

ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, March 17, 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 all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mrs. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson and Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Just to give you a quick update, I met with Dave Stevens, he represents the Brohman family that owns the property behind Sur-Fine and Wendy's and we measured the area for a privacy fence on Girl Scout Lane. We're going to organize a St. Bernard Clean-Up day similar to what Mr. Tobergte has and I'm going to try and do this in conjunction with Duke Energy and clean out all the brush, clean that up and then run a privacy fence up to the dumpsters and then work with them on enclosing the dumpsters.

Last week I met with the Associate and Assistant Directors of the College of, the Carl Lindner College of Business at University of Cincinnati. It was a Mr. James Gaffney and Carly Stromboli who put together job description for an intern from UC's Marketing Department. I'd also like to thank Paul Meyers. He helped me, he was a lot of help putting this job description together. We'll begin interviews tomorrow at 4:00pm for that. We're going to try an interview, we're going to negotiate a salary, number of hours per week and a time line and see what we can get out of that.

I also met with Curtis Fuller from Channel 5. He wants to come out and have lunch and see about the changes going on in St. Bernard. He's heard good things.. We continued meeting with the students last week. Chief Moeller, myself and we're going to continue again tomorrow. We're going to meet with the 5th graders from St. Bernard elementary at 1:30pm, the sixth graders at 2:10 and then he wants to transfer this over to St. Clement elementary and meet with some of the upper classes up there and talk to them about acceptable behavior, role models, consequences, courage and doing what's right.

I also have a appointed a person for the Tax Review Board. Joe Kempe has agreed to volunteer for that position which is awfully nice of him. And then Council will appoint two others. We'll wait on the Tax Commissioner to give us an update on that.

I'd like to be put on the COW agenda for next week to discuss moving to two meetings a month. My idea is to have a COW the first week and have Council the third week. That leaves the second week open for a meeting if needed. I would like to try this for a period of six months to see if we could run our meetings a little bit more efficiently and without a doubt more professionally. I think people would come prepared to give a report when asked for Committee reports and I just think, I look around, I talk to other people from other communities, most of them have two meetings per month with communities a lot larger than ours and I think we could do things a lot better and efficiently and more professionally.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Just to give Council an update the 2014 audit is still not complete but I've went ahead and started preparing the 2015 audit reports so as soon as we're ready to begin that I should be ahead of schedule.

I also wanted to let Council know that next week Nick will be out Tuesday through Friday. He is going to attend the State Auditor Training Class that I attended four years ago. I'll probably go next year for a refresher. We will be preparing the checks on Monday which is very early for us but since he's going to be out, that's what we're going to do. So if anybody really needs to get their check or an invoice paid please let us know.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Last night we had Mayor's Court. There were 22 cases for payment, 68 cases for tax violations, 16 cases for arraignment, 4 cases for pre-trial and 2 trials, one of which was pled. The other was a trial which resulted in a conviction. I would commend Officer Marconi for his testimony and professionalism during that trial.

As far as what Mayor Estep indicated about going to two meetings, I did do some research, but if it's going to be on the COW agenda next week I'll just make copies for everybody up there and we can discuss it next week.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the monthly Treasurer's report to Village Council.

Receipts for the month of February 2016:	\$ 697,291.57
Receipts for the year through February 2016:	\$ 1,564,499.05

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – Last night was our second class for the newly created Community Emergency Response Team and I have to say that so far it has been a wealth of knowledge. We were blessed with Safety Committee Chair, Ray Clubertson joining the group and this may be a small group to start but I really believe that it could become a valuable asset to the Village. I would like to thank Capt. Troy Mirick for organizing the class and also to Lt. Mark Sicking, FF, Dan Gruenwald, and FF, Jason Smith for their assistance with the live fire training where we learned how to use the various types of fire extinguishers and were able to use a hose line.

This Tuesday we conducted interviews for the upcoming vacancy for a Firefighter/EMT and at the conclusion of the evening we made a conditional offer to a candidate upon the successful outcome of a physical examination for the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund. Once that has taken place I will give you a formal introduction of this fine Firefighter/Paramedic. I would like to thank Cheryl Abrams for her assistance in helping us set up for the interviews and for being so hospitable.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Letters went out today to the residents who are living on Jackson Ave. Construction will begin April 4th and continue until right around August 1st weather permitting. I received a certified letter of the top ten applicants for the Civil Service Board for the Service Department position and have notified said applicants of their interview process in the next two weeks. The Service Department will be picking up old tires during the week of April 18th through the 22nd, that's one week. Please put the tires out during your regular pick up days of that week and they'll take care of them.

I would like to remind you of the contract and the changes real fast: So if you go to page 13, article 12 section 3; the change for deferred comp has been dropped from one year to six months. That would be in section 3 recoupitive leave. The next one I would like to remind you about is article 18, that's on page 18. That change is under A, section 1-A, we actually made it more simple and the person,

once he gets his six months in, he gets his 80 hours of vacation. B is actually worded so that it protects him so that when he comes to next year, if he was hired say in October, it's letting us know that it's OK for him to start his vacation in January instead of waiting for October and he only has October, November and December to pick. That's why that's worded like that. So it turns out to be pretty safe. The next one is page 21, article 20; that reminder is on section D, promotional exam, test results. We simplified it to put it in accordance with the Civil Service law, that makes it pretty simple. And then on page 25, article 25, that one is the deferred compensation. We would like to bring the three remaining employees of the Service Department up to 75 for the deferred comp to make all the employees equal. Those are the changes.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tom on that first one you said on page 13, I thought you said something about the deferred comp there so I'm not, what was that change.

Mr. Paul – That change was after they do their sick leave, the employees granted, it used to be up to one year with full pay, and we cut it in half to six months with full pay.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Workers' Comp?

Mr. Paul – Workers' Compensation, yes, what did I say?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Deferred.

Mr. Paul – Oh, sorry. And to the citizens; I would like you to draw inspiration from the road you are on. Do not strive to be better than your neighbor but rather strive to be better than you were.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – I don't have any pithy sayings. Just a couple of things, they've got the mailing out to remind everyone again that tax day is April 18th and we'd like to follow up with probably Call Command maybe the last week in March or the first week in April as a last minute thing to remind people about the due date.

Secondly, as the Mayor said, I have one candidate that's come from Council. I really need another one for the Tax Review Board so if you can think and fill out a sheet of paper and let me know who it is, I'd like to get this put to bed if we could.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – My first Cleanup St. Bernard Day for this year will be this Saturday March 19th. We will meet in the lower level parking lot at 9:00am and I will serve lunch at 12:00noon.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – Just wanted to let the residents know that the Block Watch Group is collecting donations for Mathew 25 Ministries on behalf of Lily Middendorf. The group is accepting case, bottled water and cleaning supplies to donate to the St. Bernard Parish of Louisiana. If you would like to make a donation please contact me at 641-0812 or Don Tobergte at 242-9499 and we'll make arrangements to pick up your donation.

I'd also like to congratulate Coach Brian Neal and the Roger Bacon boys basketball team on their State final four appearance today. Although they came up a little bit short today they had a great season and represented St. Bernard very well.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for February 2016; there were 31 trucks placed at residences, 20 dumpsters placed at residences, 86 special pick-ups at residences 163.72 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. As far as recycling; there were 33.86 tons of recycling material and 1840 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb –No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer – No report.

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

Committee of the Whole

Mar 10, 2016

Council approved the minutes of the March 3rd Council meeting.

Police Chief Moeller addressed Council on the issue of kids hanging out by the Library. There was a lot of discussion, as well as comments from the St Bernard-Elmwood Pl school administration about the situation. The Chief and Mayor will continue to visit classrooms at the school and talk to them about what is acceptable behavior in school as well as outside school. The school has Lifepoint, social workers, working with the kids. Everyone is working to improve this matter.

Council had a moment of silence for Carl Deutsch, a former firefighter who passed away this week.

Mayor, John Estep

Thanked the school administration for addressing Council.

Asked Council to think about having only two meetings a month instead of four.

1. Said that he met with people from the University of Cincinnati about someone to do the marketing of St Bernard. He has a meeting with Paul Myers about this next week and will report back to Council.
2. Said that he and Jonathan met with Mr. Eiser on the parking issues near St Clement School. They talked about some properties that are for sale in the area and the school will research the matter.

Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

Gave Council a corrected figure that was reported incorrectly at last week's meeting. The total bond payment for the year is \$1,198,900.82 which comes to a monthly payment of \$99,899.89.

Reported that she talked to Sharon Waltermann, pool manager, about the packets for the summer employees.

Said that Nick contacted 5/3rd Bank and had them reimburse the charges from the records request from the CIC. There might be a charge of only \$30.00 not over \$2,000.

Law Director, Mike Peck

3. Talked about some proposed legislation from last year that didn't pass. This legislation would stop income tax payments from non-residents. If passed this would be a huge blow to the Village. He will check to make sure we have people lobbying against the bill if brought up after the election.

Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

4. Was attending a CERT training along with the citizens that signed up for the program. He reported that last Friday he spent the day around the Village observing both the beginning of school and the dismissal. He also went to the school with Chief Moeller and the Mayor to listen to their presentation to a group of freshman. At the end of the day he was outside the high school so he could video tape the dismissal. He then went to the 5/3rd parking lot for about 15 minutes and didn't see any disrespectful or disorderly individuals. He feels that we have to maintain a presence in the school because of the effort that is being put forth is making an impression on the students.

Service Director, Tom Paul

5. Reported that there are new benches, planters and trash cans added to Vine St as part of the streetscape project.

6. Reported that he will have a pre-construction meeting on April 4th for the Jackson Ave. project. Residents will be mailed a notice.

7. Said that the lights on Vine St, on the trees, will remain lit at night.

8. Asked for executive session to discuss the service department's terms of employment. Council voted 6-0 to go into the session at the end of the meeting.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

9. Reminded Council that they need two people to serve on the tax review board. Council can give him the names and he will call them and explain their role.

10. Said the second mailing will go out tomorrow and that taxes are due on April 18th.

11. Said that after tax season, mid to the end of May, he will give Council a report that shows where our money comes from.

Treasurer, John Ungrhue

12. Reported that the First Safety Memorial Fund account balance is \$5,628.22.

Finance, Don Tobergte

13. Reported that his first "Clean Up St Bernard Day" will be March 19th from 9am until noon. Please meet in the side lot of City Hall on the Vine St side.

Safety, Ray Culbertson

14. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday March 15th at 6:30 in the lower level of City Hall. New members are always welcome.
15. Gave his condolences to the Deutsch family.

Highways & Transportation, Diana Schildmeyer

16. Thanked the City workers for all they do. On a personal note she thanked officers Ingrahm, Setters, Moore and Simos for their recent help.

Council voted 6-0 to excuse the absent member.

Council met in executive session. After the session Council voted 6-0 to place an Ordinance on the table for the service department terms of employment.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2016. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND ST. BERNARD SERVICE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 8, 2016.

REMARKS

Mr. Asbach – I just want everyone to know, nothing personal with the Service Department, but I am still against the contract so I will be voting no on this Ordinance.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 8, 2016 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Asbach voted no.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte - I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the sale of property.

Mr. Asbach – Seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Asbach – Just to let everybody know and I'll look to Ms. Abrams for guidance but I believe the Scout night meeting is scheduled for April 7th , just so everyone can get their reports together for the Scouts.

Mr. Tobergte – At Tuesday's Block Watch meeting the cat issue came up again, are we close to an Ordinance or what's going on with that?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'm going to defer to Mr. Peck.

Mr. Peck – Yes, I've got a couple of things on my plate but I'm going to bring an Ordinance to the Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting. My big issue is whether we just, quite frankly, whatever we decide we want to engage with this neutering the cats or if we just want to say no feeding strays or feral cats altogether. We have Ordinances we're looking at.

Mrs. Bedinghaus - I think a couple of people mentioned about having COW next week and bringing up things. We don't have COW, I don't believe, I think it's the following week. Next week we're off. So it would be the next week. And I just have one other thing for Tommy Paul. Are they doing construction down there on the railroad tracks? Is there a sign down there to let people know not to go down, what is it, June St.? They get down there and then there's no place.....

Mr. Paul – That would be Beech St. They are also working on Vine and Mitchell. And that should be finished today. I simplified the method for them so that we can get it to people who call in. So the railroad now just calls me and I make the other four calls to the city which before they were doing and wouldn't follow through, I guess too many calls, and they figured one call is enough. So when I did that we seemed to be making progress. This morning went really smooth. There was no arguing between departments and all that. Everybody knew the Vine and Murray was going to be closed and now it's open. I think they finished that today.

Mrs. Bedinghaus - I had a couple of people say that they had gone down Beech and they got all the way down and it was blocked off and there was no warning signs saying closed you can't get through.

Mr. Paul – Well, you see, but, yes, no, I understand that. But that was after the talk. So when that happened this morning the police didn't have to put out any signs, the railroad did it all. So then traffic was directed. So hopefully that will stay that way and it will be corrected that way.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Tom, there is a sign at Mitchell and Vine. Is that what you mean when you said there was construction at Vine and Mitchell or did you mean Murray and Vine?

Mr. Paul – Yes, Murray and Vine. Sorry, what city are we in?

Mrs. Schildmeyer – But there is a sign at Mitchell and Vine. I saw it today.

Ms. Hausfeld – This could be under Old or New so I'll do it now. I got a phone call today from a resident saying that they had heard that the property that we had turned over to the CIC up at St. Clement was, it was getting into develop a restaurant and they wanted to know if anybody could confirm that or deny that. I had said something to Donny before the meeting and he said he has not heard

anything about that. So I told the resident that I would ask here tonight because I hadn't heard anything about that either.

Mr. Tobergte – I'm down talking to Paul almost every day now and it's still in development stages, there's no hard core plan for anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Estep – I just want, I should have mentioned this earlier and I wasn't sure if I could. I would like to ask for a moment of silence for one of our students. Sixteen year old Hailey Hall who is being laid out tomorrow night at Hodapp Funeral Home. Allegedly she was beaten to death and I think the guy is in Hamilton County Justice Center and she'll be laid out tomorrow night from 5:00pm until 8:00

A moment of silence was observed.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Joe Lengerich, Ross Ave. - First of all I would just like to thank you for approving the contract on behalf of everybody that's here and those who aren't. I'd like to say that the last negotiations was not a negotiation. It was a hostage taking and I'm no longer a part of the negotiating team but from what I've been told, the Mayor and the Service Director came into this professionally, with respect and with fairness. And I want to thank you personally, you're a breath of fresh air and I hope it continues and that's all I got to say. Thank you.

Miss Lily Middendorf – Good evening to Council, the Mayor and fellow citizens of St. Bernard. I am 11 year old Lily Middendorf. I live at 5117 Broerman Ave. I am the reigning 2015 National American Miss 2015 Ohio Cover Girl and the 2015-16 National Cover Girl. As a member of National American Miss, I have worked a lot of hours doing community service. My fellow St. Clement students and I just finished a water drive for Flint Michigan. We collected 370 cases of water.

A disaster can strike any place in the world and it can happen at anytime. I am here tonight to ask my fellow citizens and shop owners here in St. Bernard to help me help the people of our sister city, St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana. If you have watched the news over the past few weeks you have seen the wide spread flooding there. I will be collecting with the help of St. Bernard Block Watch, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, work gloves, detergents and soaps. Flood damage takes a long time to clean up, but with your help we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in St. Bernard Parish. We will be collecting from today until the next Block Watch meeting and I will keep Council informed of what we collect. Checks can be made out to Matthew 25 disaster relief.

Thank you to all the citizens of our great Village. I know I can count on you for support. Matthew 25 Ministries will be distributing all we collect. Thank you.

Mr. Asbach – Before we go into Executive Session, since there are five Thursdays in March the next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 31st at 7:00pm.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the sale of property.

Council reconvened.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.