

**VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, in Council Chambers.

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

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

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 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. This evening, we have representatives here from UGI/Synthica and they are going to discuss the current operation of the Synthica St. Bernard plant on Vine Street. Also, they will be discussing the current situation reflecting on the recent leak that happened and how they are addressing that and hoping to improve some of the issues that we have with the orders in the village and our neighboring partners in Elmwood Place. So, at this time, I am going to turn it over to Pam Whitmer, who is the Vice President of Government Affairs with UGI.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Good evening Mr. Mayor and members of council, and members of the public. As the mayor indicated my name is Pam Whitmer and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs with UGI Energy Services. UDI Energy Services is in a joint partnership with Synthica on this particular project. I'd like to just start off by saying that we have heard the mayor, and we have heard members of council and the public about the odor that has been causing a concern and the leak. I am here and I've been authorized to come and tell you that until we can complete all the various studies that we have underway and can look at the results of those studies, we are going to see cease bringing in additional waste. Although we can bring the facility down and get to the bottom of what was causing those issues through the commissioning phase that we had entered. So, there's that piece that I hope will be a piece of good news and some relief to the community as we go forward. I thought that it might be helpful because I don't know that we did a very good job at the beginning of explaining what the facility is and what the facility is not. So, if I can take just a second to go over that it might be helpful. The Synthica facility is a waste to energy facility. We are not a landfill, we are not a transfer station, we are not a storage facility. We don't keep chemicals on site, and we don't process chemicals on site. We take consumer food and other food products that are waste material, and we put that through a process that then becomes renewable natural gas. When the facility is fully operational, we will be able to produce enough renewable natural gas to heat 4,000 homes. They're taking organic material and creating a valuable fuel, a renewable fuel for you. So, a little bit about how the facility operates and what it will be doing when it's fully commissioned. As I said, we are not commissioned yet. We are going through the commissioning process, and we are bringing in, as I

said, the various types of organic material like consumer food waste, food products that have been expired, yeast waste, and batches of beverages that don't meet specifications. We bring those into tanks through various processes, and they're ground into a slurry type of material. The slurry then goes into a different process where it is heated, and it becomes like the temperature of bathwater. The bio gas is captured from that and when we clean that bio gas, that is what then becomes the renewable natural gas that we can utilize as a heating fuel, or you know other types of, you know, things that you would utilize natural gas for. So, that's sort of just a general overview of what the facility is but importantly what it's not because I think there may have been some misconceptions in the community that we didn't do a good job in addressing and you know making sure that it was clear what we are and what we aren't. Again, I want to apologize because it was very disconcerting for folks. We acknowledge that and as a result, we are going to, as I said, we're going to cease bringing in waste material until we can do all of the studies that we have started and make sure that we understand what's in that material and take steps to correct whatever was going wrong so that when we start up commissioning again and get to full operation we won't have these types of problems for the community going forward. With me though, and there are very specific issues I know that you want to address, which are the orders that have been occurring and the leak that occurred on January 9<sup>th</sup>. So, I brought with me today a couple of folks who can answer more of the technical types of questions that you may have. I'd be happy to answer others, but you want the smart people answering those types of questions. So, with me is Jeff England, who is with UGI Energy Services. Jeff oversees the operations of our renewable natural gas projects that we have in various states. This is not our only facility. We have been operating various types of energy projects with a very strong safety track record for many years. So, Jeff is with me. We also have Logan Rattle with Synthica and Jason Wert from our engineering firm, Rettew. So, at this point I think it is best that Jason comes up.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates Inc. - Good evening. I want to talk a little bit about a couple of the specific events, and I will break it into a couple of segments. Prior to January 9<sup>th</sup>, we were working through commissioning on the facility and that's a series of processes we go through to bring the various portions of the facility online. To get to our fully operational state, we do need to pass through each of those steps in order to make sure that our equipment is checked out and we're able to pass to the next step within the process. During those commissioning steps, we obviously had some intermittent releases of odor. I believe those to be temporary, but that started was us looking at the conditions around why those might be occurring. One of the things we believe, although we're in the process of working to confirm, is that with the severe cold weather we think one of our odor control units may have been inadvertently affected by the very cold weather. So, that's one of the things that we're investigating as we cease for a little bit and then come forward on the facility. So once January 9th came around, on the 15th, we brought in some specialized odor experts from Kentucky that have experience in these types of facilities. They brought in sampling equipment with them. They have sampled throughout the site. They have sampled at various different locations within the facility, and they then collected those samplers here today, and we're going to have about two to three weeks until we get some analytical results back. But it will give us some specific granularity around what the odor compounds might be, and is our odor control equipment working to actually remove those or is there something that we need to troubleshoot. We also have been doing some work around the negative air pressures within our buildings. To explain that we try to keep the buildings, the air being sucked out of the

buildings to our odor control equipment so that the buildings themselves and the odors stay within the building and then gets transferred to the odor control equipment. So, we've been doing some thermal work and other things to inspect the buildings to make sure that we don't have any inadvertent leaks that are occurring with those. We've also made some performance changes to the plant. So, as we cycle down here for a little bit, we're going to continue to monitor those systems to make sure that we're staying within specifications. We're looking at this weather impact to make sure that if we have to have something a little bit more robust for the cold temperatures. We're also evaluating some additional technology that we can deploy at the facility. If we find out that we've got a gap on the odor control technology, then we can maybe enhance that further to make sure that we're, you know, getting to a condition that is consistent with what we wanted for the facility and you folks one as well. I will talk about on January 9th; we had a leak on one of our tanks. It was a relatively small leak, maybe about the size of your pinky. The 1 to 2 gallons a minute that came out of the tank, and it leaked some of the organic liquid out of that particular tank. All the material was contained on the Synthica site. None of the materials left the site. The liquid was actually gathered up, treated on site within our processing facility and then charged to the MSD. Waste waters are discharged to the metropolitan sewer district. so all of that material was contained but we had to drain the tank down in order to stop the leak and we believe that in doing that we overloaded our wastewater treatment facility on site and that led to some of the acute odors that occurred on that on the night. We have taken that tank out of service. We're doing a comprehensive review of that and likewise because of that we've decided to do a comprehensive review of all the tanks on the site. Our preliminary indications will go through each tank looking at them and in detail and in depth to make sure that we're, you know, as we take a pause and then move back forward that we're in the best position so that this doesn't happen again. So, we'll get the findings from the odor experts and the laboratory testing that we've done over the last week. We'll actually take the time to go through all of the tanks and do inspections. Then once we have all that information back together, we'll make whatever changes, necessary changes we need to, and then we'll look to move back on with the commissioning of the site.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- I am happy to take whatever questions you might have.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- I am just curious, what does commissioned mean? I am not sure.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Commissioning is really just the start up with small amounts to make sure that the process and the equipment are working as it should be until you can raise the volume to the point of full operation.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- When the facility is fully commissioned and up and running correctly, should the residents expect odor or will or will your systems prevent odors? And in other areas where you have done this, have there been issues with odors?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- The goal is, I can't say, I'm not going to say absolutely never ever, ever. I mean, I don't think anyone can predict into the future, and I don't want to make or create a false expectation. Having said that, the analysis that we're going through and the additional steps that we will take to try to prevent anything occurring in the future should absolutely minimize to the

point where we really do not anticipate that there will be additional odors. But I'm not going to say will there never, never, ever because I don't have a crystal ball and does.

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- So, would it be right to say that the other five locations, or however many locations you have, they are not odorless either?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- So, they're not necessarily always not odorless, but we don't get complaints at our other facility where our other facilities are located.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Just to clarify, are those other facilities also urban located facilities?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Some are, most are not.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Are you privy to the details about the other urban facilities and the frequency in which odor complaints are received?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- So we have not gotten odor complaints at any of our others.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- So I guess my next question is what mechanisms do you have in place to receive odor complaints?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Internally at UGI Energy Services, we do have a control number or, you know, most frequently what would happen in that type of a situation should it occur would be that they, you know, a member of the public would call their local official and again we haven't had any.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I see. One of my questions that I prepared ahead of time, and I want to make sure I am getting this wording right; I believe that village leadership needs a direct line to a facility manager who is on site. Not an automated line but a real person. I am wondering if that is a commitment you can make; that is not already in existence?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- I am going to let Jeff, who is more in control of who is going to be on site and have him answer that question.

Jeff England, UGI- Yes, we can make that commitment. We have been very transparent with the village up to this point and that is how we want to continue to be. You know we are a member of the community, and we want to be a good member of the community. So, we can make sure that village leadership has the appropriate contacts out there on site for anything that might come up so no problem.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, and I meant to start with; we appreciate you being here tonight to answer questions. I think we all want to get past this, and we want to get to the bottom of some of the concerns that we have. So, I appreciate y'all taking the time to come out here and address the concerns.

Pam Whitmer, UGI-It is the right thing to do.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- One of the questions or comments that I've heard from the public is if we're getting this kind of smell now during the wintertime when it's cold, what's it going to be like spring, fall, summertime?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates Inc.- What I will say is when I mentioned the weather earlier, it was in regard to a specific piece of security control technology that we think a key line on it might have froze, and that freezing had impacted its performance. The system itself runs at generally the same temperature year-round and our process systems and tanks, and you know, we work very hard with the operation staff to keep the doors closed to keep everything contained. All the air conditioning and everything is routed to these odor control systems. So, if we can resolve this freezing issue and make sure that doesn't happen again, then we, you know, the seasonality doesn't affect our operations. They're indoors, they're in sealed tanks and with the exception of our wastewater treatment tank on the back end. So, the weather shouldn't have a large impact at all on our performance once we're completely up and running.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Just one quick follow up, if you don't mind. I think we're all aware that next week we're supposed to get the lowest temperatures of the season so far. Are you able to give us any assurance that a similar or same type of failure won't occur again now that the weather conditions are going to be even more extreme?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- So as I said earlier, we're not bringing in any more waste at this time so that you know, there should not be.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, one I guess question, but also trying to get some clarification maybe just for the general public as well, but as far as having a better understanding of the type of digester that we're talking about, the anaerobic activity. So, the fact that your plant was not actually up to capacity, so had it been, you know, had the natural biology side of this, as far as the bugs that are being introduced to the system itself, have they been at capacity? The odor is ultimately expected to be minimal if any at all, but based on the fact that there was a failure, it became obviously noticeable. In our in house meetings that we had just this week where we were able to clarify some things and some preventative measures that you're taking, and now what you've also reassured is even better news to my ears. But as far as beginning to take the preventative measures and until everything can be figured out as far as things like maybe even misters that would help reduce odor, anything that could be done to prevent what we're experiencing both in our community and the Village of Elmwood Place. You know, so that we can all, you know, live a little bit easier. Knowing that obviously weather plays a major role, and I understand, with other council members having questions about the cold weather, but in the perfect world when things are running, we shouldn't notice a change in the middle of winter or the middle of summer?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- That is correct. Yes, once we identify exactly what the route of the problem was and take corrective measures there, you should not. As Jason was saying, regardless of what season, what time of the year or what the temperature is, the odor should not be an issue.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So again, since you are kind of starting over a little bit as far as on the anaerobic side, the biological nature of starting over again, there is an expected odor in the beginning until you're back up to capacity. But based on the fact that if your filtration systems are working properly and able to capture the odors and eliminate whatever or even mask, I mean you are going to or is there going to be some chance for that? So, in the meantime when you're in the startup phase again, is there going to be a greater attention that's going to be paid to that?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Oh, absolutely, yes, absolutely. I understand where you were going with that now. Yes, so as we initiate commissioning again, we will be hypersensitive to those types of startup issues that we could and that we had experienced and that we will be working to try not to have that occur again. But there will, you know, we have been discussing some different options that we could take to further minimize if during that startup, we have any sort of issue there.

Jeff England, UGI- I can add to that. Mr. Mayor, just to that end, since we have gone through a lot of the commissioning process already, and we've gotten a lot of equipment up and running. Our approach to bringing the plant back up after this pause is going to be a little bit different. So, we're going to try and bring now that we've tested out most of the equipment, we're going to try and bring everything up at one time. So, all that biology is in place from day one versus having to go step by step. Per my discussion with the village officials earlier, we did have a third-party vendor come on site yesterday, walked around and just looking at a missing system too, not necessarily for masking, but more for neutralizing. So, in the event that we do have an upset condition where hey, we've got some odors, we have a way to neutralize that on site and try and keep everything onto our property line. So, after coming out of this reset, we will be able to have a much better plan in place to bring this up the right way when we don't have to, you know, we're not testing out individual equipment items that we have issues with.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Of course, I don't think any of us up here are experts on what it takes to get through that commissioning process, but do you mind helping me connect the dots as to how it will change to doing everything at once is a better idea and plan than doing things step by step? Just because with no experience, that sounds a little backwards.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates Inc.- Sure, and I'll do my best to try to kind of lay this out. Most of the systems within the facility are automated. Our staff are there to guide trucks in and out of the facility for unloading of the materials. They monitor those processes, but most of the rest of the systems are fully automated. So, it does take some time to what I'll call tune those systems or to make sure that those systems all the little maybe programming bugs, maybe we've had some, you know, pieces of equipment fail. We have a, you know, \$80 million facility that has a lot of different pieces of equipment in it, and you have to make sure that all of the various different instruments, pressure sensors, temperature sensors, all of that go. So, there's a process that we go through. You test as much of it as you can, what I'll call in the air, just simply as it sits there. Then we introduce clean water to it, and we test those systems again, but eventually to really know, you have to introduce the waste into the process and then have those systems automate through and those ways we mix the tanks, we gently heat the tanks as we mentioned to about bath water temperature and that promotes the conditions where the bacteria, the biology of our process grow. We effectively use selection, we create conditions that certain types of bacteria

will thrive, and other ones will pass away, and those bacteria do the treatment of our process. We, you know, we've done each of the components through 2/3 of the facility. The remaining third is the gas upgrading facility. We have not made biogas yet. So, we haven't done that piece of the facility. Everything else has been checked through at this point. So as to Jeff's comment, we don't have to rely on the systems. A lot of the systems rely upon one another. Those reliances have been checked out and now we can bring it up all at once through the facility.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- So just to make sure I am understanding, the advantage of all at once, that gives you the opportunity to test that reliability between the different systems?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates Inc.- Correct. So, one of the pieces is like, so we, we process the leftovers and we separate the water and solids from them and then the solids then are taken away in our trailer, and the water is then treated further on site and then into the sewer. There's classes of processed chemicals we use that, for example, if there's a polymer, it makes the dirt particles stick together so we can make an actual cake. Well, there's hundreds of those. We have to test which one might be the most appropriate. All of that's now been done. We know which chemicals are most appropriate. We know which operating settings are in place. And so, we, we're, we're much more confident that we can spin down and spin up in our operations. The odor control piece is the piece that we want to make sure that there's something not else going on there, and that is why we did the intensive testing sort of around that.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- That makes more sense to me. Thank you. I have heard testing get brought up a few times, of course you are conducting your internal tests. Can anyone speak to independent agencies or independent tests that are coming in, and what that looks like?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- When we had the release on January 9th, Ohio EPA came and did some various testing. The local fire department was there and none of them indicated, neither of them indicated that there was any air quality issues that, you know, that were concerning.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I should have started by thanking you for coming too. Sorry about that. And we do appreciate you coming and answering our questions and being willing to address the community. How is this facility, from a design standpoint, very similar to the other ones you have? Or is this a unique facility compared to the other facilities you have?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Yes, this facility is a unique facility for us within the category of renewable natural gas facilities that we have.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you. So, then maybe it stands to reason there should be more kind of working through the problems and details as you complete startup and commissioning and all those things, than maybe you would be used to?

Jeff England, UGI- So, while this facility is unique to the other renewable natural gas facilities that UGI owns and operates, we obviously hired a much different set of consultants to help us through that and operators that have experience on that. So, overall we, UGI, had a lot of experience with operating big facilities. Whether it's in the renewable space, whether it's in the traditional natural gas space. So, yes, it is new to UGI, however we are confident we've got the right experts and that this is not new to them and that's going to help us through that.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Then the only other thing, I think you guys would do this, but as you move forward with completion and commissioning again, to the extent you can be proactive with communication either through administration or any proactive communication I would think would make everyone feel a little bit better if there are future odors or more things that come up.

Jeff England, UGI- Yes, absolutely we will make sure that everyone or the village, you know, staff, everyone is, is very much aware as to what's going on. Obviously, the fire department, making sure we're out there, we're doing training with them. They are understanding that this is how the facility works. And so, you know, like Pam had mentioned earlier, we are a member of the community, and we apologize. Like these odor issues are not up to our standards, and we know they're not up to the village standards and that's why we've taken kind of the drastic measure of hey, we're just going to shut down until we get this right. So, we're committed to staying here for the long term and make it right.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- You mentioned the EPA, what government agency holds you accountable? Like if this would happen again, are there fines? Anything like that? Other than being a good neighbor, what is a deterrent to stop it from happening again?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates Inc.- So we have a series of permits with the Ohio EPA for the facility. Hamilton County is a bit unique in that the Ohio EPA delegates some of their responsibilities to the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Board. And so that entity is the entity that has received a lot of the complaints and that they have been very active in their communication with us. They've been providing the odor complaints to us pretty real time. They've visited the site numerous times to kind of get a sense for themselves as to what the operations are, what the performance is and the like. Ultimately, we hold an Ohio EPA air permit for the facility. It doesn't specifically address odor, but it certainly is an over well framework for our air emissions from the facility.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Do you use on site in the facility on, uh, that's what I'm looking for real time air quality sensors, odor sensors?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- I do not think we do at the moment but within the scope of things, looking at that could be something that we, you know, that we consider.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Yeah, I think I would appreciate it. I think residents here would appreciate a real time sensor that we have there that can be even more of an immediate response to things like this. I understand that there's the situation with the leak, but I'm also hearing that there are other almost micro situations where odor leaks can happen. Maybe not an actual fluid leak, but an odor leak. I've seen in other cases where there's situations like this, some more dire, some not as severe, where they have a public facing odor sensor either online or sometimes even a physical sign that says this is the air quality on our facility right now.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Yeah, there's a difference in air quality from a chemical, you know, kind of perspective, which we don't have anything like that that would occur at the facility versus an

odor, which is, and I'm not minimizing this in any way when I use the word irritant, but it's an irritant, it's not a health issue. We are taking and we are looking at a scope of a variety of mechanisms that we can deploy that will give us better information about what happened, what's happening or whatever what could be happening.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- That's great. I absolutely appreciate that and sorry, I'm still getting caught up with all the jargon. But I mean, in all cases, I'm talking specifically about odor because that of course is the main concern for residents. I'm glad that these types of tools and things are being investigated. I would say consider this my formal request that that is one of them. Thank you.

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- You mentioned that the majority of the plants are in nonresidential areas, right? Why St. Bernard then? Where you sought after, or did you come to us?

Jeff England, UGI- I mean in general, you know, as we mentioned some of the feedstocks that we processed to try and avoid going to landfills. Being land applied our industrial byproducts of food production or other type of production, whether it's you know, lotion soap to anything like that. So, the facility was, or this site was picked because of its proximity to the industrial areas down there and some of the other manufacturing entities that have a byproduct that would work in this. So, that was the idea for the sighting of the facility.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- I'll just add one thing. I've had the privilege to work at a number of facilities across the country, and we speak about urban digesters. I have a number of long-term urban digesters to give a sense of residential properties that are on the fence line of those facilities, and we used similar technologies here at Saint Bernard, as we have on those facilities. So, we have confidence that these technologies have a very good application and track record. There's nothing at this facility that's serial number one. These are all proven technologies that have been deployed within the industry in many cases for decades or longer. So, there is a good track record of these facilities operational in urban environments and I'm very confident we'll get there with this through the troubleshooting.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I would actually like to give an opportunity for those that are in attendance, if anyone has any specific questions to be able to address that now. I feel like we definitely will get to them. They've been having to deal with this just as much as we have. If we could, I'll turn it to you to just lay the groundwork for addressing any questions and coming to the microphone if possible?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Typically what we do is give your name and address and if anybody has any questions for them, just ask. Obviously, we'd be civil, but if anybody has any questions that haven't been answered.

Tom Rolfson, 30 Clay Street- What is the material? The brown material in the open tank there without a top that overflowed a while back because it was all down the side of it? What is that material without a top on it?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- The material you see at the site whether it be in the open top tank or whether it contained within some of the tanks is basically the chopped-up food waste and materials, the oily organics that are within the facility. So, it's organic material. It's effectively expired and wasted food that's been macerated, chopped up and then made into a liquid form.

Tom Rolfson, 30 Clay Street- So why doesn't it have a top? Because it is pretty close to the top. Somebody flew a thing over it. I know it overflowed a couple months ago.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- The open top tank that's at the end of the facility, that's our onsite wastewater treatment plant. So, everything prior to that tank operates in an environment where we don't have oxygen within the tanks. We use what's known as anaerobic bacteria. That's where the anaerobic digester term comes from. So, they grow and respire without oxygen. So, to do our pretreatment for the MSD, we have to use a different type of bacteria known as an aerobic bacteria. If you've been by the site, there's 3 blue boxes by that tank. We're taking air from the atmosphere and we're pushing air into that tank to freshen the waste and feed the bacteria so they can reduce organically the waste. Unfortunately, you can't cover that type of tank. So, this is a very, very, very small version of what you have at Mill Creek plant at MSD. We just have a tiny version as compared to a community wastewater plant.

Tom Rolfson, 30 Clay Street - Did you have a plant in Tennessee?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- No. I have never worked at a facility in Tennessee.

Dawn Johnson, 3909 Dickson Ave.- How are you guys doing tonight? Hey, I'm the president of the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. We too have been getting a lot of complaints about this company and I'm very concerned. And so, I guess my question is for you guys. Is this something that we just have to live with or, you know, is there an exit strategy? Or is this just something that we're all just inheriting and have to deal with moving forward?

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I can speak for myself, my mindset here, of course; we want to value our business partners that are here in the village. We need them to be a thriving community, and it's clear today that they're here, answering our questions, conducting these independent tests and internal tests that they're working towards a solution. The solution is what is important. I can tell you with absolute confidence that if there is not a solution, then we would not be wanting to welcome a company like that into our village. However, I'm getting reassurance today that we are working towards a solution and I'm confident that one will be reached. And does that answer your question?

Dawn Johnson, 3909 Dickson Ave.- Yes, that does. My main concern is about the gas smell. That was really really bad. I got several complaints. That is very concerning to me to walk out and smell that gas smell in the air. It was very pungent and very strong. So, you know, I'm glad that you guys have shut down temporarily, but yeah, I mean, I'd like to understand what the timeline is in terms of your testing and you wanting to get things right, but I'd like us not to be the testing site. Is that possible?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- We will do our best.

Dawn Johnson, 3909 Dickson Ave.- I would also like to invite you to the North Avondale Neighborhood Association meeting. They would like to speak with you as well. Thank you.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- I have a list of questions, some of which have been answered. So, to start off, I wanted some clarification. This is an aerobic digester plant? I know I'm mispronouncing that, but that is the type of plant that is?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- An anaerobic digester plant without oxygen.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- Ok, will you be releasing any emissions from that plant once you are at full capacity? You won't be burning any methane or anything else? There is not going to be any hydrogen sulfate release? There's not any emissions when you're at full capacity from this plant?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Correct. What I will simply say is that we have, we have one emissions point, well I would say with two things. We have a natural gas boiler using natural gas from Duke Energy that we use to heat our water within the facility. And so, we do have a very traditional industrial natural gas boiler. Nothing special. We do not burn our gas in that boiler. It can only burn gas from Duke Energy. The other thing I would say is that we do have an emergency flare there.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- flare is the flame that shoots out of the top, right?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- We have not used it yet but there is a stick like device...

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- And that is to prevent explosion, right? Because that is a risk? Explosion?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- The risk is in that gas itself could be released and treated to the atmosphere. So, as part of our Ohio EPA permit, we are required to burn any excess gas prior to its release into the atmosphere. They do not want us releasing raw biogas. That condition could develop for one of two reasons. Number one, Duke Energy could have an interruption where Duke Energy says we cannot inject gas into our pipeline. If Duke says we cannot inject, we have to do something with our gas. The second would be a power outage. If there is a loss of power for an extended period of time, we have to make sure we can responsibly get rid of the gas.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- So, you can tell me with 100% certainty, there is no risk of explosion from this plant?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- The facility is equipped with all the safety devices required by the code, required by permits from the Ohio EPA.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave.- But if those fail, is it possible?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- So, the facility is very robust in its design.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- If it fails, is it possible for it to explode?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Fire is more likely the risk.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- But it is a possibility for explosion if these safety things that you have in place do not work is what you are saying?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- That is not what I am saying actually. What I am saying is we have a whole series of emergency provisions at the facility and any gas that we have in an excess form we burn through our flare in order to get rid of it.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- What are the punishments from the EPA if you continue to leak? Will there be any fines? Or can you essentially just continue to leak with no consequences?

Jeff England, UGI- When you say leak, do you mean odors or the leak from the tank?

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- The leak that happened.

Jeff England, UGI- So, there was in this instance no consequences for that because we were able to contain it all within our system. If that leak had gotten to surface waters and outside of our containment system, then there would have been penalties associated by EPA, which is why they came out.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Are the penalties just fines?

Jeff England, UGI- I think they start with fines and can escalate from there.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- So, in theory, as long as you pay the fine, you can continue to operate while continuing to leak?

Jeff England, UGI- No. Generally, you get fines and then at some point they shut you down.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- So, none of you are actually with Synthica though. You are with a different company, correct?

Jeff England, UGI- So, that is correct. We are with UGI Energy Services is part of the partnership, we are responsible for constructing the plant and operating the plant.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- OK, well Synthica, I did some research on them. They only have two other plants, San Antonio, TX and Rome, GA. Both of which are not in operation right now. This is the only operation. So, if Synthica has no proven track record of operating sites that do not have a history of leaking, how can we be certain this won't be a repetitive problem?

Jeff England, UGI- The short answer to that is what I just said. UGI Energy Services is responsible for operating this plant.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- And there will be no emissions from this plant at any point in time?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- We are reevaluating additional systems to be put in place to address odors. I am not sure what you mean by emissions.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Well, I have heard that it can burn off methane and it can release hydrogen sulfate. Do you release any hydrogen sulfate?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- No.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- I don't think I have any more questions. Also, I think what they are doing is wrong.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- Our house is on the borderline of Carthage and Springfield Township. We can smell this odor terribly all the way up there. So, the leak was the size of your finger, correct? And that, coupled with the failed mechanics with the reason for the smell. What is in that tank that is uncovered?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- So, I guess I'll say it this way. So, if you could imagine, we get what I'll call waste food in the front end of the facility. So, imagine heads of lettuce, lunch meat, anything that you might see in a grocery store and the like that expires. And so, we process that material by chopping it up. And then going through the various anaerobic treatment tanks, after it passes through the enteric treatment tanks, we separate the solids and the liquids. Those solids we process into a soil like material that's hauled away from the site. The liquids that are left over, we then treat through a series of tanks. The last tank that we treat in is that open top tank that you see in the back. And so, it's basically a very, very dilute form of the food waste liquid at that point, coupled with some aerobic bacteria that lived within that tank to treat it.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- So, when you say food waste, basically rotten food.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- It could be a variety of things. We get expired food. We get recalls. We get materials that are no longer for sale. We get products that are discontinued. So, there is a wide variety.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- Expired food has an odor, correct?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Yes, sir.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- Ok, I just drove by there on my way here, and it smells horrible, and you guys just told us that you guys are not taking in any more product to the facility. It is not operating, correct?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- The decision was made today. So, it is in process of not accepting anymore waste and utilizing what is there.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- Why is that tank steaming like it is in use right now? It has been like that for weeks even after January 9<sup>th</sup> when this stuff supposedly started. It has been stinking bad since before then.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- That tank started in operation in August of last year. It takes us a period of time to safely withdraw the tanks down and remove all the waste from the system for our inspections. So, we can't do it in a day. Some of the tanks take us over a week to drain down and all that materials we drain down will treat through that biological tank. Now the reason its steams is we pull air from the outside. Those blue boxes pull air in, and it compresses it down really hard to get it into the tank. And that compression adds heat. So that air that we're adding to that tank is about 200°F. And so, the water in that tank is about 100°F. And so, in cold weather, that's steam that's coming off the top of the tank. It's not a compound, it's not a chemical, that's water vapor that is from the heat. If you put a bucket of 100° water outside, you would expect it to steam off in this weather, but that's no different for us.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- So, what you have is basically a tank full of rotten food that you are heating up, steaming, and it stinks. Are you guys going to contain that? What is the plan? Because it is going to keep stinking.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Yeah. That material normally does not have a strong odor associated with it. We are profiling through the facility looking at the various indications. I recognize it's the most visible portion of the plant. You drive by and you see this white cloud that comes off the tank. That doesn't necessarily mean that's where the odor is emanating from. We put a series of sensors around the facility so that we can pinpoint where exactly it is. And so that's why we're measuring each of those points. We have some things we're going to look at with that tank. As they talked about the misters and the like that we made to add to that facility even if we don't think there's a strong odor potential there, to make sure that we have all bases covered but it it's the it's the last end of it so it's very weak when it gets to that point.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- You're in the process of draining that tank now?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- The tank will not actually be drained for several weeks. It will take us several weeks to get all of the tanks down within the facility that'll be the last tank to be drained.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- So why can't you contain that tank? Why can't you put a lid on it? Why can't you put some sniffers on it? Why can't you decrease the odor because that is I just drove by there and if nothing's being done and it ain't operational, why is it stink so bad?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- So the facility is currently operational. We're pushing through the waste that we received.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- You just said it wasn't operational a minute ago.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- So, that is not what they said. It takes us about 75 days for a piece of waste from the front end of the facility to get to the back end of the facility. And so, as

we've stopped receiving waste, it'll take us a period of time to move through the facility to get all of that waste out of the out of the plant.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- So, after that 75 days then what?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Well, we hope to have answers to all of these questions, all of our analytical testing, our alternatives. If there's a repair that needs to be made or a change that needs to be made, we're going to use that time frame to be able to do that.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- So, all the other tanks were sealed. There's lids on all the other ones, correct? And there was a hole this big, and that's where all the smell was coming from. It wasn't that open tank?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- I want to be clear, we're studying to see where we think the odor came from. We definitely got some strong odor and, to be clear, we got some odor from that leak, but we had to empty that tank very rapidly into the back of the facility. We think that overloaded the rear of the facility. And so, it's a combination of things. There was the release of material that was odorous, but then we also overwhelmed that facility on the backside that led to more odors being increased.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- When you guys get up and running and it starts stinking again, what is your next move? Do you guys have a plan?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Yeah. I mean, that's why we're taking the operational pause here to make sure that we get a plan that's in place so that we don't have that issue again.

Brian Bush, 935 W Seymour Ave- You guys think this through when you started to think that there was going to be an odor from an open tank?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Sir, again I will say, is we've got nearly \$10 million of odor control technology within the facility. We have made many provisions here, but we're trying to find out why it's not.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I don't know if this will help a little bit, but I think I hear what he is saying. I think the problem is the drone that went up, took the picture of the tank, and put it all over Facebook. My first instinct was that's where the smell is coming from, and I think that's what people actually believe. I then asked the people at City Hall, and they explained the system to me, but when you look at that, you think that's where all the odor is coming from. But from what I'm hearing it, it's not. They're trying to figure out the other places that's coming from. But when you look at it, that's what I think the natural instinct is, is to think that.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- That is absolutely correct. That's why I said, you know, at the beginning, I don't know that we did, well I don't think, I know we didn't do a good enough job coming here and explaining, you know, what the process is going to be.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Does the EPA or any other organization recommend building within the city limits, this type of plant?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- There are prohibitions on, you know, where you other than, you know, like local zoning and those types of issues, but there are not. Neither the Federal EPA nor the Ohio EPA have restrictions on that type on location.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Ok, so they don't have restrictions, but they don't recommend it?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- They don't have an opinion.

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- They fully permitted the site.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- They have received all of our zoning and all the necessary permitting to build and operate.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Why didn't you do it in Cincinnati then? Is it harder to build there?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- As we were saying, the product, the product, the material was abundant in this location.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Would you have to get more permits to build in Cincinnati than to build here?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- I can't answer that question. I am not familiar enough with Cincinnati and what they would require.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- Why is no one from Synthica directly here?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Because we are the operators of the facility. We operate it and designed it, well with help from our consultants, and they do not have the role that we have and to be able to really answer your questions for you.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- What is their role?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- It is a business partnership.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- What's their side of the business?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- I am not going to describe the confidential design of our partnership with them.

Ethan Case, 106 Township Ave- But they are also responsible for what is happening there, right?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- As a partner, they obviously have a stake in the successful operation of the facility, yes.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- We would like to thank you guys for your participation this evening.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- So I came here with three questions. I have a lot of questions now after hearing you speak. It only raised more questions. But first, according to your website, you received both organic and plastic waste. How are you monitoring and mitigating the output of microplastics indoor ecosystem?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- So, any food that would come in packaged gets unpackaged and then sent for appropriate disposal. It doesn't go through, you know, the digestive process.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- So, your website, you can see where it is in the tanks. That's on your website.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- As it is unpackaged, it is then eventually separated from the material that is utilized to make the natural gas.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- We saw Clean Harbor was at your facility last week. They removed very toxic chemicals. What did they remove from the plant?

Jeff England, UGI- Actually, Clean Harbor didn't remove anything. We hired them to come in and clean the inside of the tank so that we could do our inspections that we discussed earlier. But all of everything that they took went right back into our treatment process. There was nothing removed off site.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- My other concern is temperatures need to reach at least 140° to kill foodborne disease and pathogens. You're saying your tanks are only reaching what, 110°?

Jason Wert, Rettew Associates- Yeah, I would say, not to dive very deeply into this, but the activation of pathogenic material in waste like this is a function of both temperature, which you're correct, and time. And so, if you want to disinfect something very quickly, 140° is very good and you can do it within an hour. As you lower the temperature, then you need longer periods of time and so as an example, the waste spends about 40 days in our two elevated temperature treatment tanks. We need about 15 days to actually get pathogenic removal between those two. So, we actually run about three times the required time for removal of any pathogen.

Jeff England, UGI- If I could just add one other thing to that too. All of our treated water, wastewater that leaves the plant also goes into the sanitary sewer system, into MSD, the same as any other sanitary sewer from you know, public restrooms, houses, all that.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- So by leaving those tanks open are you presenting a danger to local wildlife? To local birds that might come in contact with any of this material? How are you preventing that?

Jeff England, UGI- The short answer to that is no. So, the tanks that we drained down to do the inspection on and as we continue to do inspections, I mean they're still enclosed. We do have the biological tank at the back end that is open to atmosphere as Jason described the process several times. That tank is no different than in any other, you know, a much smaller version of what you'd see in any wastewater treatment plant across the country.

Dan Selling, 214 Linden Street, Elmwood Place Council, Health and Public Safety- And so you guys, you mentioned you want to be part of the community and want to see you guys as part of the community. What kind of plans do you have to be part of the community? Have events? Fundraisers? What are your plans?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- We are working with the local fire company to make sure that there is, you know, appropriate knowledge about our facility and training. We will have somebody here on site that will be a direct, you know, liaison for the local government here in, in Saint Bernard. And as you know, there are different events that you mentioned, you know, I would be the person that you would come to, you know, to present this as an opportunity for us to engage. We make regular to all across the country where we have a variety of different facilities. We make annual grants to their local fire companies. So, you know, those are the types of things that we do, and we will be doing here.

Dawn Johnson, 3909 Dickson Ave.- Do any of you live in this neighborhood?

Pam Whitmer, UGI- No, I do not. Neither to Jeff or Jason.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Once again, I'd like to thank you guys for coming out tonight and answering the questions. I am sure that as things progress, as you say, we will have contacts in the village, and we will go from there.

Pam Whitmer, UGI- Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Mayor, for the opportunity, and to members of the council to come and talk to you and talk to the citizens. We are very very sorry for the disruption that it has caused so far, and we are going to work to become the good member of the community that we want to be and that we are with wherever else we operate and wherever we operate.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I just want to add one more thing. Bothering me as I'm watching all these posts on Facebook. So many people saying that the administration did nothing. I have never seen a group of individuals work so hard since January 9th and before on this and from your side. There were meeting after meeting, hour after hour. So, for the people that say it was ignored, just because it didn't go out public what was happening. I think the public needs to know how hard they have been working on this and to make it right. And you can shake your head and think they're not, but they have worked very, very hard. And I would like to commend the fire department and the administration on all the hard work with you as well, that they have done.

## REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you to those who attended the webinar on Tuesday, January 20th for the Heritage Hill Master Planning process. We're so excited about this process that we want to make sure that you have an opportunity to shape the future of the Heritage Hill District. No worries if you missed the webinar, you still have an opportunity to view the video and all the renderings that were presented. Please go to the link that is available on the Village website and Facebook page to view the PDF of the presentation slides. We are still encouraging comments and questions that may be directed to our partners at Yard and Company through January 31st via e-mail. The e-mail address to forward questions to would be [daniella@buildwithyard.com](mailto:daniella@buildwithyard.com). The next CIC meeting will be held next Tuesday, January 27th at 6:00 PM here in Council Chambers. We'll be holding our next round of elections for three spots on the board. One spot is for an elected or appointed position. One is for a business representative; the other is for a resident. If you are interested, please give me a call at 513-543-3780 and you'll be given an opportunity to come and make a pitch to the board at Tuesday's meeting. The current board members that are in those positions are able to run again, but I do encourage those who want to get involved to please attend. We're also asking residents to please register for our new mass notification system. We'll be phasing out our current call command notification system, which we have extended to use because of limited sign-ups. The new system will improve and enhance our communication capabilities during emergencies and for announcements and community events. It will include e-mail, voice and text notifications. It does require each resident to create a new account on our resident portal and subscribe to your preferred methods of notification. Unfortunately, we are unable to transfer the current phone numbers. To sign up, please go to the Alerts and Notifications tab on our website where you can create a new account by following the instructions. You can sign up for the village wide announcements with the events, special meetings and other timely notices, or you can simply register for the emergency SMS text messages only. We are hoping to simultaneously run the system starting next month and then eventually phase out the old system. Also with the pending weather, if there is an emergency weather situation and the incoming storm that requires a warming shelter to be open, please stay tuned to our Facebook page or to our current call command system. If you are in need, please call either the police or fire department for assistance. And I ask that everyone please stay off the roads for your own safety if this is an impactful storm that does have expected precipitation. Also, with the incoming cold weather over the next week, we will make determination if there is a need for a warming shelter. So please stay tuned and thank you and that concludes our report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President. The first on my agenda is the IRS office is asking for the approval of Resolution 1 2026. This authorizes the use of village funds to purchase meals and refreshments for Village employees and other persons. This, as I said two weeks ago, is for all of our holiday functions and things like that. The second is Ordinance 6 2026, which I

spoke about at the Committee of the Whole. This is transferring funds from the general fund into the other ones. It's in the amount of \$1,200,000 from general fund transfer out with \$100,000 going into the swimming pool cash account \$200,000 going into master plan cash account, \$300,000 into general bond to cash account, \$100,000 going into employee retirement cash account, and \$500,000 going into employee health cash account and that concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you Mr. President. You have before you this evening Ordinance 5 2026, which I prepared. It will amend a couple of sections of codified Ordinance, section 121.10. It will bring that ordinance and compliance or in alignment with changes that were made by council to the Rules of Council, and I believe it's up for its first reading this evening. Thank you that concludes my report.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- Thank you, Mr. President. All I have is the closing balance of our Star Ohio account as of 12/31/2025. The balance is \$9,590,603.84 and that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you, Mr. President. As referenced by the mayor earlier, we're expecting a major snow this weekend. The The service department is preparing for this as we speak. We are to expect subzero wind chill and significant accumulation. Snow is predicted to begin falling Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning with accumulations anywhere between 6 to 10 inches anticipated. The village does expect to receive its shipment tomorrow of the popular trash bags. They have been out of stock for a few weeks, so those will be available starting next week. I do not know what time the shipment will arrive, so I cannot guarantee that they will be available tomorrow afternoon. As I previously reported, I am working on the development of a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for village and personnel. These are administrative policies. This is something that has been requested and recommended by our property and casualty insurer. They will soon be presented to our legal counsel for review and tandem with that I'm working on updates to the job descriptions for the various positions maintained by the village. That's something that's not been looked at in several years, and they do need to be brought up to current standards. And then on your agenda tonight you do have a couple of ordinances. The primary one I have is an ordinance to approve a contract with the police unit, and that concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- December 2025 tax report:

- Tax collections for DECEMBER 2025: \$2,250,749.00.
- 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 back up and running. It will only accept 2025 tax returns. As a reminder, you must attach all w2's, page 1-3 of your federal 1040 and any federal schedules to the e-file. Your tax return cannot be audited and processed without these documents. Assessments are going out to those who did not file a 2024 St. Bernard tax return. If you receive one, please note that you

only have 60 days to respond. After 60 days, the Assessment becomes final. Please call the office if you have any questions.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President and thank you to many for the get well wishes from a couple weeks ago. The flu is no joke, so please practice healthy habits and stay safe. The next Finance Committee is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th, but it will be rescheduled in respect of Ash Wednesday. In the meantime, please stay safe through this upcoming inclement weather. Thank you that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The following are the 2025 year-end totals for Service Department operations, including solid waste collection, seasonal maintenance, special pickups, and nuisance abatement.

- 285 dump truck spotted at residences.
- 184 dumpsters spotted at residences.
- 757 special pick-ups made.
- 117 car tires and batteries picked up.
- 268 cubic yards of leaves collected and composted during the fall.
- 44 total nuisance grass complaints cut and resolved.
- 25.085 tons of scrap metal recycled.
- 471 tons of salt used during snow removal
- 83, 30-yard dumpsters for garbage totaling 2,490 yards, an increase of 10.7% from 2024.
- 38, 30-yard dumpsters for yard waste totaling 1140 yards, an increase of 35.7% from 2024.
- 2,031.06 tons of garbage sent to Rumpke landfill, an increase of 3.4% from 2024.
- 276.31 tons of recycling material collected to Rumpke recycling, a decrease of 8% from 2024.

While these figures can fluctuate from year to year based on seasonal conditions and resident demand, it is important to note the role of the \$15 monthly garbage fee as it comes up for renewal each year. Revenue generated from this fee is allocated directly back into the Service Department's budget and is essential for offsetting rising fuel costs and supporting the ongoing maintenance and operation of the Village's garbage trucks.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President, there was no need for a Public Improvement Committee meeting, but I would like to report on few things. First, I'd like to invite everyone to the St. Clement Annual Spaghetti Dinner with weather permitting. It will be held Monday, January 26th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the St. Clement School cafeteria. The meal includes spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, dessert, and drinks. Cost will be \$5 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors over 60 and \$4.00 for children under 14. This is cash only for dinner. Carry out available but drinks are not included with carry out. Please come out and support the kids. I would also like to report on the St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society's January meeting this past Monday. This month was different. No planned presentation, but all present were tasked

to identify pictures from our past. Only a few successful identifications, but it was a great time. Highlight of the night for me, \$32 split the pot. Meetings are always a great time. I was also told the topic for next month's program has changed. The Mill Creek Alliance will be presenting a program on how involved in revitalizing the Mill Creek in the last 30 years. Hope is to be able to use this local resource for recreation with kayaking as one of the possibilities. I've also been told numerous schools have been water testing with hopes that the village's schools can also get involved. I would like to invite everyone to this program, especially the city officials, with the hopes of building relations with this dedicated group of people. Meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the main hall of the municipal building. Meetings are free to members and only \$5 for non-members. Please come. I'm sure Ray will remind you of this in his report closer to the meeting. Thank you, Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- I have the police department report for the month of December 2025. They had 443 calls for service, resulting in 319 contacts. There were an additional 299 other services details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 28 total criminal offenses resulting in 54 criminal arrests, 31 traffic citations, four of which were for OVI, and 50 traffic warnings. They responded to 14 accidents as well. Three of those involved injuries. Also, we have two new officers that are nearly completed with their FTO training and will be flying solo by the end of the month. Jared Thatcher and Will Tuttle are excited to serve our community and are welcomed additions to our department. Thank you. That concludes the Police Department report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you Mr. President. We did have a Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting last night, January 21st at 6:30 in Council Chambers. On the agenda was proposed changes to the Chapter 1131 of the Saint Bernard Zoning Code. I'd like to thank the Zoning Administrator for putting together that language clearly and well thought out and did a great job cleaning up a lot of things and adding some needed things. I believe AJ plans on getting that in front of council for February so council can vote on that or debate it. We do have another Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting set up for February 25th at 6:00 PM. I need to let Heidi know that to put it on the website. During that meeting we will review language in the existing charter. That concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. Another reminder that the Recreation Department will be holding sports sign-ups at the Recreation Office on 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. The rec department is accepting applications for summer employment at the Aquatic Center. This includes lifeguards and support staff. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- No report.

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Resolution 3 2026 on the table this evening. Motion passes 7-0.

R ESOLUTION NO. 1, 2026

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VILLAGE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEALS OR  
REFRESHMENTS FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OR OTHER PERSONS AS SERVING A  
PUBLIC PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Resolution 1 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to adopt Resolution 1 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03, 2026**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE  
TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY TO DISPOSE OF  
UNNEEDED VILLAGE PROPERTY THROUGH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTERNET  
AUCTION SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Resolution 3 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 3 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 01, 2026**

**ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BETWEEN THE  
VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND ST. BERNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS  
AND SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS - AS AMENDED, AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY**

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 1 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 1 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR  
ELECTRIC GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 2 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3 2026**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR  
NATURAL GAS GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 3 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, to adopt Ordinance 3 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO 04, 2026  
FIXING THE COMPENSATION AND PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL PERCENTAGE  
INCREASES FOR THE POSITIONS OF AUDITOR, TAX ADMINISTRATOR, AND  
SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND DECLARING  
AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 4 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 4 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5 2026  
AMENDING SECTION 121.10 RULES OF COUNCIL PROTOCOL POLICIES AND  
PROCEDURES OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCE.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, allow Ordinance 5 2026 to go regular course. Motion passes 7-0

ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2026  
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND  
APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 6 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 6 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- At this time, does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business? Is there anyone in the audience wishing to address council this evening?

Diane Statt, 401 Cleveland Street- Is there any kind of ordinance regarding barking dogs? Like the hours and stuff? We have dogs one street over from us, and those dogs bark constantly all night long. I know the people who lived on that corner, two families have moved out of the neighboring house because of those barking dogs. Is there an ordinance about people having to keep their dogs in the house at night?

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I looked into this because we've gotten complaints about it in the past and unfortunately, it's a problem that's faced by pretty much every community in this area and probably nationwide. You know, there is an ordinance and it falls under, I believe it's called noise nuisance. What's unfortunate about it though, is that it is extremely difficult to enforce because you have to be able to, well when I was looking into it, and maybe I can get some further clarification later on this because it's been a while, but I believe you have to bring out a tool called a decimeter. It tracks the sound level, and you have to prove that it's actually going above that appropriate level. So, we can take it as a follow up to look into it, but as of right now there is an ordinance to answer your question. It's just very, very tough to enforce. It is worth investigating for sure.

Diane Statt, 401 Cleveland Street- I'm more worried about the dog. It is out all night, and it is cold outside. Thank you.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I believe we also have an ordinance that refers to barking dogs. It's either barking or howling animals in addition to the one Mr. Moreton brought up. Valerie, can you double check me on this. I think it is 505.11 that might address this.

The next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

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

The meeting is adjourned.