

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Ms. Valerie VanValkenburg-Walden – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that five members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mrs. Schildmeyer, and Mr. Culbertson.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Culbertson seconded the motion. Council agreed 5-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I just have a few items here. I'd like to ask Council to place the PAC on the agenda for the next COW meeting. The PAC is a newly formed group formed here in St. Bernard. It is a group of ladies who, I believe the acronym is Positive Activity Committee. They would like to do some things in collaboration with the City, not as an adjunct group over there, but they'd like to come to a COW meeting and talk to you a little bit about what you're doing with the library and maybe talk to you about finances.

On another note, I'd like to thank Doug Roll. He had an immediate professional response today for a situation here at City Hall. I was impressed the way he handled it and he kept the thing to a minimum so it didn't get any worse. It's entirely the way he treats a lot of people.

I spoke with two people this week about marketing and I have one meeting set up for next week and I'm still waiting to hear back from the person at the University of Cincinnati.

The CIC, we had a meeting Tuesday. I was, it was my first meeting as Vice President, we had a resignation of one person, and we have a new president, Mr. Don Tobergte. The message is to be open and be professional to everybody. That's what we should all be in all these committees.

On a final note, I would like to thank Paul Schildmeyer and his Rec. Staff. He's done a great job. He doubled the number of Knothole teams, and tripled the number of girls softball teams, despite overcoming obstacles that they were left or not left in that department and the things they had to deal with. So great job Paul and keep up the good work.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Absent.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I have the revenue's report for January. The Village brought in a total of \$867,207.48.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – This is just an important reminder; the St. Bernard Fire Department is looking for volunteers to join our soon to be created Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in the communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous

volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations and light search and rescue operations. Also I would like to announce that we now have an established an eligibility list for Fire Firefighter and EMT. We will be starting interviews for the up coming vacancy that we will have in the next couple of months.

I would also like to offer my sympathy to Mike Peck and his family for the loss of his father-in-law.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – We will be opening bids for the Jackson Ave. Project on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The generator for the Service Dept. is online and working. The fire alarm system here in the building is online and working and we had an alarm go off last Friday night and it was a phone line mess up so that was all taken care of and since then it's been replaced and tested and it's good to go. I attended a Hamilton County Recycling Solid Waste district meeting. Rumpke is going to raise the rates for our recyclables. They are doing this because of the separation. It's costing them more money to separate it and to haul it away. So with that it means an increase for us. I got with Mike Wiedemann and we're looking for other alternatives and we'll keep you informed on that.

To the citizens, it's OK to be discouraged but don't dwell there. We live in a community and the community is not just pavement, piping, and bricks and the beloved cones. It is also the people within. So while we are patiently waiting for more visible improvements to occur, let's look within our own surroundings, in our own space. How's the peace and love going? Is it weakening? Then strengthen it. Do you have your own cones up? Do what I do... I fill the cones with ice cream. Then it just seems to make things not so bad.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – Just a couple of things. First of all, tax season is officially upon us and we suddenly have gotten very, very busy. It seems like more people are filing earlier this year so it seems like the letter that we mailed out a couple of weeks ago is having an effect. We plan on doing another mailing in early March to remind people that they need to get their 2015 taxes in. And we're also going to follow up with the phone. Just a reminder that the taxes are due on April the 18<sup>th</sup> because April the 15<sup>th</sup> this year is a Federal holiday.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I'd like to thank Dianna for her work on the CIC. I did meet with Paul Meyers for three hours yesterday and another hour and a half today. He updated me on the projects the CIC is proceeding with. I also spoke with the CIC Treasurer and we are working on ways to improve the accounting process.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I too would like to congratulate Don Tobergte on not only being the newest member of the CIC, but the president. I'd also like to thank Dianna for her last two years of service to the community with the CIC. I'd also like to thank Peggy for reconsidering her resignation and staying a part of the CIC. I'd also like to thank Andrew Setters of News Five, WLW-T for hosting us down there Tuesday night, the Block Watch Program. He did a wonderful job touring, taking us on a tour through the Station. We greatly appreciate it.

Finally I have the Police Department report for the month of January; During the month of January officers were involved in 735 calls for service. Of those calls, officers responded to 34 accident reports and took 38 offense reports. Officers cleared a total of 24 offenses. Officers made 73 misdemeanor arrests and

4 felony arrests. Officers responded to 44 parking complaints and issued 12 citations. Officers issued 23 traffic citations, 1 DUI and 46 warnings. We responded to 50 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – Absent.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Absent.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer – First of all I would like to express my sympathy for Mary Clare and the O'Brien family and for the Mike Peck family on the loss of Mary Clare's father.

I have talked to members of the new PAC committee and I'm super excited about what they're going to embark on, so I would love to hear more about that as well. I stepped back from the CIC for personal reasons. There's more endeavors that I would like to explore which would be a conflict of interest if I continue with the CIC. I'm very confident that Donnie will be a tremendous asset to the CIC and he will do a great job so thank you Donnie for stepping up to the plate.

Mr. Asbach – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole  
Feb. 11, 2016

Council approved the minutes of the Feb. 4th Council meeting.

Mayor, John Estep

Said that the HIP Inspector and Building Department would still report to the Safety Director, but Paul Meyers will now report to the Mayor.

Said that the CIC finalized two properties this week, 115 Church St and the Weidner property on Park Place. The next couple of projects might be the Lawrence Ave parking lot and the Baker Street Park.

Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

Asked for an additional appropriation, a "Then & Now", for \$4,100 for our State audit. The invoice was from last November and there might be another \$2,000 for the CIC audit.

Gave an update on the CIC audit and said that there are still some missing items that need to be presented to the Auditor by next Tuesday.

Said that she sent everyone's W-2 again since some people were still asking for them.

Law Director, Mike Peck

Said that he had received a bill from the Bank Ave litigation for \$1,093 and he will forward it on to the Auditor for payment.

Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

Thanked Council, the representatives and Mike Peck for their work on the police contract. He thanked Heidi for coming in and typing it up for the meeting.

Said that the final agility test for the Fire Department will be this weekend and then move forward with the eligibility list.

Service Director, Tom Paul

Reported that Rumpke will start charging for recycling. There is a separation fee of \$20 per ton. Said he will get with John Ungrhue to talk about using some of the memorial fund to buy new flags in front of City Hall, since a new set of flags is about \$1,600.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

Gave Council a copy of the January receipt report.

Reported that the office will close at 3PM on the days that there is Mayors Court. They have had a problem with people coming in to pay their taxes and then thinking they don't need to show up at Mayors Court.

Treasurer, John Ungrhue

Reported that there is \$5,628.22 in the First Safety 4th of July Fund.

Finance, Don Tobergte

Had asked to discuss the Vine St Streetscape moving down toward Mitchell. After some discussion, it was decided to review the plan with JMA and have more discussion before any action is taken.

Safety, Ray Culbertson

Reported that there will not be a regular Block Watch meeting since they will be taking a tour of the Channel 5 studios.

Reported that if anyone was interested in being a weather spotter that there will be training on February 25th at the West Chester Hospital located at 7700 University Drive West Chester, OH 45069 Level A Plaza Conference Room ( enter main entrance) from 6:30-9:00 PM. Pre-registration is required due to space and there are no fees, but you must be over 14 years of age. There is a link on our Village website or you can call 513-785-5810.

A resident told Council that he had seen the Police Chief at school a couple of time this week and was glad to see this because of the fights that happen at school. He also said there are things going on up and down Vine St. Also there was a discussion about a public records request from the CIC and the by-laws.

Council voted to excuse the absent member.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Asbach  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 5-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2016. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF ONE (1) INVOICE COVERED BY 'THEN AND NOW' CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$3,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to allow Ordinance No. 5, 2016 to take it's regular course. Motion passed 5-0

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Manzie – Hello. I just want to thank Mr. Estep for giving me the idea of a student advisory. Both Principals are saying yes to this and I'm going to talk to Mrs. Webb about it. Pretty much getting it started. I have good ideas for it.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to excuse the absent members. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.