

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 12th, 2026

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on February 12th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed six 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 approve the written minutes of the January 22nd, 2026, council meeting. Motion passes 7-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda is to discuss the zoning changes to Section 1131.

Zoning Administrator, AJ Schweier- Thank you Mr. President and good evening, Council. We are talking about changes to the Board of Zoning Appeals Chapter 1131. On the title page, I combined multiple sections just to better organize the chapter. Throughout the chapter, I made some small changes to go from the zoning inspector to the zoning administrator. Anytime there was a written number within the code, I also added the numeric number next to it. Very little of the code was actually eliminated. Most of the code was re-worded or rearranged. There are some exceptions which I will discuss under Section 1131; we added that the alternates can be added to the Board of Zoning appeals. This was done so that if there is a conflict of interest for a board member or if they were unable to make the meeting, we would be able to have a substitute and have a full board. Councilman Schildmeyer, you will notice under 1131 that the change you requested through LCC to have the two added in specifically, that change has been made. The next change that I wanted to talk about is under section 1131.05 02. This is the section that underwent the biggest number of changes within the code. We eliminated any reference to a use variance. The main reason behind that was the uses are typically approved by the Planning Commission and forwarded to Council for approval. The use variance would allow the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow uses which had not been put into the code. We felt it was most appropriate to allow that to go through the Planning Commission and then council review versus allowing the Board of Zoning Appeals to do that. So, the use variance portion was eliminated. Section B under 1131.053 lays out the condense that variances are supposed to be approved under. It's based on the unique shape of the land. So that is the criteria. When they look at variances, that's one of the things they're supposed to look at specifically. Section C is probably the largest change in this section. There were previously 3 standards by which the Board of Zoning Appeals was supposed to judge and make a decision on the variance. And again, this is still under Section 1131.05. The Ohio Supreme Court made a court decision that said there were 7 standards. They're referred to as the Duncan Standards. So, this update is to come into compliance with what the US Supreme Court has said we should be making the decision on. This is also the reason that the the ordinance is requested to be an emergency ordinance. Those really are the biggest changes to the code. If there are any questions, I would be more than happy to answer those. Thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to place Ordinance 7 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda is to discuss an ordinance to amend Section 159.03 Bonds of the Codified Ordinances.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- So, this would amend Chapter 159 Employment Provisions under that section. Currently we have a section 159.03 Bonds that lists all the various officials or employees that need to retain a performance or security bond. Many of those positions currently listed no longer exist, and others that exist that are not listed. Talking to our property and casualty carrier, they strongly recommend that we migrate to a crime policy which would be comprehensive, and would cover all employees, and would provide greater protection. This is something they've been asking for really for quite some time. So, this would formalize that and under the state law ORC-section 3.061, provides for dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy, otherwise known as crime coverage. That is what this would enable us to do, and I am asking the ordinance to be placed on the agenda at the next meeting and passed as an emergency.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Is there any changes to any of this ordinance?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- There was a typo in that. It is in the second paragraph just before the "now there for" there is a word concerning. Before we give you the one to look at, we will remove that word.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Ordinance 8 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President. First off, I'd like to thank our awesome service department for their response to our recent snowstorms. They did a great job, and it was very difficult to deal with because of the lack of places to push snow other than in front of your cars or driveways. Thank you to our residents for their understanding and patience, but at least we can now see some grass again. I also truly appreciate our fire and police departments as well, who went above and beyond to assist those in need during this extreme weather. I also can't forget our City Hall personnel who showed up to cover the building and phones. I appreciate the entire response from everyone. We're also asking residents to please register for our new mass notification system. We're phasing out our current call command notification system which we've had to extend because of its limited signups for the new system. The new system will improve and enhance the communication capabilities during emergencies for announcements and community events, getting email, voice, and text notifications. It requires each resident to create a new account on our Resident Portal and subscribe to your preferred method of notification or methods. Unfortunately, we're unable to transfer the current phone numbers on the old system. To sign up, please go to the Alerts and Notifications tab on the village website where you can create a new account. By following the instructions, you can sign up for village wide

announcements about events, special meetings and other timely notices, or you can simply register for the emergency SMS text messages only. We will be simultaneously running both systems starting this weekend and eventually phase out the old system hopefully next month. Also, the CIC will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 PM here in Council Chambers and that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President. The first thing I have on the agenda is Resolution 3 2026. We unexpectedly got an invoice from Cohen, Todd, Kite and Stanford which was from last year. So, in order to pay that, council has to pass a resolution. Not only is it from last year but it's more than \$3,000. The amount is \$6,194.00. I ask that this be placed on the agenda so I can pay this invoice. Secondly, Ordinance 9 2026 is creating a line items #0711 Langley Ave. Street Project. We finally got the amortization chart for that. So, our first payment will be made this summer. It also has the additional appropriation for that line item, which is \$13,365, which is the summer payment. Then it has for outside counsel 012I-9 \$6,200. That's to cover this invoice in the resolution. 012-P Professional Services for \$20,000. It seems like when we were preparing the budget, we missed Alloy and they're going to be doing a new software for the recreation department where everything's online and so we have to pay for those and so that's what that will cover. 018A2 Safety Center, it's \$12,000 to repair the elevator in the Safety Center and 31-22 Service Department Leasing. We finally have all the cars in, and we know what our payments are going to be for this year, and it needs an additional \$48,000. Are there any questions?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I have noted that we already approved Resolution 3 2026 for something else. Are we sure this is not number 4?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I do not know, but I will double check.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Resolution 3 2026 or possibly Resolution 4 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Moreton, to place Ordinance 9 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- No report, but I would like to go into an executive session to discuss ongoing litigation at the end of the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to go into an executive session after the meeting to discuss ongoing litigation. Motion passes 7-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- Thank you Mr. President. The closing balance of our Star Ohio account as of 1/31/2026 was \$9,621,876.23 and that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you, Mr. President. The Village continues to engage with Synthica to address the foul odor issues related to the operation of their plant at Vine Street and Murray Rd. The plant is currently shut down while they conduct a comprehensive review of their operations and in an effort to identify the source of the problem.

The Village is working to ensure that the odor issues are negligible going forward. As promised at the January 22nd council meeting, the Village has received the shipment of the popular trash bags. They're available for purchase in the office of the Village Clerk here at Village Hall. Purchases are limited to residents of the village with the cost of \$10 per box. The limit is 4 boxes per calendar year per household. The service department remains busy cleaning up and removing the pile and piles of snow from the recent winter storms. Please be patient as they complete their work. This concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Tax collections for January 2026: \$686,435.

January 2026 is up 5.80 % or \$37,637 from January 2025.

Refunds for January: \$0.00

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$311.50

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$8,878.98.

2025 tax returns are due by April 15, 2026

All tax returns must include page 1-3 of your federal tax return. You must also include all w2's, 1099's and federal schedules if you have them. Your tax return will be pending until those items are submitted. A Power of Attorney is required to discuss tax matters regarding anyone but your Joint filing partner. This includes parents of adult children making payments and wanting a receipt. We can only discuss tax matters with the taxpayer or their joint filing partner.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I just want to report that Mr. Schildmeyer is correct. We do already have a Resolution 3 2026, so we will have to go with Resolution 4 2026.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Can I have a copy of Resolution 3 2026 to add to our spreadsheet?
Thank you.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. Due to no needed agenda topics, the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th is cancelled. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 18th at 6:00 PM. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department and City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day. There will be no trash collection on Monday. The collection schedule will be as follows: Monday's collection is moved to Tuesday, and Tuesday's collection is moved to Wednesday. Thursday and Friday's collection remain unchanged. The Service Department is currently accepting applications for seasonal employment. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid driver's license. Applications are available for pickup at City Hall and will be accepted until all positions are filled. As temperatures rise and snow continues to melt, the Service Department will be conducting assessments throughout the Village to identify any damage to storm drains, curbs, sidewalks, and potholes that may have developed over the winter months. Residents who observe any areas in need of repair are encouraged to contact the Service Department at 513-616-3413 to report concerns. Additionally, I would like to request that a presentation be added to the agenda for our February 26th Council Meeting. Our Population Health Specialist with WeThrive, Leslie

Aguilar Ramos will present the 2025 Community Health Assessment. This assessment provides a comprehensive overview of our community's current and historical health status, identifies contributing factors to higher health risks and poorer outcomes, highlights key community needs, and outlines available resources aimed at improving overall health and well-being. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, and I hate to say it, but I have no report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you, Mr. President. Tonight, I have the activity for the Police Department for last year, 2025. For the year of 2025, the Police Department had 7627 calls for service, resulting in 5720 contacts. There were an additional 5406 other services/details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 472 total criminal offenses, resulting in 680 criminal arrests, 479 traffic citations, 15 of which were OVI, and 878 traffic warnings with 170 for speeding. They responded to 231 accidents as well, 33 of those involved injuries. We also responded to 303 calls for mutual aid. That was for the year 2025. I also have the police activity report for last month. For the month of January, the Police Department had 580 calls for service, resulting in 422 contacts. There were an additional 412 other services/details that we're not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for services included 24 criminal offenses resulting in 60 criminal arrests, 49 traffic citations and 95 traffic warnings, 2 were for OVI. They responded to 13 accidents as well with 2 including injuries. Under news and notes: Officers Jarrett Thatcher and Will Tuttle have successfully completed their training and are now flying solo. Both officers are on night shift and are welcome additions to our department. We wish them both a long and safe career as they serve and protect our village. Thank you, that concludes my reports.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you Mr. President. As I think I mentioned at the last meeting, the Laws Contracts and Claims Committee met on January 21st in Council Chambers and discussed changes to Chapter 1131, the Zoning Code. I want to again thank AJ for doing such a great, thorough, and thoughtful job. The committee can recommend that council pass by emergency in the next meeting. The next Laws Contracts and Claims meeting will be February 25th at 6:00 PM and on the agenda will be to review the language of the existing charter and that concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. The next Historical Society program will take place on Monday, February 16th at 7:00 PM at the main upper level of the Municipal Building. The program is titled Shifting the Current of 1995 through 2025, and the presenter is Beth Hemberg from the Mill Creek Alliance. The deadline to submit an application to work at the Aquatic Center is tomorrow, February 13th. You can drop off your last-minute application at City Hall between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- Thank you Mr. President. I want to start thanking and praising our service department for their continued efforts. I washed a bobcat move snow up and down church to go around cars. So much thanks to our service department. On Thursday, February 5th, the Business and Industry Committee met to consider interests in a Youth Center and address specific health and safety concerns regarding the Synthica plant and UGI. The

committee addressed 3 specific events, the most recent being the “gas buildup” that resulted in an anonymous call. Chief Young clarified for the public that no harmful gases were detected when they responded, and he emphasized that the plant has not yet produced any natural gas. UGI being based in Pennsylvania, has committed to hiring an on-site manager, and the committee agreed that both Synthica and UGI representatives would be available at a future meeting. That concludes my report. Thank you.

No audience participation.

Council enters into an executive session to discuss ongoing litigation.

Council returns from an executive session after discussing ongoing litigation.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

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

Meeting is adjourned.