one year, and it would be the same thing for service. With that being said we've offered the same level of compensation increases at 4% which we really couldn't go below that. I mean that's for cost of living increases and to be honest with you other departments that are being way more competitive. We also wanted to at least be conscious enough to keep at a rate where we could retain and also attract additional employees. That was the major percentage. The one other portion, we did give an increase to was we had a \$3,500 paramedic stipend that was previously in place and that was increased to \$5,000. That is really only appropriate because again paramedics are doing the majority of the runs, and we needed to make sure that we did increase that. Honestly, that probably needs to even be addressed again in the next round just to keep ourselves being competitive. The rest the changes were to clean up the language of the contract. I will tell you that over the years in inheriting this contract negotiation process the same contract has been utilized over and over again so there's a lot of language in there that need to be cleaned up. I will tell you that the union representatives, especially Jason Martin, coming in bringing a lot of recommendations, we were able to work together and do some initial cleanup as far as clarification. Ultimately, this is I feel a cut and dry contract and pretty simple. There was no heavy negotiation in this round. I think everybody in good faith understands our position and the fire department union has been a great partner in working through this process. I am willing to answer any questions if anyone has any.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 12 2025 on the table for this evening. Motion passes 6-0.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Absent.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you. You have before you tonight Resolution 3 2025. Ms. Brickweg asked me to prepare this. This is essentially a Resolution 2 2025, which you passed previously. Peggy had submitted it to the Hamilton County Auditor, and they came back and said we were missing some language. There has been a recent change in the law and so and they pointed out another thing that I was concerned about. I'll just tell you what the changes are between what you passed previously in Resolution 2 2025 and what is in Resolution 3 2025. I put Hamilton County in the title so it's the Village of Saint Bernard, Hamilton County and I did that because one of the changes in the law required that we state that the village is wholly located within Hamilton County. You'll see that I added in the last whereas paragraph also "to establish the need to meet current expenses" which is one of the provisions of 5705. I beefed up the language in the second whereas provision in the first sentence and really those are the only

changes. It's the same matter you passed before. We need to get this on the special election so we would ask that to go by emergency this evening. Thank you.

Treasure, Ms. Darrenkamp- Thank you Mr. President. I just have one thing to report and that is the STAR Ohio account balance. As of the end of February of this year it was \$10,214,418.41 and that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Williams- I appreciate the opportunity to work with the city, the council and the mayor for the next few months and hopefully I can bring something of use to you all and get this interim period of time, so thanks very much.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Quick recap of February's tax revenue:

Tax collections for February 2025: \$653,492.

February 2025 is up 7.0 % or \$42,764 from February 2024

Reminders: April 15th is Tax Day. Your federal, state and local (St. Bernard) taxes are all due. Any extension requests are for the filing of your return, not for the payment of any tax owed. All tax returns must have a copy of the W2's, page 1-3 of the federal return, and any federal schedules if you have them. Your tax return cannot be audited without these documents. Credits for other city taxes paid will not be given without the w2 that shows these paid credits. If you have any questions, please call me or Sharon at 513-242-7710.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President, the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall we currently plan to discuss upcoming road repair projects. Also, the now quarterly Community Connect is scheduled for Thursday April 3rd at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. As always, all who live or work in the village are of course more encouraged to attend. I want to again thank the rest of council for passing the energy aggregation certification ordinances at our last meeting so that we can put this money saving decision in front of the voters. I've reached out to Rich from Energy Alliances and anticipate having the details regarding next steps by our next meeting. Thank you that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- I have the waste collection fee report for February 2025:

- \$23,807.09 was remitted to the Village.

For the waste collection report for February 2025, the Service Department completed the following:

- 16 dump trucks spotted at residences.
- 21 dumpsters spotted at residences.
- 141.3 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.
- 19.8 tons of recycling material sent to Rumpke Recycle.
- 2,720 lbs. of scrap metal recycled.

Clean Up St. Bernard Day will take place on Saturday, April 26th from 12:00pm-2:00pm and shred day will be held on Saturday, May 24th down at the Safety Center from 9:00am-12:00pm. 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 thank Tim Werdmann for his contributions

to our village. Even though he was only here for nine months, we now see the value in hiring an experienced professional to fill this position of Director of Public Services and Safety. I saw numerous occasions and his knowledge on things from the insurance to vehicle leasing saved our village money. He will be missed but I wish him well. I'd also like to thank Tim Williams for temporarily filling this position and aiding in finding a person to permanently fill this position. With his experience I'm confident this transition on both ends will go smoothly. Thank you, Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have the both the Fire Department and the Police Department report for February. The monthly report for February 2025 for the Fire Department are Fire incidents: structural fires 12, other fire 6, auto accidents and hazmat incidents 2, service calls 6, fire alarms 13, CO alarms 2 and EMS 14 for a total of 65. Mutual aid given: Elmwood Place 3, Norwood 14, Reading 2, Lockland 1, Springfield Township 4, North College Hill 2, Cincinnati 1 and Amberly Village 1. Mutual aid received: 0. EMS incidents: transports 43, non-transports 58 for a total of 101. Mutual aid given: Elmwood Place 6, Norwood 4, Cincinnati 1. Mutual aid received: Norwood 1. All paramedics attended 12-week interpretation class. All personnel toured BG Food sites. All personnel completed hose line advancement training. The Police Department report for February 2025 had 660 calls for service resulting in 414 contacts. Calls for an additional 455 other services, details that were not necessarily called in by the public, these calls for services included 21 total criminal offenses resulting in 82 criminal arrests, 31 traffic citations, 87 traffic warnings, 14 accidents- 1 involved injuries. This is a reminder that the Police and Firemen Benevolent Golf Outing is rapidly approaching. It will be held Saturday May 17th at Winton Woods. If anyone is interested in participating, sponsoring a whole or volunteering to help at this event please contact Chief Simos or Chief Young at the Safety Center. Thank you, Mr. President, that concludes both reports.

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

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. Summer and Fall sports signups are still being accepted at City Hall Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This includes t-ball, summer swim lessons, fall SAY soccer, lollipop soccer and Stingray swim team. The next Garden Club meeting will take place on Tuesday April 8th at 6:00 PM and it will be held in the lower level of City Hall. The next We Thrive meeting is also on Tuesday April 8th, and it will be held at the main level of the municipal building starting at 7:00 PM. Finally, the next German Luau meeting will take place on Tuesday April 1st at 6:00 PM in Centennial Hall. If you have any interest in getting involved with the luau, please come to the meeting on the 1st. They would love to see more community participation. 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 March 26th, and I have no communications this evening.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place Resolution 3 2025 on the table for this evening. Motion passes 6-0.

RESOLUTION 3 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RENEWAL 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. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 3 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Resolution 3 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2025
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 10 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 10 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2025
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE
TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA INC. FOR THE LANGELY AVENUE
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 11 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 11 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2025
ACCETPING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGREED UPON
BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND LOCAL NO. 450, ST.
BERNARD FIREFIGHTERS UNION I.A.F.F, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 12 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 12 2025. 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- As a reminder, the Aquatic Centr parking lot is closing for milling and paving March 31st through April 3rd. There will be no parking during that time. Please use the upper lot for the high school pool. This schedule is subject to change depending on the weather.

The work that is being done is not being paid for by the village. This is part of the agreement and work being done by the school. The project for the replacement of the retaining all has been completed but there is a part of paving that needs to be dealt with that was in front of the retaining wall. That will be repaired. We will go under contract to replace the concrete gutter, and the damaged asphalt will be replaced as well but that does not have to do with the parking lot project. Thank you.

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

The next Committee of the Whole will be held April 10th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.