

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, December 15, 2016 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mrs. Valerie Van Valkenberg-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. Mr. Kalb seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, MR. Estep – At this time I would like to ask Lee Denney and some of the other volunteers to come to the podium. I would like to present them with a Proclamation. It's a two part presentation and Kate McMullen will follow up with some figures.

WHEREAS; Volunteers who helped refurbish the St. Bernard Dance and Fitness Studio

WHEREAS; Painters, Lee Denney, Greg Boone, Antonio Macke, Ron Fussnecker, and Drake Donnells

WHEREAS; Drywall finisher, Hezekia Childs

WHEREAS; Glaziers, Tom Knopp, Lou Turner, Joe Turner, and Tyrone Walker

WHEREAS; A special thanks to the P.A.C. ladies, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Russell, Mr. Rutherford and all of the others who contributed money, time and sweat to this project.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Office of Mayor to be affixed this 15th day of December, 2016.

John R. Estep
Village of St. Bernard

Kate McMullen, dance instructor, informed Council of the many successful programs that were being conducted at the new Dance and Fitness Studio.

Mayor Estep - I want to thank Council and everybody that worked on that for all the support. I think we turned an empty space into something very useful. I was called by Janeen Coyle over at WGRR to be, I guess, a guest with a Christmas program December 23rd at 5:15 am to tell them about St. Bernard and the good things that are happening. So if anybody has anything that they would like me to mention, if you want to put it on paper and get it to me, I'll be glad to mention it on the radio that day.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – Before I start these are just some of the numbers that Kate was talking about. The revenue at the Fitness Studio brought in \$2,889.00. That's from the punch cards. That's year to date and year to date the instructors have been paid \$1,875.00. So there's a profit of \$1,014.00 right now.

The Auditor's office has prepared Ordinance No. 29, 2016 for tonight's meeting.

Section 1. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to provide additional appropriations to the following:

01-2-B-2 Deputy Auditor \$140.00
01-2-K-2 Miscellaneous \$50,000.00
01-7-A-8 Fire Equipment Maintenance \$42,486.75
01-7-A-14 Fire Department Clothing \$1,384.00

Section 2. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to move certain appropriations as follows:

FROM GENERAL FUND:

01-2-O-2A Service Dept. Overtime \$4,000.00
01-7-A-21 Fire Radio Equipment & Repair \$1,500.00

TO GENERAL FUND:

01-2-O-2 Service Dept. Employees \$4,000.00
01-7-A-8 Fire Equipment Maintenance \$1,500.00

Section 3. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to decrease certain appropriations to the following:

01-2-C-3 County Collection Fees \$9,524.94
01-2-F-1 Marketing \$35,742.34
01-2-K-6 Insurance \$10,000.00
01-2-K-8 Utilities \$80,000.00
01-6-A-3 Police Dispatchers \$8,000.00
01-6-A-13 Police Equipment Outlay \$4,000.00
01-7-A-1A Fireman \$49,000.00
01-7-A-1A Fire Overtime \$22,000.00
01-7-A-2 Paramedic & Firefighter Training \$10,000.00
01-7-A-2A Tuition & Training \$12,942.00
01-7-A-20 Fire Pension \$8,000.00
01-2-O-19 Gas Well Monitoring \$11,800.00
01-2-P Professional Services \$125,000.00
01-2-O-2A Service Dept. Overtime \$10,000.00
01-2-O-9 Service Equipment Maintenance \$8,000.00
01-2-O-13 Service Equipment Outlay \$17,000.00
01-2-O-16 Fuel and Oil \$20,000.00
01-2-O-18 Landfill and Composting \$29,000.00
01-2-O-20 Parking Lots \$14,500.00
01-36-1 Dial A Ride Employees \$8,000.00
01-59-D P.E.R.S. \$46,000.00
01-61-A Worker's Compensation \$48,865.36
01-62 Medicare \$8,000.00
01-66 Unemployment Compensations \$21,458.00
01-67 Employee Accumulated Sick Pay \$85,000.00
01-5-A-14 Maintenance Contracts \$10,000.00
02-33-2 SCMR Materials \$70,000.00
02-33-4 SCMR Contracts \$19,150.00
02-33-8 SCMR Equipment Maintenance \$10,000.00
04-SP-2 Swimming Pool Employees \$5,000.00
04-SP-9 Swimming Pool Equipment Maintenance \$8,412.86
05-MP-1B Master Plan Contracted Staff \$10,500.00

05-MP-2 Master Plan Contracts \$11,250.00
05-MP-4 MP Property Management \$34,945.75
07-04 Vine Street Streetscape \$325,813.51
08 Police Pension Fund \$20,000.00
09 Fire Pension Fund \$24,600.00

The Auditor's Office also prepared the 2017 Annual Operating Budget for tonight's meeting. The budget currently is approximately \$511,000.00 over the revenue projections for 2017. The Department Heads and myself have worked very hard to come up with decreases to appropriations to this year's budget in hopes to have a better idea on what comes back into the funds after the end of the year. We came up with a decrease in appropriations of \$1,251,504.76 which are included in Ord. 29, 2016 and possible additional decrease of \$141,932.59. The largest problem was Council appropriated an additional \$2,701,320.36 to the 2016 original budget throughout the year.

When Council takes the revised appropriations, both the increase and decreases from the entire year, and the result of Ord. 29, 2016 the appropriations for 2016 are \$14,620,286.93. Not all of that will be spent, but in order to get an idea I looked at the spending in December 2015 for half the month since we are today is the 15th and if we stay around that amount the spending for 2016 will be approximately \$13,824,575.32. With the projected revenues for the remaining of 2016, which includes \$1,000,000.00 projected for earned income tax, the income for 2016 would be \$12,666,084.48. This would have the expenses \$1,158,490.84 over revenue. I worked all day in hopes of better news, but it is just not there.

To add to this I sent Council and the Administration the following e-mail earlier in the week after I heard back from the bond council that worked on the 18.5 million dollar bonds in 2013 the following:

When I told Andy the current reserves were at 2.9 million, he stated he was surprised that Moody's had not contacted the Village yet. I believe they have not contacted us because they request our final audits each year and when they received the 2015 audited financial statements they showed \$3,927,268.57 in reserves. My goal is to invest \$200,000.00 by December 31, 2016 into Star Ohio to bring the reserves back up to 3.1 million.

Andy and I discussed the reserves and what the anticipated goals for the reserves were back in 2013 when the Village obtained the bonds. Please remember that I was not included in most of the meetings because the administration did not want me there, because I felt as Auditor that we could not afford the bonds and I knew after talking to ODOT that we did not have to sell the old Fire Department Building and spend 9 million on a new one. Apparently at the meetings it was discussed that the Village needed to build the reserves up to between 5 and 6 million. The hope was with cuts and many new businesses coming to St. Bernard this could be done. Obviously neither of those happened. The reason Bond Investment Community and Moody's want higher reserves is for sound business protection. The majority of St. Bernard's income comes from Earned Income Tax and the majority of that comes from one large company. The fear is if anything would happen to that company St. Bernard would be in very bad financial shape. If Council and the Administration insist on not following Bond Investment Community and Moody's advice and cash in investments, we would basically get an "F" on our credit report card and Moody's would downgrade our rating. The current interest rate is locked in so that would not change. It would however prevent the Village from being able to re-finance and/or borrow additional money for the next 28 years.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – I know this is the last meeting before Christmas so Merry Christmas everyone. The only thing I have is the Ordinance No. 31 and I would ask passage of that and this is to certify our Codified Ordinance Section 1335.07. And we are just deleting certain language which requires us to advertise in local newspapers with regard to notices and orders for three weeks in general circulation. I don't think that's necessary so Ordinance No. 31 deletes that language. I thank the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee for putting that forward.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I have the receipts for the month of November.

Receipts for the month of September 2016: \$ 1,336,313.57

Receipts for the month of October 2016: \$ 1,464,839.80

Receipts for the month of November 2016: \$ 668,090.48

Receipts for the year through August 2016: \$ 11,556,084.48

A total of \$668,090.48 through the year and I apologize, I forgot to update that, it should be August instead of August it should be November. The total is \$11,566,084.48.

Also at the end of November in the Star Account our investments there totaled \$1,918,304.21. And at First Safety Bank for the Memorial out front we have a total there of \$5,634.37.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – Just to give you a quick update about some reported drug activity here in St. Bernard. Over the last two months I have been in contact with residents of Imwalle Ave. regarding suspicious activity at a multi-unit dwelling. This amazing group of citizens had been doing a great deal of self-monitoring taking down license plates and reporting what they saw. Our police Dept. went into action and gathered the necessary evidence to execute a search warrant. On Tuesday, Dec. 6th officers from the St. Bernard Police Dept. And the Hamilton County Sheriff's Dept. served a warrant on that residence which made quite a statement as to our level of tolerance. I want to thank the residents of Imwalle Ave. for their patience and assistance in this case. I also want to thank all of our officers who worked on this case and the Hamilton County Sheriff for their assistance. Please know that there other pending cases that we are working on which take time to gather the necessary evidence but we ask that if you see suspicious activity that you please report it to the Police Dept. We will take this seriously and if you are dealing or are involved in this kind of activity we will come after you.

I would also like to give you all a brief recap of the meeting that I held regarding the issues that we are having with juveniles after school. On Wed., Nov. 30th I conducted a meeting that included members of the administration, the St. Bernard and Elmwood Place Police Dept. , Fire Dept., the St. Bernard Branch of the Hamilton County Library, The Friars Club, The St. Bernard/Elmwood Place School District, St. Clement School and Roger Bacon. We are trying to identify the needs of these kids and to correct the behavior so that there are no further issues. There will be more involvement in the schools by our police department to try to build some trust with the students and we will continue to do outreach at the library where the majority of these kids go after school. One point of concern is that these kids need a safe place to go after school and they are in need of a snack. The library already spends a substantial amount trying to provide for them but assistance in continuing this mission is needed. I know that Chief Meyer has secured donations from our community partners and Lt. Ungruhe was going to reach out to the local churches for assistance as well. Anyone who would like to make a donation can do so online and it can be designated for the St. Bernard

Branch or if you would like to donate items such as cheese crackers, chips, or drinks it would be appreciated. Just to clear things up a bit, the majority of these kids are from our community and this is a sign of the times. We have more needy children here and with the help of our group I want to be able to make an impact on their lives. I will keep you all posted as to how you might be able to help as this develops.

Last night Chief Meyer and I had a meeting with representatives from the St. Bernard Firefighters Local 450 regarding the Safer Grant. As you have heard all along that we would be silly to not take free money for staffing at the fire department to either maintain or increase staffing. After doing some research and after meeting with the reps from Local 450 there is no longer a 100% funded grant that is available. All grants that are awarded have a contribution that would be made from the municipality and currently it would be 25% for the 1st and 2nd year and 65% for the 3rd year. These percentages could change for the next application period but either way there will most likely not be a 100% subsidized grant. We will be meeting again to look at how we might be able to make this work since it is not our intent to increase staffing but rather retain staffing levels. There is a grant for retention and Local 450 is looking into this so we will revisit the possibility of applying.

I have the St. Bernard Fire Dept. Report for November 2016

EMS 55 total with 39 Transported

Mutual Aid given – 3 to Elmwood – 2 of which were disregarded before we were on the scene

Mutual Aid received – 0

Details of interest – 8 Auto accidents, 3 unconscious, 1 stuck by train, 1 shooting
Fire Details 39 total

Mutual Aid given – 3 to Elmwood and 1 to Green Twp.

Mutual Aid received – 0

Details of interest – 8 Fire alarms, 7 Auto Accidents, 2 structure fires, 1 EMS assist.

Lastly, I have been spending time talking to representatives from both the police and fire depts. about the current budget situation. As you are all aware this is not something that happened overnight but the reality of our current situation hit hard after the last Finance Committee meeting. The members of both depts. are concerned about their positions and their fellow coworkers who some of which are very young and recently purchased homes or had a baby. I would ask that we look long and hard before we make a reduction in force just to balance a budget for next year because as I said this didn't happen overnight. We need to do a top down evaluation of how we operate the village, especially the administrative side. There have been previous concessions by the Police, Fire, and Service Depts. and even a reduction in staffing so it is time that we look at city hall. I would ask that we start by reviewing the charter to see what necessary amendments need to be made to run the village more efficiently and professionally. This is not meant to insult any current employees but merely to point out that we need professional help and guidance that will not change at election time. There needs to be the consistency of a Village Manager and a Chief Financial Officer who could fill multiple roles. I believe that this next year should be spent making a commitment to the residents and the employees that we are going to work toward making the village financially sound and efficient to guarantee our longevity.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – The first bill occurred for Moeller Ave. for engineering. This bill is \$39,000.00. This portion of the bill is not covered by the grant. The total for Moeller Ave. Is \$390,000.00. The grant is for \$234,000.00. The

village will have to pay \$156,000.00. If we forgo Moeller Ave. and give back the grant money, the \$39,000.00 is non-recoverable. If we continue on, the total for the village will be \$295,000.00. If Council decides not to go forward with the grant money then we return it. We would not be eligible to apply for another grant for an extended period of time. I am waiting on the answer for that. I also understand that we have time to ponder this as we would not have to make the first payment until March or so of next year.

I have been in contact with MSD about our flood. Commissioner Portune is asking again for additional funds from EMA and the federal aid. To date MSD has spent \$10,000,000.00. Mr. Portune is asking for an additional \$14,000,000.00.

I also have a meeting with MSD about our situation concerning Johnson Alley. I will meet with them on Monday. Hopefully progress will be made.

Our Packer #1 has engine trouble. It is estimated at \$5,000.00 to be repaired. We are having it repaired as it is our newest packer.

To My Community

This time of year, we hear words like Happy, Merry, Peace, Joy and Love. These words can have a powerful meaning to each of us. We need to absorb them when spoken and then disperse them readily and meaningfully. This time of year is for us to remember how to live each day of our lives. So start making your resolutions to happily show joy to others and merrily bring peace to all, then love will surely follow.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – Please excuse my voice I have a little bit of a cold. You asked for the income report. Through today we brought in about \$355,000.00. What this entails is mainly withholding payments mainly from the payroll companies like ADT and Check Up. We're still waiting on the estimated net profit payment that are due this month. We expect them any day now and that will be the big key on whether or not we meet that million dollar projection that we put forth.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee met last Thursday working on the 2017 budget. I want to thank Peggy for putting the numbers in Ordinance 30. I am requesting that we open the floor for discussion of the budget before Ordinance No. 30 has its first reading.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I would first like to remind the residents there will be no Block Watch Meeting for the month of December. I also have the Police Department report for November, 2016. The Police were involved in 665 calls for service. Of those calls they responded to 33 accident reports and took 29 offense reports, clearing a total of 17 offenses. Officers made 59 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrests. They responded to 64 parking complaints and issued 12 parking citations. Officers issued 34 traffic citations, 2 DUI arrests and 33 warnings. Police responded to 78 calls of suspicious activity vehicles or persons. I'd also like to wish the residents and the administration and all the employees a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for the month of November 2016. There were 20 trucks placed at residences, 28 dumpsters placed at residences, 81 special pick-ups at residences and 188.42 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. As far as the recycling report; there were 31.71 tons of recycling material and 2,620 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms Hausfeld – I was just informed to make an announcement. For those of you who don't know, Don Tobergte resigned from the CIC from what I understand by Council or the Administration. If anybody is interested in that please let Paul Myers know or John Estep. Also there may be more to come as far as more openings for residents so if you guys happen to be interested in joining the CIC also let John Estep and Paul Myers know as well and they can keep a running list for those positions that could be coming available in the near future.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As the Chair of the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee I do recommend the passage of Ordinance No. 31, 2016 as Mr. Peck had described. It would just expedite the process of getting the grass cut for those that we have to go after when the grass gets too high and we have to take calls for that. I would appreciate the passage of this Ordinance.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer –For the month of November the Dial-A-Ride has 1,083 hours of total work and year to date we are at 11,349 hours of work for them.

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

Committee of the Whole

Dec 1, 2016

1. Council approved the minutes of the Nov 17th Council meeting 6-0.
2. Council discussed the purchase of the St. Bernard history books and it was decided that there wasn't enough money to purchase them this year.
3. Mayor Estep asked to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Council voted 6-0 to do so right away.
4. Council met in executive session to discuss pending litigation.
5. Mayor, John Estep
 - a. Said that a meeting was held about the ongoing issue at the Library. The Safety Director will give an update.
 - b. Reported that there will be an event on Thursday 12-8-16 from 7-11 pm at Crosley's Sports Bar. The event cost \$20, plus a new unwrapped toy, which includes food and drinks. The toys will be donated to St. Clement this year.
6. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - a. Asked Council for an Ordinance to finish out the year. It will have additional appropriations and money moved between certain line items. Council voted 6-0 to put the Ordinance on the table.
 - b. Reported that she met with our health care provider and reported a small increase for next year. They will meet again in January and work on a wellness program.
7. Law Director, Mike Peck

a. Gave Council his recommended changes to the Grass Ordinance. Council voted 6-0 to put the Ordinance on the table for the next Council meeting.

8. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

a. Said that the meeting the Mayor referred to earlier was attended by representatives from St. Bernard School, St. Clement School, Roger Bacon, the Library, Police & Fire, Friars Club and the Administration. The group will continue to work on a solution for the problem of the kids outside the Library.

9. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Said that the work had begun on Johnson Alley and he is still working with Mr. Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, to try to recoup some funds.

b. Reported that the computers at City Hall will be more secure in the future. He is having our information backed up twice for more security.

10. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Reported that he will have the November reports for Council by the next Council meeting.

11. Treasurer, John Ungrhue

a. Reported that the balance in the Fifth Third Securities is \$1,015,000.00.

12. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Said the committee will meet to finalize the 2017 budget on Thursday 12-8-16. There was a motion and a second to put the Ordinance on the table at the next Council meeting. Council voted 6-0 to do so.

13. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Reported that there will not be a Block Watch meeting in December.

14. The resident that had moved into the building at 4509 Vine St., a CIC property, addressed Council and explained what had happened. She said that she had a contract with Mr. Myers to make improvements on the building totaling \$100,000.00 over five years and the deed would be turned over to her. Firefighters explained the Safer Grant to Council which would pay for the salary and benefits for three firefighters for two years and then the Village would have to maintain that level of staffing and begin paying the salary and benefits at that point. The grant is applied for in February and awarded in August.

15. Council voted 6-0 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 Ms. Hausfeld to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. VanValkenberg-Walden – Could we have the second reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2016.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2016. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD TO CONVEY PARCELS 582-0007-0021-90, 582-0007-0019-90 AND A 90 FOOT BY 22 FOOT SECTION OF 582-0007-0010-90(SEE EXHIBIT A) TO THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III SECTION 1 OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the third reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2016.

REMARKS

MR. Tobergte – What this Ordinance does is it adds to the parking lot area down by Imwalle's to the Wiedmann Brewing property so he could have a beer garden and stuff like that down there. It's just adding to the total project.

Motion passed 6-1. Ms. Hausfeld voted no.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 25, 2016 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Ms. Hausfeld voted no.

Mrs. ValValkenberg-Walden – Could we have the second reading of Ordinance No. 26, 2016.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD TO CONVEY A PORTION (SEE EXHIBIT A) OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS FRANKLIN PARK ON THE CORNER OF FRANKLIN AND TOWER TO THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III SECTION 1 OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND THE ST. BERNARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to suspend with the third reading of Ordinance No. 26, 2016.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb – As I stated at the previous Council meeting when we had the first reading of this Ordinance, I am in favor of giving the additional land and developing this property but I'm not okay with the way it was went about done. The advertisement was done for a certain size lot and I believe if we're going to increase that size lot and we haven't already sold the property yet that it should be brought up to anybody else for a competitive bidding process. At that point, I'm going to be voting no on this Ordinance this evening even though in the future I

would be in favor of giving that 8ft. Piece of property but I think it needs, there has to be a process in place to go out for a bid for that lot so we can sell it.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I was hesitant last time about this and I regret that decision and I apologized to Mr. Wilking about this. This is the one vote that I wish I could take back in my entire career on Council. This is a lifelong resident of St. Bernard. This family has contributed so much here. Nobody has called me to say I want this. Nobody has called me to say don't do it. I urge everyone to vote yes to this. This is a family that we need around St. Bernard.

Mrs. Bedinghaus - I believe last time that there was a discussion on the amount of footage that this property was going to be handed by because on the exhibit that was given to us it was 65 by 189 but I think it's not that size. That is corrected? Yes, its been corrected. So it is? Can somebody tell me what it is?

Mr. Tobergte – I believe it's like 60 by 135.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay.

Mr. Tobergte – Walt did, the 180 went all the way back to the fence where the basketball court used to be. It doesn't go there it goes to where the other fence for the basketball court divides that. So it's not going to be as deep as 4422 Tower.

Ms. Hausfeld – Where I had voiced my opinion a couple of weeks or most probably a month ago, I wasn't necessarily against building a new home. First of all its almost 4 houses up right across the street from me so I'd be stupid to not want the new home there. The thing that I didn't like is when it was first presented to us they were going to take the corner lot which is a park right now and hide it behind two new homes and I wasn't in favor of that. I agree both with believe it or not Dianna again and Andy. But I do agree with them but on the same token I will be voting for this. We do have a lifelong resident that's interested in moving building a more comfortable for him and his wife as not that you're old, okay but as they are getting up in years they want a more convenient home for them, if that makes sense, and I apologize if I offended you, because it might have come out wrong. I speak from my heart, I don't ever write anything down, I'll tell you now so but I do welcome you to build there and I welcome you to the neighborhood. Where I disagree, actually I agree with Andy, what I don't like about this process is one they said that this piece of property was up for a very long time. It wasn't marketed well and it wasn't, I know of at least two people that were interested in it. I know of a third person that was interested in it and wanted a little bit more of the park and they were told no and so my only think is what's good for the goose is good for the gander and if it's good for one resident it should be good for whoever is interested in the lot and that goes with the selling of the property and John I talked to you about this, you can't market a piece of property for \$25,000.00 and then all of a sudden just say oops it's ten now. You can't do that without opening up to everybody. And I don't think that this was properly done. But I am going to vote for this because like I said I do welcome even though he's already a resident here. It is a resident on my street that would be my street and so I do welcome new neighbors. But on the same token, in the future, and we have a lot of property out there, especially owned by the CIC it's got to be marketed. It's got to be handled properly. It can't just be whatever one or two people think that they should do with the property. And I'm not just talking the residential property, I'm talking the

business property too as well. So I'm just publicly saying it because, like I said, what's good for the one should be good for all.

Mayor Estep – I didn't market it for \$25,000.00 Patty. I didn't have anything to do with a lot of this stuff that went on before I got on CIC. I just wanted to clear that up. I'll apologize if it wasn't done properly this time and I don't want to blame that on Paul Myers. I asked you what's your policy and procedures down at the CIC and I got a very nebulous answer. Like sort of and sometimes for different situations and it wasn't always clear. I told him that's one phase that you need to do that is to be consistent. That was one of my goals when I came on so that he said you were going to clean up CIC. It takes a while to clean things up. I don't know how much clean up needs to be done down there but they do need policies and procedures in place. This was something new. This is the first transaction I was in on. I didn't know if it was marketed before. I didn't know if anybody was interested before. I never saw a sign up there before. I never saw it being listed. It was totally new to me. So we tried to do something good for a resident and sometimes no matter what you do, if you try to do something good you still get hell for it. So the intentions were good. But we need to do a little bit better job next time. I won't blame Paul and I won't take all the blame.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just to reiterate, I wasn't blaming you John, no, no, no, no, no, I apologize for that. I had talked to you about this and that's what I meant. I was not blaming you for the way it was marketed this time or anything like that. I will blame a certain other one but I won't mention their names on Council floor. You guys all know who I'm talking about. But it, I wasn't blaming you and I will apologize publicly but that's not what I meant. What I meant by that is that I have talked to you in the past about this and like I said what is good for one should be good for any resident or even not a resident if that's what they want.

Mrs. Bedinghaus - I will be voting for this. I feel that whatever happened, not that I would agree with all of it, if it was marketed for \$25,000.00 and it wasn't advertised all those prices it was talked about it enough but there was some kind of verbal contact or something that was dealt with this citizen and we need to honor that so I will be voting for this.

Mrs. Brickweg – This is a suggestion and maybe we can put it on the COW so we can get an update on if we're going to use the MLS or we're going to use an appraiser. I brought that up maybe a month or so ago and we've heard nothing on that so maybe we should hit it head on before another property comes up and that's how the city is going to sell and how the CIC is going to sell so maybe we can get an update from Paul on that.

Mayor Estep – Peggy that's a good suggestion and he is going to be here at the next COW so we have him scheduled here as well as the other Department Heads.

The motion to suspend with the third reading passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 26, 2016 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kalb voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 29, 21016. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND MOVE

CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 29, 2016.

REMARKS

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I have a question. So all this money is going back into the General Fund?

Mrs. Brickweg – It's not money. It's just that we're using it. It's just going to be an appropriation. It's not spent so it's not, it's just reducing the appropriation.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – inaudible.

Mrs. Brickweg – inaudible.

Mr. Culbertson – Peggy, what's the total of the amount that we are basically no longer appropriating. It looks like almost \$900,000.00?

Mr. Tobergte – inaudible.

Mrs. Brickweg – We took away 1.2 and then what the new appropriations are going to be \$14,620,286.93.

Mr. Culbertson – Okay.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 29, 2016 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the regular order of business to discuss Ordinance No. 30, 2016. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – We worked on the budget last Thursday. I don't see much else being cut out of the budget. We're still going to be over. When I talked to Peggy today she thought we should just go ahead and possibly pass the budget as is. Not saying we will take any money out of the reserves yet until we absolutely have to.

Mrs. Brickweg – Maybe I word it right. I said you could go ahead and pass the budget but you have to decrease. No I'm not going to let you take anything out of the reserves.

Mr. Tobergte – In the future without taking out if we have to, we could next year but right now we're not planning to .

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm not really saying you can take it next year. I'm recommending decreasing appropriations. As auditor I'm not comfortable tying our hands like what would happen. I'm not comfortable with that. You can pass it and then look at it again in January and possibly find the cuts that you need and decrease it is what I would say.

Mr. Tobergte – We don't have to do it in January, we can do it any time during the year, correct?

Mrs. Brickweg – Right. But I would recommend like if we need it in June not waiting

Mr. Tobergte – Correct. So if anybody has any suggestions.....

Ms. Hausfeld – And this might, in the tunnel the plan is going, I know, I know what you're going to say but since we're taking all that money and putting it back in now from this year is it possible, most probably not, but is it possible towards the end of next year we will have money like we did this year left over to where the budget would work itself out I guess is what I'm trying to say and I might have said it wrong.

Mrs. Brickweg – You are correct but the problem is like I said, Council appropriated additionally 2.7 million so I only took out 1.2 million so you're still over. The other issue is we didn't bring in as much revenue to be able to afford these and the other issue is and it's a little difficult to explain but if you continue besides even the banks don't do it, if you continue to dwindle down the savings that is what we present to the County as our back up plan in case something happens. So your budget is going to cut right there. I'm not going to have a cushion anywhere. So when I send them what is called the estimated resources I say there's 1.5 million here and we're spending here. This is what I think our revenues are going to be that's going to be high. We've over spent our revenues this year 1.18 million dollars. That's even without the decrease. We're already over the budget.

Ms. Hausfeld – So basically though no matter what, before June we still have to come up with either cuts, and I don't want to say the lay-off, but I'm going to say it because it could be a reality even though none of us want it, but I mean there's got to be, and this is no dig on you, Johnny, but we still knew that we were going to be this far over and yet we let it go until tonight instead of having meetings and I know you said there's no other things that we can possibly cut but there are some things that we can cut and nobody wants to say it. I don't even want to say it but I'm going to and forgive me now residents but there are things that we can cut that is, I mean I'm, and it's peanuts to what we have to cut, but you have things like concerts in the park and sorry Rec. Dept., I'll tell you now, fireworks, I mean there are, and I'm sure there's a lot more than just those two, that in my opinion, if the money was flowing in and we didn't have to worry about anything, then I'd say go for the gander and have everything. But if the money is not coming in and we have to do cuts, there are other things in the budget that we can cut. We may not like it, I don't like it, I know none of us up here in the Council or the people that work for the city or even the citizens like it but there are other things that we can cut before we have to either 1. lay people off or 2. take out of reserves. So I'm just throwing it out there. Nobody wants to talk about it but there are some things we can, I was hoping it was only the \$300,000.00 that we had to cut but since Peggy talked to the Bond Council people and it's now over \$500,000.00, I mean it's a lot worse than what we originally anticipated but there are things that we can cut if we need to.

Mrs. Brickweg – The other thing to add to that, if you constantly ask people to appropriate additional funds for next year so even if you cut you know 2.7 million is a lot of money that we additionally appropriated. So if that was going to

continue to happen even cutting so it kind of goes hand in hand and if the Bond Council as I said for many years, this is one year, we need a five year plan. Like I had said to you Patty, when on hand people say just go ahead and pass it and use the reserves and don't worry about the next 28 years. All you're doing, because you have no plan for the future, you're just putting a band-aid on a sore that's probably going to get infected and you're probably going to have to lay people off two years from now because nobody had a plan. That is the huge thing. We need a five year plan on what we're going to do. We can't just, because I've been there, it's like everything is one year by one year and then when we have a good year Council spends all the money that's in that budget and thank God we invested a million dollars because that's the only thing saving us this year.

Ms. Hausfeld – One of the things too is we keep buying property that we don't necessarily need or can afford right at this particular time. Back when we talked about it early on when I first got elected years and years ago the market was right to buy it because the properties were cheap, we had the extra cash and so yeah we wanted to buy it. Well we don't have the extra cash now days. It's not like it was about six or eight years ago and let's face it, I don't know the exact amounts the city owns as far as property goes but between the city and the CIC there is a lot of property that we own that we could be marketing and selling in trying to get some of that money back into our reserves or into our coffers to where we have a little bit of extra money to spend or at least come up with the money that we need for this budget.

Mr. Asbach – Two questions for Mrs. Brickweg. You mentioned the additional appropriations of 2. whatever million, that was what I was asking a couple meetings ago on one of the Ordinances. Like tonight, instead of additionally appropriating fifty thousand why don't we transfer it from one of these other line items. That's the hardest thing that I have to wrap my head around. Why are we additionally appropriating and then, go ahead.

Mrs. Brickweg – Basically if you think about it I just gave you a couple of line items where we took fifty thousand out so it was a wash. If you want to have a clean budget and crop it correctly you need to do it that way. If it is an additional appropriation you should list it as an additional appropriation especially within a department. So I just gave you 1.2, so yeah we didn't have, we could have used all that but it's true to what it is.

Mr. Asbach – That's the problem. The other problem I have and this is no dig on anybody but the thing I can't wrap my head around is the report we got last week at the finance meeting, the last two weeks of actual revenue, take that back, '14 and '15, the actual revenue that we received was \$13.3 almost \$13,400,000.00 and \$13,887,000.00 and this year it's down to \$8.5. I know it's only through November.

Mrs. Brickweg – You need to look at a full year.

Mr. Asbach – Even so I doubt were going to make \$5 million this month. That's the other problem I have is how we're down \$5 million dollars according to this report.

Mrs. Brickweg – Again, in my report, if, and it's an if, we get the million dollars I told you that the revenues, now I have to find it in my report, the revenues through the end of November \$11,566,084.48 and that's in the revenue report I gave you. I

look at the revenues from last year, what I bring in and add in the million an that's an if, that brings your revenues to \$12,666,084.48.

Mr. Asbach - I guess then I don't understand this report that we got.....

Mrs. Brickweg – The one I told you to not even look at, that was not even supposed to be passed out that I didn't even get a chance to finish the one report at that meeting and you just grabbed it to look at the history. And that's what I said at that meeting, it was never finished. At the bottom, do not use that, use your revenue report and use your expense report.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I just want to say that I in my thoughts I think we should pass this budget because I really believe that Finance Committee, Council and the Administration meet every month to go over this to see where we're at. We cannot continue to wait. Month by month we need to scrutinize it, we need everybody to give their input.

Mr. Culbertson - I agree with Cindi. I am in favor of also passing this budget but it's going to take a lot of work by everybody, the Administration especially, importantly, Jonathan touched upon it, time is now to start looking at how to be more efficient all across the Village not just the departments but city hall as well. Every stone has to be turned over and looked into.

Ms. Hausfeld – With that being said and that's an awesome saying with what you said about meeting once a month, since we only have two scheduled meetings every month, why don't we take one of the Thursdays, not make it a Council meeting, not make it a COW, make it a Finance Committee meeting, once a month and hopefully we'll make it whenever it's more convenient for those two so they have the numbers that we need and that way we can work with it every month that's just a suggestion. If we're going to meet once a month which I think is a treat idea I think we need to set it up now that either one of the Thursdays that we're off is should be a Finance meeting. And that way everybody can plan on it and I think it's not just the Council problem, I think it's Administration too. Maybe Department Heads and Council has to be here to work with it. It's something that we're going to have to work on and it's going to take a lot of work.

Mr. Culbertson – With that being said, like we did now, have it be before the COW meeting since you're requiring all the individuals to be here, all Department Heads will be here, instead of picking a different Thursday why not do it before COW, then those ideas are brought to COW.

Mr. Asbach – My thought would be to leave it up to the Finance Chairman, it's his committee.

Mr. Tobergte – I don't disagree with this but I don't think January you'll have any numbers. I say we start in February, first COW meeting every month we'll go ahead and meet at 6:00 and have a Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Moore - That's what we were just talking about. You'll have the January figures and you could look at it at that first COW and that would give you a running start for the year. Do it at the first COW meeting in January it's not going to tell you anything.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I know there is a Finance Committee meeting but I would like to highly recommend that every Council person go and all the Administration because that I think was part, you know you have to get every body in a room to figure it out basically. I mean granted people are going to have things to do I understand that but if you can be there I think it would be important that everybody be there.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I just want to reassure the employees that from my stand point anyway, I am not for lay offs, I am not for anybody losing their job. If I was a young guy with a family, with a new baby just getting married, I would be scared to death and this is on us. It's not on the employees. It's for us to figure out and if we made a mistake then we made the mistake. We need to figure this out. It's not on the employees. There is no way in hell I want one employee to be scared of losing their job. I will never be for that.

Mr. Tobergte – I'll announce now, February 2nd, the Finance Committee will meet at 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would just like to comment on that. I don't think anybody said anyone was being laid off. But at the same point Dianna you have to consider, and I'm going to ask all of Council, I'm going to be honest, I sent out that email, it's kind of disappointing that I only got comments from a few. It kind of blew my mind. Our hands are tied from those bonds. That's that simple. So we're going to have to figure this out and I know I've been told to keep going back to that and you know what I do because I don't want to see us make another mistake and reduce these reserves and then you're tying us again. So yeah you might have to learn from your mistakes and that's why, and I brought that up, that is what put us in this situation and apparently we promised we were going to put five and six million dollars in the reserve, I know, we have to figure that one out too. It's one thing not to go over \$3.1 but, and that's what Andy said, they are going to start asking why aren't you going to start building your reserves back up and like I said I had no idea that was promised. But it was so we now have to live up to that. Somehow. But I don't want to see anybody laid off either but a some point we have to figure this all out. You know it's easy to say that's what I kept hearing, I'm not going to lay anybody off, I'm not going to use the reserves, you have to do something. Something has to be done and hopefully it's not any of that. The five hundred thousand is a lot in there you know and like I told the depts. that I've contacted, I don't see any lay offs in the future. No, I don't. But I don't think you can just sit here and say that we're never going to lay anybody off either ever.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – What is your solution then?

Mrs. Brickweg – Well I guess my answer is (inaudible) would you be in favor of ever reducing the reserves after what you received the information I gave you.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – To not lose people, yes. It's not, \$2.5 million is okay with me. But lets see what we have coming back at the end of the year. We have yet to see that number. Nobody will give us that number.

Mrs. Brickweg – Well first of all Dianna we're not going to collect any money and we kind of did give you the number. Even if we bring in a million we're still \$1.1 over so it's not going to get better. It's probably going to just get, I mean you're not going to bring in more than a million. It's not going to get better but my other thing

is and I just want to put this out there as I explained to Council, I went home very frustrated the one day and tried my best to say to my husband, if we have to borrow some money to do something would you tie our hands to never be able to refinance or borrow money for until we're eighty years old. Just something to think about. You know because you were talking about that it's easy sometimes to think, oh it's no big deal, but it is for a long time and a lot can happen in that time. I do believe we can find the cuts hopefully you know, I think we can find the cuts without lay offs with attrition I do agree with that but I'm going to tell you right now as auditor as I told you at the bonds we couldn't afford them, guess what, we can't , please do not cash in the reserves and lock our hands that if anything happens we cannot borrow or refinance money. That would just be shame. That's just my opinion as the auditor.

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Mr. Kalb – Since I've been at the Finance Committee meeting I've been talking back and forth whether I would pass a balanced budget or if I would pass an unbalanced budget or whether I was going to stick to what I had done the last two years and hold both Council and Administration for a balanced budget. I understand obviously we have to have a budget passed to pay employees and everything. You can't just not pass a budget. I totally understand how that works. And I've been hearing some more information, we obviously have to pass a full year budget for Hamilton County so during that six months, three months all those other options aren't even options on the table. My only concern about passing a budget that is unbalanced is it does open line items up to be spent. We're going to have to hold Department Heads accountable for making expenditures. I do agree with Peggy. I don't ever want to spend a dime more out of our reserves. We have to some how close that gap next year. My only fear is if we don't move fast enough, I do not want lay offs and I do not want concessions but I understand at the same time that all options have to be on the table. I came to the COW meeting last week and I brought up a whole bunch of suggestions, I saved some money here and there, asked a bunch of questions and I'm not saying that people aren't going to do homework and stuff like that but I still have more to do and I still did more today as well but we have to close that gap and if we don't close it till June or July we have to close five hundred thousand dollars we've already spent half your money for the year. So it becomes even a greater issue. So my question to Council, I guess, is we kind of mentioned it and Dianna already answered it that she's ready to spend money out of reserves, if it's Council's wishes or desire to not spend any money from the reserves we have to be extremely busy in January and February because if we get to June and the numbers are still coming in like projected or even, God forbid, worse than projected then we have to come up with five hundred thousand dollars with half the money spent on the year. And instead of , again, I don't want to say lay offs, but say you have an employee that cost a hundred but you paid him for half a year you got to come up with that five hundred thousand dollars and it's Council's wishes to not spend a dime out of that reserves, now it takes two employees for the price of one. So I agree that we can work together and we can go to all these committee meetings once a month and make needed changes but I think everybody is afraid to say it, but they understand it. We can cut money, yes we can cut fireworks and concerts so that's twenty five thousand dollars now we got to cut four hundred seventy five. You know we went through and we cut almost every line item down to the bone. And we cut line items last year and we end up additionally appropriating line items because bills came in that you have to pay. That's going to happen again this year. It's going to happen. We can say we're not going to additionally appropriate but an insurance claim can come in. You know garage doors can break at the service garage again. You can't not fix a door

at the fire house. The door don't open you can't pull the truck out. So we can cut the budget down to a certain point and say well we're only going to spend this much but things are going to happen. It happens every year. So you have to take that into account too. so my feeling is and I'll say it publicly I think we need to be at a zero balance by the end of the year. We have to somehow close that gap. I'm willing to pass the budget tonight as is but by December 31st next year we need to somehow come up with putting every option that we can come up with and any option we haven't thought of yet that we will think of down the road, I'm not willing to take another dollar out of reserves. I'll pass the budget tonight but I'm not willing to take a dollar out of reserves so I urge Council and Administration to make decisions early. If for some reason money is not coming in or it's coming in the exact same we have to look at other options because the sooner you make those choices the less people it should impact. God forbid we never have to get to that but if you wait till June and that same number is still the same now you've got to get bigger percentages because you're trying to cut from a smaller amount so I just want everybody to think on that, whatever your feeling is, obviously if you're okay with it, taking money out of reserves then that's your own feeling and that's different and you don't have to think about it too much but as for me I need to see that number be down to a zero by the end of the year so we don't take any money out of reserves. so we need to be on our A game the first couple of months and keep all options on the table even though we don't want any of these options on the table. I'll be the first person to say I'm a young guy that works for a fire department, God forbid I would hate to get myself laid off either. But we have to look to attritions and other way of doing services combining including city hall, including the building department including you know part time. Recreation, we can all work together to save little bits here and there.

Ms. Hausfeld – John did I not hear, didn't you put like a hold on spending from all departments unless it was absolutely mandatory?

Mayor Estep – I think we ordered any non contractual end of the year trying to cut back a little bit. You know we had done that. What everybody is talking about tonight, everybody in here is on the same page. Nobody wants a lay off. I hope all the Department Heads heard this. I hope every employee listened to this, heard this, so when we go around to those departments and we make the suggestion about a reduction so we can save some money to avoid lay offs I hope they work with us in every department. We've got some ideas and nobody wants a lay off everybody knows that. Common sense tells you that but I hope they work with us and avoid a drastic reduction in any department in any level of service.

Mr. Ungruhe – One obvious thing, sitting here listening to everyone, to me I think you also have to look at the options of increasing the revenues. If you're saying that you'd cut everything to the point that you can and we don't have enough revenues then I think we have to look at the possibility of that also. I'm not sure what it would take to get a levy on the ballot but I'm pretty sure most citizens you know would support it. we can show them that we've done the work and the money is not there and they're options are for a small increase in the property tax to keep the services that they currently have. I mean personally I don't like increasing taxes but if that was my choice, a clear choice. The other thing is we got here over time and it's going to take time to get out. So I think it would be prudent to put us, potentially, once all avenues are looked at before we even consider laying individuals off, that we look at the possibility of a small increase to make sure we

get past this little hump here and then continuing on with making sure we spend what we take in. You know It's not going to be a permanent need.

Mr. Kalb – I agree with you to the point that all options need to be on the table that should be considered at the meetings. I just go back to the point where less than 15 years ago we put a levy on and it was a temporary five years to get us through while adjustments were made and it never happened and then we continued on as usual. Now we're back to the, like that seven mil was supposed to go away. When it was posed to the residents it was a seven mil to save lay offs, to save all that stuff buy the attrition time to change services, run things more efficiently and we jut continued. My only fear with doing another tax increase besides the fact that our taxes are already one of the highest in the County would be that temporary is never temporary. It can be if the residents choose it to be but it would get a one or two mil property tax to buy us that time again just like it happened last time, a change in Administration happened and the plans went out the window. If I would be willing to do a tax increase I would need to see some written sort of plans and action that are can't be just table overturned with the next election and then we continue spending and then now need more money.

Mrs. Brickweg – I do not have all the facts in front of me right now but based on what you said I do remember when we were going for the bond and with the seven mil they took our inside millage and our outside millage and we pretty much maxed it so I don't even know if that would even be a possibility. I don't have that but I remember discussing that and you are right it was supposed to be temporary, we were going to make cuts dattadattadat and it never happened. I don't even know if that would be an option. Maybe an option when revenues could increase a little bit for the services. That's another idea that we can look and that's what was looked at last time. Like I said I don't have it right here but I remember some of that conversation about the inside millage and outside millage and I think we are maxed out and then we're going to add on the new school levy that just went that might even cost us even more. So I don't know if it's possible.

Mr. Ungruhe – Just a comment. The seven mils was promised for the five years, I understand that but you have to also keep in mind the residents did vote that twice through so they understood the situations and if they did not want that they could have voted it down.

Mr. Culbertson – Mayor Estep, does this budget have your blessing? This budget is what you need to run the Village the way you see fit?

Mayor Estep – Yeah, we worked on that budget Ray and I don't see anything else we could cut and hopefully if we can bridge this \$300,000.00, close to it, whatever we need to get through it. We're doing everything we can. We do have some suggestions for the departments next year going into the new year where we can find some reductions.

Ms. Hausfeld – My only other question because he just mentioned \$300,000.00 but it's \$500,000.00 because of the \$150,000.00 for Moeller Ave. That's another thing. What does Council want to go ahead with Moeller and tie our hands from getting another grant later on or, I mean that is an option that we could take that out of the budget right now and save \$150,000.00 right there and not do Moeller Ave. But unfortunately that is how it's going to tie our hands for who knows how long. So I

mean I'm just curious what your thoughts are on Moeller Ave. and going ahead with the project or not going ahead with the project.

Mr. Asbach – My personal opinion on that is as Mr. Paul said in his report, we've got until March, I believe, before any first payment is due. I'd rather not make that decision tonight and change the whole budget up and all that. We can make that call in January, February if need be. I just don't want, there's been a lot thrown out tonight, I don't want one more thing to muddy the waters. We've got the time to do that after the first of the year, not that it doesn't need to be looked at.

Dave Holt, Local 450 – We had a real good meeting with Jonathan and something he said to you guys earlier and I would like to reiterate. When we had our last budget crisis from that point on all three departments started making changes for the city. All three departments took hits. All three, our department lost four, we got one back. We're still down three from before the last crisis. All three departments took reductions in wages, starting points for new employees. We lost vacation days, we lost seniority pay, all three departments lost a lot from the past contracts. I just want you to remember that we have been planning for the future with the departments. Some messed up because the future is now and you guys got what you want from us and something isn't adding up. Just wanted to thank Jonathon for last night because it was a very productive meeting and I hope that what we talked about with the Safer Grant that it's not going to increase manning but if it works out that we can pay for three guys for manning that could possibly be a savings too for the city. But I don't know. We won't know that until September if we do apply for it. It just want to remind everybody that we have been taking cuts. We started eight years ago or nine years ago, the cuts. Now we're at this point so that's all. Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg - I just thought of something when he was saying that. If you look really at the last, I mean granted there was some over spending, but to be honest if they really look at the bulk of what we spend a lot of our money on it's property. It really is. You got a million for Imwalle, two and a half for the shopping center, 42 plus houses, Long John Silvers, that's something that you really need to take into consideration. All that money adds up. So right now the CIC is sitting on assets of five million dollars. So as the employees, like he said, are taking cuts and stuff Council and the Administration are out buying properties and stuff. When he said that I was thinking, what was the big difference and it almost has to be one of the biggest differences is all the property that the city has bought.

Bob Wilking, 5132 Broerman Ave. - You guys are scaring the heck out of me. But anyway I'd like to thank Mayor Estep and Council for all the hard work that they do all year long and they don't get appreciated for it. But I'd like to thank you and Merry Christmas and thank you also for saving my marriage of fifty three years. If I would have said we have to move out of St. Bernard I might have been moving by myself. Patty, my new neighbor, come over and have a cup of coffee but don't spend 30 minutes talking about nothing.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mr. Wilking, just so you know, I listen very well too. So you can do the 30 minutes of talking and I'll just shut up and listen, okay.

ORDINANCE NO 30, 2016. AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST.

**BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading or Ordinance No. 30, 2016. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 30, 2016 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 31, 2016. AMENDING THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED
ORDINANCES, SECTION 1335.07 F OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 31 2016. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 31, 2016 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – I would just like to ask Council, I get a copy of every PO that Peggy signs. Does anybody else want a copy for all the expenses?

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I would like one.

Mr. Tobergte – I'll have copies in your mail boxes.

Mrs. Brickweg – What if (inaudible) conference reports.

Mr. Tobergte – I like to see the POs so I can see what's being purchased.

Mr. Kalb – I know it's minuscule but I also hate paper. Is there a way that, I would like to see those as well, but is there a way we can scan those and email them instead of having a stack of POs in my mailbox every week times 7, 10. I mean we're talking

Mrs. Brickweg – That's why I said it would be a lot easier, I mean he's right, you going to have a load of them, but if I did the encumbrance reports you could just see what the PO's, I'd have to probably help you learn how to read it because they are not the easiest reports to read but once you figure it out it's not that hard.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm okay with that report. If I want to see something else I'll just borrow her's.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'm okay with not getting all of that in my mailbox. I don't think we should

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hausfeld – On half of all of Council and the Administration I just want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope everybody has a

safe one but also enjoy your family and friends because you just never know what tomorrow brings. So enjoy each event.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW will be Thursday, January 5th at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus. to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.