

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

January 8th, 2026

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on January 8th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

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

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to approve the written minutes of the December 18th, 2025, council meeting and the December 1st, 2025, Inaugural meeting. Motion passes 6-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

Mayor Stuchell sworn into office the new Treasurer, Mr. Dave Kathman.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda is the discussion of the protocols, policies and procedures ordinance. I gave Ms. Van Valkenburg a correction on the section that needs to be changed which is Section 5 on the ordinance, but it was Section 3 that actually needs to be changed.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- When you refer to section 3, my referral to section 5 is in the ordinance, right? As opposed to the rules on committees on committees or rules of council?

President of Council, Ms. Asbach- So it is section I-3 not section I-5 that we changed.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- We need to make the change to the codified ordinances.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Correct, with your ordinance. It should be section I-5, not section I-3 that is being changed. You have 121.10 I-5 but the change was made to 121.10 section I-3 because the President Pro Tem used to run the committee of the whole, but we voted to change it to the President of Council runs both council meetings and committee of the whole meetings. That is the section that needs to be changed in the codified ordinance.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Codified ordinance, Section 3 currently reads "The Committee of the Whole shall consist of the members of Council only, but the President of Council should be ex officio and member of the Committee of the Whole. The President of Council presides at all Committee of the Whole meetings. The Clerk of Council should be present and responsible for the minutes." Then in Section 5 it states "In the absence of the President of Council the President Pro Tem will run the meeting. If the first two are absent, the second listed person on the committee of committees will run the meeting."

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- So, how is that in there, but the other one did not get changed? But it was the other section we changed the last time was section 3 not section 5 that we changed.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Do you have all the sections in front of you or just that specific section? I am curious about what section 1 actually says.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I have the entire chapter 121. So going to chapter 121.10 section I, which is Committee of the Whole, number I-1 says "Any member of the council, knowing they will be unable to attend the committee the whole meeting shall notice notify the Clerk of Council or any other member of council prior to the meeting." Number I-3 already says the President of Council should be ex officio and member of the Committee of the Whole. The President of Council presides at all Committee of the Whole meetings.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I guess I don't understand, because that is the change we made. At the Committee of the Whole, we voted on that on March 14th of last year. The vote was 6-0 to change to that wording. So, how is the one we did last year already codified, but the one we changed in 2023 is not?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I can't explain it, but that is what I pulled off the internet today.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- ok, so if section 5 is different in section 121, then I stand corrected and we will go with these sections in Ordinance 5 2026 then.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I think we still need an answer for my question then too regarding the committees on committees and how they are chosen. That looks like that is changing on here as well, is it not?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- That was the change that was passed on November 9th, 2023, at the committee of the whole.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- What about the lawsuit we had?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- You don't have to have an open meeting if the President of Council sets the committees. You've got one person doing it, not a committee.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I understand, but that is not what we agreed to in our lawsuit.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I have the release; I found it, and it does not address it specifically.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I have a cop of the release too, and I agree, it does not address it.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I never got a copy of the release, but I remember us discussing it.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- It pertains to the open meetings.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- So, basically, the President of Council is going to pick the committees and then tell people what committees they are on?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- That is what we did two years ago when we voted on this, not realizing that it had not been codified. That is what the ordinance is for since we passed it at the committee of the whole.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Ok, well I guess we will see what happens.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to place Ordinance 5 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 5-1.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. Yesterday I had the honor of swearing in John Davidson who is a St. Bernard resident as a Firefighter and Paramedic for the St. Bernard Fire Department. His wife and children were able to be there to witness, and we are very pleased to have him as a member of our incredible fire department. The next CIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. 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 meeting. This does not mean those positions are uncontested. The individuals in those positions can run again, but it is open to candidates as well. St. Bernard Heritage District Plan: Engagement + Informational Webinar will take place on Tuesday, January 20, from 11:30a -12:30p to engage with our partners at Yard & Company as part of our Heritage District Master Planning process. During this webinar, you will see a presentation of the draft plan and be able to provide comments and ask questions about the content. The presentation and discussion will be recorded and posted online through Village channels following the event. Additional comments can be submitted via email to which the link will be posted on the village website, the village newsletter, and Facebook page and will be available through February 3rd. We hope to see you online on January 20th. Thank you that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. The first thing I have on the agenda is Resolution 1 2026. This is the resolution that we vote on every year. It basically is required by the state so we can spend tax dollars on meals and refreshments. Basically, this covers if we have Boy Scout night, parties in the park, Christmas, Halloween etcetera but we have to pass this in order to do that. Secondly, I did go ahead and pay the monthlies this week, but unfortunately the software is not ready to send you out your W2s. They are ready. They've been given to the federal government, but the software won't generate them into your emails yet. They're hoping to have that ready next week, so if it's possible, you might get an e-mail in the middle of the week. It doesn't mean you got paid again, but it'll be a link so you can go get your W2s. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you Mr. President. So, we have already had part of the discussion for my report earlier with Ordinance 5 2026. I would like to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss ongoing litigation. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 1 2026 on the agenda for the council meeting in two weeks. Motion passes 6-0.

Notion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss ongoing litigation. Motion passes 6-0.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Mr. President, I need to add one more thing. If needed, I would like to prepare an ordinance to move the funds, which we do at the beginning of each year.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to place an ordinance to move funds on the table for the council meeting in two weeks. Motion passes 6-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- No report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you, Mr. President. I've got several things tonight. As you're aware, we've been having some issues with Synthetica. They are the anaerobic digester company that has recently started operations at the corner of Murray and Vine. So, we did meet with them today, this morning. The cofounder of the operation was there as well as their director of operations. They did report that to date they have invested \$70 million into the site. They have 18 employees on site with an average wage between \$20 - \$30 per hour. So, a quick calculation, they have payroll ranging from \$750,000 to \$1.2 million falling between there. They did acknowledge the odor that has been widely reported within the village. They did state that they are committed to being good corporate citizens, and they commit that they're going to get that issue resolved. We explained to them a number of issues that are going on there, even beyond the odor issue that a few building codes and zoning issues that have to be addressed. Ultimately, according to our code, despite the fact that our prior chief building official did issue them a zoning permit for operation, our zoning code actually requires them to go in front of the Board of Zoning appeals to get a conditional use. During that process, we will be able to provide various use or various conditions to their operations. So that will probably happen later this spring. In the interim, we're going to continue to work with them. I know that there are quite a few concerns out there, and we're going to monitor them regularly. They did report the types of things they are bringing in there, which is waste product from industrial food manufacturers as well as expired product from groceries stores. You also have waste coming in from Proctor and Gamble. They say they are currently at 60% capacity in their operation, and they expect to be at 100% capacity later this spring. Any questions on that? We are working with the administration at Roger Bacon. They are expanding their parking lot that is accessed on Leonard Ave. At this point, issues focus primarily on code requirements that are related to the expansion. We will require that they go in front of the Board of zoning appeals to receive a variance. We've been working with them, and we expect that we will be able to work out all the issues with them on that. That will probably occur in February. We held two aggregation public hearings held on Tuesday and today. We will need two resolutions passed tonight to proceed with that program. We will also need to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission in order to participate in the State Capital Improvement Program for 2026. That is also on the agenda for the next council meeting, or I'm asking for resolutions to approve that. And then finally, there was a compensation ordinance for the Auditor, Tax Administrator, Zoning Administrator, and the

Director of Public Safety and Service that needs to be placed on the agenda. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to place Ordinances 2, 3, and 4 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

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

Tax collections for December 2025: \$2,250,749.00.

December 2025 is up 21.14% or \$392,789.00 from December 2024.

Refunds for December: \$0.00

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$374.64.

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$3641.36.

Final 2025 collection from the tax department: \$12,644,330.00

2025 end of year collection is up 1.48% or \$184,408.00 from 2024.

2025 tax returns are available on the tax department's web page. The e-file system is not ready for the 2025 tax year at this time. I anticipate it will be available in the first week of February. Assessments are going out to those who did not file a 2024 St. Bernard tax return. If you receive one, please note that you have 60 days to respond. After 60 days, the Assessment becomes final. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Resolution 2 2026 on the table for the special council meeting being held tonight, 1/08 at 7:45pm. Motion passes 6-0.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Absent. Report read by Mr. Schildmeyer. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Morton wishes he could be a council tonight but unfortunately he will be home watching online with the flu instead. He has prepared this report. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on January 21st and Council Chambers. In addition, Mr. Morton would like to thank Safety Service Director Mark Windling for his support throughout the progression of energy aggregation and the folks at Energy Alliances for leading the two public meetings regarding the plans of operation for aggregation. Thank you also to all those who attended the meetings to provide perspective and feedback. Ordinances 1 and 2 2026 are on the table for the special meeting tonight and Mr. Morton would like to encourage the passage by emergency tonight. The passage of these ordinances are required for application to be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to move forward with the voter approved aggregation. Additional information about town halls will be held to continue educating residents on the benefits of this program and the process to opt out if preferred. Energy costs continue to rise the sooner we leverage our collective bargaining power through this program the sooner we can provide relief. Thank you that concludes Mr. Moreton's report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- At this time, we have not yet received the remittance fee from Greater Cincinnati Water Works for the December 2025 Waste Collection Fee Report.

As part of the December 2025 Waste Collection Report, the Service Department completed the following:

- Spotted 19 dump trucks at residences.
- Spotted 13 dumpsters at residences.
- 212 special pickups at residences.
- Hauled 179.84 tons of garbage to the landfill.
- Hauled 27.7 tons of recyclable material to Rumpke Recycling.
- 108 tons of salt spread throughout the Village for snow and ice removal

Lastly, the Service Department is now accepting applications for seasonal employment. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and hold a valid driver's license. Forms are available for pickup at City Hall. As a former seasonal employee, I highly recommend this opportunity. It provides valuable hands-on experience in general labor while contributing to the upkeep and prosperity of St. Bernard as a great place to live.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. president. There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee Meeting, but it being early in the new year I thought it was appropriate to highlight our own Fitness Center. If you have visited the fitness center, you have seen all the great equipment available for your use. Free weights, weight machines, a rowing machine, an abundance of tread mills, a stair climber and three elliptical machines. Two are new and so smooth, it's not even like exercising. Our fitness center is primarily for our residents but can also be used by non-residents with a resident sponsor. The cost per month for adults is only 10 dollars. If 60 or over monthly charge is only 5 dollars and if you're a non-resident with a resident sponsor, is it still only 20 dollars a month. It's a great place to exercise but also a great place to work out with friends. The hours are Monday- Friday 9am-1pm and then the gym reopens in the afternoon from 4pm-8pm. Saturday hours are only 9am-1pm. Stop by and I'm sure you'll be impressed. Thank Mr. President this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you, Mr. President. The Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting has been set for January 21st at 6:30pm in Council Chambers. On the agenda, there will be potential changes to language regarding zoning. In addition, I'd like to make a motion to go into executive session in order to prepare for, conduct or review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. That concludes my report, Mr. President.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to enter executive session to discuss and review contract negotiations. Motion passes 6-0.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thanks Mr. President. The Recreation Department will be hosting sports signups at the Rec office on two dates. These dates are Saturday, January 31st and Saturday, February 7th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can also sign up at City Hall Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Activities include knothole baseball ages 7 to 13 is \$50 for resident, \$75.00 for non-residents, girls' softball ages 7 to 13 is \$50 for residents, \$75 for non-residents, winter swim lessons, all ages \$25. These will be on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings. Mommy and Me swim lessons, ages 6 to 36 months, Thursday evenings in March. I do not have a price on that one yet. Stingray swim team is \$50.00 for residents, \$75.00 for non-residents. Tee ball boys ages 4 to 7 is \$25. SAY Soccer ages 6 to 13 is \$50 for residents, \$75.00

for non-residents, and Lollipop Soccer ages 3 to 5 is \$25 dollars. The Recreation Department is also accepting applications for summer employment at the Aquatic Center. This includes lifeguards and support staff. The deadline to submit your application is Friday, February 13th. Lastly, the Historical Society's next program will be on Monday, January 19th at 7:00 PM. This will be a free program, and the topic is Who's Who in the Family Album. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- No report.

No audience participation.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I was going through all my dad's stuff, and I had the pleasure of meeting Kay Phillips and her coworker this past Tuesday. They made sure, I know Ray just announced it, but anybody that has been around Saint Bernard for years, some of us are whole lives, they really want as many people as possible to attend this January 19th program. They have a lot of old photos that they would love to have people identify their family members or their ancestries or their friends or whoever in these photos. So even though Ray did announce it, I just want to reiterate it. According to Kay and her coworker, there are so many photos that they would love to get as much of Saint Bernard's input as they can. So, if anybody can make that Monday January 19th at 7:00 PM they would love to have you guys, thank you.

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

Council enters into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation and contract negotiations.

Council returns from executive session after discussing ongoing litigation and contract negotiations.

The next special council meeting will be held on January 8th, 2026, at 7:45pm in Council Chambers.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on January 22nd, 2026, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

January 8th, 2026

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on January 8th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD TO PREPARE AND
SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS
COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 2 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Resolution 2 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

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

Meeting is adjourned.