

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, February 16, 2017 in Council Chambers.

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

A moment of silence was held for Steve Schildmeyer who passed away this past Tuesday.

Roll call showed that six members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mrs. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson. Mrs. Bedinghaus was absent.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – This is one of the best nights we have down here. Scout Night. Good evening. Tonight I have Mr. Conner Lenninger. He is the son of Jeremy and Janie Lenninger. He likes games and is doing well in the third grade and earlier we joked about a field trip he went on today and they all got a pair of colored sun glasses.

Conner - I'm in the fourth grade.

Mayor Estep – He is in the fourth grade but it was when he was in the third grade that he got those, I'm screwing up already. I thought this was going to be an easy night. He is going to read my report. If he stumbles its because of my handwriting not his.

Conner – I am Conner Lenninger speaking on behalf of Mayor John Estep. Last week we met with Dave Stevens from ShurFine. I spoke to the Women's Club on Monday. We had our meetings this week to plan our Memorial Day Parade and Fourth of July. The Mayor will tell you more details later during New Business.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the January revenue and expense spreadsheets and the cash funds report. The revenues were \$786,595.13. When compared to 2016 the revenues are down \$80,612.35. The expenditures for January were \$1,108,642.22 compared to 2016 the expenditures are up \$62,884.07. You have to remember they are even up more because we had the property tax that got reimbursed and came in January of last year and we did not have that this year so if you take that out of the equation they're up even more. As I continue to provide the 2017 expenses and revenues throughout the year please remember that the expenses were \$426,588.85 more than the revenues in 2016. So we were over in 2016 and now we're already over in 2017. So we need to remember that going forward. I'd also like to let everybody know that the health care committee met today. We're discussing a new program and that will hopefully get everybody to get physicals and I don't know if its going to reduce our costs but hopefully it will in the future.

And on a final note, the Recreation Department is looking for lifeguards. They're having a hard time finding them and I just wanted to remind anybody that would maybe want to go and become a lifeguard that if you become one and you have to go get certified and at the end of the season if you worked the whole season, the Village will reimburse you up to \$350.00 for your class that you have to take. You also have to reup your certification every three years if you are a current lifeguard and the city will also reimburse that up to \$200.00. So maybe that's an incentive for kids to go out and become a lifeguard.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Peggy, how old do you have to be to be a lifeguard, do you know?

Mrs. Brickweg – That I don't know. I was just trying to help out. I don't know. Does anybody know – is it 15 or 16?

Audience – It's 15.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Okay. Thank you.

LAW DIRECTOR, Mr. Peck - Last night we had Mayor's Court. We had 33 HIP, Housing Inspector cases for pre-trial. 117 tax cases, 39 arraignments, 1 sentencing, 10 cases for payment, 14 cases for stay to pay and 3 cases for trial. It went relatively smooth. Again thanks to the tax professionals and also the Police Department for a professional job.

I also received a bill from Walter Drane for the updating of our Ordinances. It was a pretty standard bill for \$1,489.70. I will do a PO and forward that to the Auditor's Office.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I have prepared the monthly Treasurer's report:

Receipts for the month of January 2017: \$ 786,595.13

Receipts for the year through January 2017: \$ 786,595.13

I also provided the inventory report from Fifth Third Securities which showed the value of our investments at the end of January:

Fifth Third still stands at \$1,015,000.00

As far as our Star Ohio Account we have \$2,221,055.12

At First Safety, I'm sorry, First State Bank \$ 5,635.33

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – We were contacted by the Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) because of a violation of, or potential violation of the Fair Housing Act. They will be making a presentation for us at a council meeting in the near future and then they will be conducting a training session for both Council and the Administration to prevent future violations. HOME's mission is to eliminate unlawful discrimination in housing in the Greater Cincinnati area. HOME advocates and enforces housing regulations for all protected classes and promotes stable, integrated communities.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2017 to enter into a contract with Medicount for Motor Vehicle Accident Billing. We are already under contract with Medicount for EMS Billing so assuming this service will be seamless.

The St. Bernard Fire Department Report for January, 2017; There were 79 total EMS details, of those 55 were transported. Mutual Aid given, 3 to Elmwood, 1 to

Golf Manor and 1 to Norwood. We received no Mutual Aid. Details of Interest; there were 9 psych emergencies, 5 unconscious, 4 auto accidents, 4 overdose, and 3 non breathers.

Fire run information for January, 2017; EMS details, a total of 22. Mutual Aid given, 1 to Deer Park/Silverton. Mutual Aid received, none. Details of Interest; 1 car into a building, 1 trash fire and 1 vehicle fire.

Lastly, I would like to thank Capt. Kurt Brickweg for his dedicated service to the Village of St. Bernard. He retired this past Friday with 33 years of service.

Congrats on your retirement and I wish you the best.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – The Vine St. light poles have been ordered.

Some of the bases of the poles were too damaged and will have to be replaced. We are in the process of restoring them. Also have obtained permission to move the poles if they appear to be a hazard. These poles belong to Duke Energy. They are under an eleven year contract with Duke, after which time the Village will become responsible for them. Thank you for your patience.

As for our trees that were removed by MVA's, I cannot say when they will be replaced.

The pole on Chalet Dr. Is also in the process of being repaired.

The dumping of the Village trash fee has been increased by 1.6%. This increase will take effect in March. Last year our total was approximately \$134,000.00.

We will be hiring soon for summer time help. We are unable to hire as many as last year, so please do not assume because you were hired last year that you will be rehired.

To my community:

It's chilly outside and perhaps inside also. For me, it is a reminder that I need to check on my internal flame. I meditate with a pail of water on one side of me and the other side of me lies a stove length of wood. This practice prevents two things and enlightens one. First it prevents oneself from becoming too cold and spreading a frozen barren path. Second it prevents oneself from becoming too hot and creating a path of lifeless scorched ground. We should strive to be in a warm atmosphere and let that light surround you and become balanced, thereby becoming enlightened and allowing anyone who is in need of water or wood to dowse the hot or warm the cold, a greater chance at contentment.

Mr. Moore – Just a couple of quick things, I put all of the January figures in your box today. If there are any questions, anything regarding that, let me know.

Secondly, we did our first mailing to all the citizens to remind them that tax day this year is April the 18th and you need to file even if you don't owe anything in taxes if you're over the age of 18. The only people that don't have to file are those that have received an exemption from the Tax Office. If you're retired and you're still filing you don't have to feel like you have to file. Come down and let us know, fill out the proper documentation and we'll be glad to put you on the exempt list.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to introduce Jackson Lineman of Pact 354 who will be representing the 3rd Ward and giving the Finance Committee report tonight.

Scout Jackson – The Finance Committee will meet Thursday, March 2nd at 6:00pm to analyze the spending for the first 2 months of 2017.

Looking into the future the 10th annual St. Bernard Soapbox Derby will be held August 5th on Tower Ave. I am working on getting sponsors for cars so some of

our residents will be able to race for free. I will once again cover the cost of overtime for the Service Department.

Congratulations to Walt Moeller for being elected to the Board of Directors of the Ohio Building Officials Association for a 3 year term.

Congratulations to Kurt Brickweg on the 33 years of service to the Fire Department.

Thanks to Laura Schmitt for her service to our community.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – Before I turn this over I, too, would like to thank Kurt Brickweg for his 33 years of service and Laura Schmitt for her 11 years of service to the Village. Now I want to introduce to you giving the Safety Committee report tonight is Cub Scout Dominick Strotman. Dominick is a 3rd grader at St. Clement and he enjoys Taekwondo and helping his mom hang up the Christmas lights.

Scout Dominick – This is the time of year we see telephone scam artists pretending to be the IRS trying to trick you into sharing personal information. Remember, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issues and will not ask you for any personal information on the telephone. For more information you can go to IRS social media sites.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – The Service Department report for January, 2017; there were 16 trucks placed at residences, 24 dumpsters placed at residences, 83 special pick-ups at residences and 181.37 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.

The recycling report for January, 2017; there were 32.19 tons of recycling material, 74 pounds of scrap aluminum, 3 pounds of brass, 9 pounds of copper, 14 pounds of lead and 9,630 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – Tonight I have a report from the Building and Planning Department. It's that time of year again. Spring has sprung and the remodeling bug has bitten. For all those (gosh this sounds like Tom Paul) sorry, (laughter), for all those winter projects we never got around to and for all the summer remodels, many of which will require a building permit. Please remember that the Building Department is here to help. Before you get started please give us a call. We would be more than happy to come out and see if you need a permit. We can also help many times with a little up front advice that could save you money and insure that the project is completed safely. This is their report and I have a report as well. Patty, I made for a Scout but.....Patty had a meeting on Tuesday night, this past Tuesday night with the residents behind the shopping center to discuss the process and what is going on not only with the shopping center but the connecting of East and West Ross together. Paul Myers gave a report or a demonstration as far as what is going on. You have a copy of the sketches that he gave out that night. He is working with the Schulers Development Company and even though nothing is 100% of yet, they are working on it. The meeting was so that the residents heard first hand from Paul and also that they could express their concerns as well. I want to thank the Mayor, Paul, Walt for attending this meeting along with Peggy, Don, Ray and Jonathan. But I especially want to thank the many residents for not only coming out to the meeting but also spending their Valentines evening with me. Bear with me because I did one for the Scout and I did one for myself too. At this meeting they had talked, no wait, before this meeting and the last few years, Paul has talked to several developers but like we said the last two years he has been working with the Schulers Developers to get something started down here at this shopping center on Vine St. Part of the existing building will be torn down but the majority of it will be rehabbed and face lifted and remodeled and

all that good stuff. Moving of the entrance to the Post Office will be down a little ways on Vine St. It won't be where it is now. And like I said I do have drawings if anybody would like to see those. The developer has to invest at least \$2.5 million dollars into the development to offset the giving them the piece of property. There was a lot of talk that night, certain people kept saying that we sold the property for that amount. We did not sell it. They have to invest that much money between the actual project and the street putting in, East and West Ross, connecting those and part of the Streetscape from what I heard Mr. Tobergte say. As far as the business that are going in there nothing is 100%, they don't have 100% as far as what is going in there but we did express our concerns that we only wanted good and decent tenants. Unfortunately it is kind of up to the builders of who we get but they are aware, not only at this meeting that the residents expressed their concerns, but I know that meeting that they had with us, I myself expressed that concern very diligently. They have an agreement with St. Bernard, they should be starting doing something within the six or seven months from now and from what I understand it takes roughly about nine months to complete a project weather permitting and as long as there are no complications. The concerns of the citizens, two of them that were the big concerns that evening are the kids playing in the cul-de-sac areas and people trying to get from Ross Ave. as it stands now, going back through behind the shopping center and trying to connect to the highway which they already have that problem now but the residents that are back there I think that with the connecting of the East and West Ross it will create even more of a problem so Jonathan is looking into signs for this area as far as new access to the area and kids playing etc. But again, I do want to thank everybody for coming. It was in my opinion it was a great success because you know it shows that the citizens are very concerned about what is going on in the city and I did have quite a few people that showed up. I will apologize to those of you that did not get notices. We did send letters out of City Hall. These are the ones that were returned to us as of yet and we also sent out Call Command so those of you that did not get notices, I do apologize, for some reason the letters came back to City Hall not being able to be delivered.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – First of all I would like to congratulate Kurt Brickweg on his retirement of 33 years and thank Laura for her 11 years of dedication to the Village of St. Bernard. Reading my report tonight is Colt Mattox. He is ten years and a member of Pack 354. He is a Webelo Scout and his favorite sport is swimming.

Scout Mattox – It's getting to be that time of year where we trade in the snow shovels and winter coats for blooming flowers and walking shoes. As we work in our yards and walk around town, don't forget to wave to friends and family, welcome our new neighbors, and slow down as we drive through town as kids begin to ride their bikes and play outside. Most importantly, Spring in St. Bernard means the opening of Dairy Queen on March 1st and the opening of Street Pops not too long after that. So enjoy the weather, help your neighbors and friends, and support local businesses in St. Bernard.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I would also like to congratulate Kurt Brickweg and Laura Schmitt. Thank you for serving our community, a job well done. I have with me Cub Scout Bryce with Troop 354, he enjoys playing soccer, reading and playing games with his family. I can tell you I love his family.

Scout Bryce – We have had multiple complaints about the unsafe conditions entering the ramp for North I-75 off of Mitchell Ave. The State has responded and as of this morning, they have altered the merge to allow more time to enter onto the north lane.

We are moving forward with the rail system on Spring Grove and Vine St. At no cost to our Village, to improve and upgrade the lights, which in turn should decrease waiting time by 20 seconds for the flow of traffic.

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

Committee of the Whole

Feb 2, 2017

1. Council voted to 7-0 to approve the minutes of the Jan 19th Council meeting. Council voted 6-1, Asbach voting no, to have the Clerk of Council type the suspended part of the meeting verbatim. This was the part of the meeting that was about the group home on Jefferson Ave. This addition will be added to the approved minutes.

2. Council discussed a proposed Ordinance for updates to our Codified Ordinances. Council voted 7-0 to place the ordinance on the table.

3. Mayor, John Estep

a. Awarded, with the help of Don Middendorf, they have been promoted to their yellow and white belts as the first graduating Taekwondo class. He also thanked Mr. Middendorf for his work with the kids.

b. Said that there was a good turnout for the budget meeting tonight and there is still work to be done on cuts and increasing revenues.

c. Thanked Tom Paul and Paul Schildmeyer for their work on trying to improve the ball fields at Vine St and Ross Parks. He will let them give more info in their reports.

4. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

a. Said that she is working on year end reports and getting ready for the 2016 Audit.

5. Law Director, Mike Peck (gave report to Mr. Culbertson to read)

a. Reported that last night's Mayor's Court went rather long as it looks like St Bernard's finest were busy leading to an influx of new arraignments. Everything went smoothly and finished in a little over an hour and a half.

b. Council has been sent information about centralized tax collection in the State of Ohio. He understands this will raise its ugly head again in Governor Kasich's new budget. If this occurs, the Village finances will be affected. He believes that Mr. Moore will fill Council in on this matter. He will follow up with the Ohio Municipal League and also investigate if lobbying efforts would be worthwhile.

c. He apologized for his absence, but as always, if you need anything please give him a call.

6. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

a. Gave Council a proposed Ordinance to allow the Village to soft bill for fire and police runs. Council voted 7-0 to place the Ordinance on the table.

7. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Reported that the new fence on Johnson Alley cost \$66.00 dollars to install and said that all the work was done by the Service Department.

b. Said that all the play park equipment had been updated with the exception of Franklin Park because of the work being done on the new lot in that area.

c. Talked about the work on Vine St Park ball field for about \$20,000.00. There will be about two inches of the old field taken off and redone. Recreation Director, Paul Schildmeyer, Said that they had been talking with the Reds Community Fund on helping with some funds to have the parks redone. St. Bernard came in second place for the awarding of money for these projects. He also said that work on fundraising for these projects began tonight and we'll see how well that does.

It was reported that two Service Department representatives will attend classes on how to manage the fields and possibly reduce the number of rain out games.

8. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Said that he will have the January reports at the next Council meeting.

b. Talked about the centralized collections, on net profits, that Mr. Peck referred to earlier and that it would cost the Village between \$80,000 to \$100,000 dollars.

c. Said that Mr. Tobergte asked him to break down our revenues. We get about 61.7% from withholdings, 33.5% from net profits and about 4.8% from our residents taxes.

9. Treasurer, John Ungrhue

a. Gave the total of the Fifth Third Securities as \$1,015,000.00 for January.

10. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Said the finance committee met tonight to discuss the ideas from the employees on cost savings and ways to increase our revenues. He looked back at the projections for the income side of our budget and they were from the Tax Department- \$10,042,022.00, from the Auditor- \$2,150,000.00 for a total of \$12,192,022.00 and the new projections are Tax Department- \$10,300,000.00, Auditor- \$2,100,000.00 for a total of \$12,400,000.00. The budget that was passed by Council stands at \$12,703,451.70.

b. Said that his first Town Hall meeting will be Tuesday Feb 7th at 7 PM in the Centennial Hall.

c. Also that looking into the future for the 10th Annual St Bernard Soapbox Derby will be held August 5th on Tower Ave. and he will once again cover the cost of the Service Department overtime for the event.

11. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Said that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday Feb. 21st and they will visit the Hamilton County 911 dispatch center. They will meet at 6 PM at the

Safety Center for the event. The Block Watch meetings in the future will be held at the Safety Center instead of City Hall.

12. Public Improvements, Patty Hausfeld

a. Asked for the rules to be changed to allow members of the audience to talk longer than five minutes for the two times they are allowed to speak. After much discussion, there was a 2-5 (2 for and 5 against) vote on this change, meaning that the rule would stay in place. Another motion was made to keep the five minute rule but allow Council, by a majority vote, to allow someone a third time to address Council. This passed 7-0.

b. Reported that the next CIC meeting will be Tuesday Feb. 14th at 5:30 in the lower level. After that meeting, at approximately 6:30 she would have a meeting to discuss the updates at the St Bernard Shopping Center and the completion of Ross Ave. to Vine. St.

13. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

a. Said she is still waiting on updates to certain Ordinances and she will schedule a meeting when the updated are given to the committee.

14. Health Nurse, Laura Schmitt talked about her service to the Village and the lack of a raise for the last seven years. She said that she was asked to meet with the Mayor and was told that her position was on the top of the list. She also talked about the cuts and

the possibility of her position going to part-time. She was later told that her position was not at the top of the list. She asked Council to accept her two week notice.

15. Former Tax Commissioner, Marge Niesen, talked about the House Bill for centralized collections and said they tried to do the same thing back in 1993. They went to the State to voice our opposition. She said that we should continue to fight this House Bill.

16. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg, talked about the atmosphere at City Hall that the Administration puts forth. She said she was told that if her position wasn't an elected position she would be the first to go.

17. Laura's sister and other residents talked about what has been going on in Laura's life and her health issues. A resident also said that if the CIC has \$300,000,000 worth of property and we need \$300,000 to balance the budget we should sell it to balance the budget. Another resident was appalled that all of Council didn't say anything Laura's resignation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Kalb, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to read tonight's Resolution in its entirety. Motion passed 6-0.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2017. DECLARING THE OUTDOOR CODE OF ST. BERNARD, DESIGNATING ALL BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS IN THE COMMUNITY HONORARY PARK POLICEMEN; AND ASKING ALL OF THE YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG LADIES OF ST. BERNARD TO HONOR THIS CODE.

WHEREAS, the Boy Scout and Cub Scout Programs encourage Community betterment as well as individual member improvement; and

WHEREAS, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are special citizens who knows their duty to their fellow men and will face opposition to do what they knows is right; and

WHEREAS, St. Bernard youth is interested in a better St. Bernard of the future; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS VOTING:

Section 1. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods and roadways.

Section 2. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

Section 3. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

Section 4. I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands and wildlife; and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my outdoor activities.

Section 5. I will observe bicycle safety rules and obey all traffic laws when operating my bicycle or walking through the streets of St. Bernard.

Motion by Mr. Kalb, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Special Resolution No. 1, 2017. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Kalb, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Special Resolution No. 1, 2017 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Estep – Before we take a break if I could meet all of the scouts up here at the podium, I would like to give them a certificate of appreciation. I would like to thank Cheryl for putting all of this together. If you guys want to step over here I will give you your certificates. First is Colt Mattox, Bryce, Dominick Strotman, Connor Lenninger, Jackson Lenninger, and the other two who couldn't make it are Cooper Steele and Cody.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read tonight's Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 04, 2017. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2017. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2017 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2017. AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICOUNT MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO PROVIDE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT BILLING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2017.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb – Just so the residents know, this will go through soft billing which means they will only bill the insurance company not directly the resident. So the residents don't have to worry about receiving a bill, it allows the Village to bill the insurance company to get some reimbursement for the time and material that they used.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Stuchell, at COW I asked if it was possible to (inaudible) the Police Department responding.

Mr. Stuchell – I actually checked with Chief Moeller, it is possible but that is not common practice but if that is something that you want to be incorporated I guess we could look at that.

Audience

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – Will this include like runs to Elmwood? Would you bill Elmwood or the insurance company that you're responding for?

Mr. Stuchell – Basically, we soft bill for any mutual aid as well, so we would continue that practice. We don't bill a Village or a municipality directly for providing a service because we have a mutual aid agreement to Hamilton County so this is all soft billing just as it is with our Village.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – Thanks.

The motion to suspend passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 5, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Asbach – Just so Council knows, I put on the COW agenda about the five minute rule and there was a copy and I asked Heidi Culbertson to type that up so I put that in everybody's box to be discussed at the next COW.

Ms. Hausfeld - I'd like to make a motion to go into Executive Session to talk about possible litigation matters.

Mr. Kalb – I will second that.

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Kalb – I would just like to thank Cheryl Abrams for all her hard work organizing the scouts this evening. There were multiple emails back and forth with the certificates and staying here late to help it run as smooth as possible and I just want to thank her for her hard work on that.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayer Estep – I just have a couple of items. I didn't want to punish my Scout anymore by looking at my handwriting and expound anymore. Before I go on Miss Marge Niesen had something she asked me to read from the Historical Society and she's still in the audience so I better read it.

Thanks to assistance in 2015 and 2016 from St. Bernard – the Historical Society completed incorporation as a non-profit, has established a web page and a Facebook page for identification of local photos. Our tenth program will be 'Greater Cincinnati Floods' on this next Monday night, 7:00pm in Centennial Hall. Admission is free. Memberships are modestly priced. As we have no municipal funding, we are looking for sponsors to donate funds for republication of the 1878-1978 history booklet. This is used to promote St. Bernard and its history.

Donations toward archival filing materials are also welcomed.

The history office is open on Tuesdays and also by appointment for those who would like to do local research on their genealogy (by appointment). Programs are the third Monday each month at 7:00pm in Centennial Hall.

I would like to thank Mrs. Niesen and all those with her. They spend a lot of time and do a lot of work back there in the Historical Society and don't think you are overlooked, Marge.

Congratulations to Jonathan Stuchell. He is the new president of the CIC. We have a new Board member, Travis Engles. And also a new board member in Tom Rolfsen. So I look forward to working with those guys with more professionalism and transparency in the future.

I saw in an email USA Today has a program . It's offering a \$100,000.00 grant and two \$50,000.00 grants. You can send these right to USA Today website. You can go to act (ACT) act.usatoday.com and it has to be centered around three categories. Wellness, education or arts and culture. If you got any great ideas and you know a grant writer, that would be wonderful for the community.

We will be working again this weekend on Girl Scout Lane behind SurFine from 9:00 until 1:00. We met with the owner and the person who presents the artist and they've agreed to allow us to clean up that entire area and part of a signing agreement they would agree to put a fence up back there. Sort of a fence to separate the roadway from that hill side. So once we get all the tree branches and garbage out of there and then they will help sponsor a party for all the volunteers. The tree department has been working on it a little bit at a time as well as the

volunteers I guess that will be down there from 9:00 until 1:00 you're welcome if you want to bring a rake and help out.

This Monday night I spoke to the Women's Club. It was a real treat. It is a very positive and supportive group. It was fun. A lot of questions. It went longer than what I anticipated but every minute was enjoyable.

We also met this week with our Memorial Day and Fourth of July Committee. Memorial Day is on May 29th and the parade may be a little bit longer. We're looking at lengthening the parade route and we're looking for a Grand Marshall and/or a Queen along with it. July 4th will begin on that Saturday at 9:00am with a 5k run race and then we'll all go to the park around 3:00 and we'll have plenty of food booths and entertainment and the culminating activity will be as usual will be at 10:00pm with fireworks by Rozzi.

Ms. Hausfeld – I have a couple of different things. First of all, John, thank you and all the volunteers for Girl Scout Lane. That is the best it has looked in so long and I'm sure its going to look better after this Saturday but I've had residents actually either call me or stop me in front of my house and tell me how good it looks. So I just wanted to thank you and whoever the volunteers were or the workers were. It looks really good down there. My mom made a special trip with me just so that I could see it so yeah I know.

The other thing is I have been contacted by a citizen and Walt you are aware of this because I saw you and stopped in and talked to you several times about this. There has been a problem and because of the report as far a building permits and doing work around your homes and stuff like that I just want to urge the citizens that if you are doing work around your home its your responsibility to get rid of the trash and clean up the outside of your house just as cleaning up the inside of your house. I have residents over on Baker and Lawrence that have been complaining to me since Christmas and I've contacted both the Building Department on several occasions and Jon on at least one occasion and he was going to talk to the Building Department. There is a particular home over there that has been an eyesore since back in the summertime that people are cleaning up the inside of the house, there has been a blue tarp over the back of the house since the summertime and when they throw things out the window they're leaving the trash on the sidewalks and stuff like that and the people that live next to it are very upset. They've complained to me every Thursday now since Christmas and I know Walt you said you've been working on it but in retrospect the people that have to live by that I think enough is enough and something has to be done where more definite that just working on it because I know anybody else in this city, if they just throw trash out their front doors or their side doors or their top windows, you're going to be the first one to get on them and what's good for the goose is good for the gander and these people have lived next to this house since the summertime and I don't know how many pictures they have taken but they show me pictures every Thursday that are updated pictures. I haven't been over there yet so I haven't been complained to today but I was over last Thursday and I'm just, your know, its something that has to be taken care of. That is the one thing.

The next thing is is I also want to congratulate both Kurt and Laura. They are both outstanding workers and we as a city will miss them tremendously. Peggy I want to tell you I attended Kurt's party and I was shocked at the number of people that were there but I was also shocked at the number of people that were not there. And I just want Kurt to know that he is was an asset but I know because I know he will be driving you crazy at home so good luck to you as well and it was an awesome party to attend so thank you. So that's all for now. No its not. I have another thing. I did also besides, ahem, my voice is going. Also besides attending my meeting

Tuesday night I did attend the CIC meeting which I was very pleasant to see the amount of people that showed up for the CIC meeting as well because it also shows that they are more and more interested in the city. Just a few things from their meeting. As far as the Imwalle property, the funding is a go. He got all the funding together. Everything is supposed to be starting in March. As far as the opening its supposed to be open in early summer sometime. They didn't give us a definite date but those are the round about things that they told us at the CIC meeting. Also because these two areas fall in my section as well as far as the first ward and I've also talked to Walt about the town homes and the Cleveland Ave. Project it was also discussed at the CIC meeting that the developer that they have that's working on the town homes on Tower Ave. and correct me if I'm wrong, Walt or you can elaborate on it if you want they are starting on the first two parcels and they are going to build those and when those are done then they are going to start on the next ones, and that same developer, sorry you guys, my throat, that same developer is also interested in redoing the homes on Cleveland Ave. as well but they thought that the homes on, the town homes on Tower were better to start and give them more visible for the Cleveland as well. So just to let the residents know that both the town homes on Tower and Cleveland Ave. They are in the works. They just, they're starting with the one first and then going to the next one as well. And Walt if you have anything to add to that, feel free.

Mr. Stutchell – Actually Ms. Hausfeld I actually live part of that nightmare at the top of Baker as well and actually I take care of everything basically from Lawrence and Baker up. So I've actually mowed that yard. I've actually cleaned that trash up myself. However, the new property owner did actually finally go back, after having orders to, as directed, did actually clean up the trash that was thrown out the window, did finally clean up the debris that was put there. There was some extensive work that did have to be done to the house so that he could complete the second floor addition by code with footers in the basement so it could support the new load for the second story. It is still inexcusable based on the eyesore, and again, I see that everyday I come home and look at that trash and it does bother me. I'm hoping that the property owner is going to start working on it soon but I'm probably guilty of stepping in and trying to take care of that. Especially when it comes to the mowing. But I can't stand the way it looked. I don't ever let it get to a point where, you know, where we have to have the city cut it because I have to drive by it every single day. It needs to be a starting back on it and I do appreciate you getting on it and actually taking care of it.

Ms. Hausfeld – Jonathan I applaud you for doing that, like you say, that is not your responsibility, that is the home owners and the thing that scares me is when I talk to Walt, Walt told me that that particular home owner also bought, I believe one more pieces of property here in town to remodel the way he is doing his first one and if that's the case other Council members that the other home lives in or resides in, they're going to be getting complaints too. If that particular home owner is doing the same thing at the second property and that's why I'm bringing it up because residents shouldn't have to live next to eyesores and I applaud you as a resident stepping in and taking care of it being a nice neighbor. But, there again, it's the home owners responsibility and that's why I put it out there to all the home owners, it's not the city's responsibility, it's not the Service Department's responsibility, it's your responsibility to get rid of your trash and make sure the grass is cut and everything else so and I'm not saying Walt you're not doing the job but and I know it takes time but I just want the home owners to know that it's their responsibility to take care of this stuff.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to thank Laura for her eleven years of service. The employees and the senior citizens and the rest of the residents are really going to miss her smile and her great attitude and excellent care that she gave everybody. I think it's very sad that she is leaving and she will be really missed. Now on the other hand on behalf of Kurt Brickweg I would like to thank everybody that made his night so special. Friday night was the most incredible thing I've seen in so long. Just all of the employees that showed up. All the past employees with the Police Department, the Service Department the students at St. Clement that showed up on the steps when he rode by, all the neighbors and my father video taped it and just to see it is incredible and having the county's last cone that they gave him it just, and I think that's what made the party so special is so many people from St. Bernard, Roger Bacon and St. Clement. I heard so many times it was a Roger Bacon reunion. But it was the people that made it special and it was the people that made his thirty three year career very special and as the wife of a firefighter I just really want to thank all of them because they made his night very special.

Mayor Estep - I apologize I forgot one thing down at the Service Department Mr. and Mrs. Herb (inaudible) once or twice a year they provide a lunch. They have barbecue, two different types of chili, they go all out and they treated the Service Department, they may do that in some other departments that I'm not aware of but I know they do that at least twice a year. And in our new department I know Chris Sauer has a short presentation on our new marketing group.

Mrs. Brickweg - I do have one more thing. I'd like to be put on COW to discuss, we um there are some issues at the old police station with the boiler repair and there is no money in that line at all. So to take the funds out of with invoices sitting on my desk since we own the building so we're going to have to discuss anything that goes wrong we can figure it all out.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay – This is probably to Walt. Last year you were talking about a program the city used to have about low interest loans for property owners. Did you check into that or find out anything about if we could start it again or I thought there were a few funds left in there or something.

Mrs. Brickweg – I can answer what I know. They just asked me to look into it. Basically there is about \$140,000.00 and the Building Department was going to get with the bank to get the program up and running but it has not been started yet. I don't know what their update is. Its about \$139,000.00 in there.

Tom Rolfsen – So are we planning on starting it up? I think it would help a lot of people in town here.

Walt Moeller, Building and Planning Department – Yeah, we're actually working on that. One of the things is deciding on how we're going to fund this. There will be a small interest rate and we're going to present it to a couple of the banks to see if they're interested in doing this for a very small fee because we're not going to lose that money because we'd like to recycle it over and over and over again. So we're in the process of making those contacts with the three local banks that support the area here. We will extend it out to US Bank because they bit on it originally. It was US Bank, Fifth Third, the old Winton Savings and Loan and First

Safety Bank. That was years ago when the banking system was set up a whole lot different than it is today so more than likely its going to work better with the two local banks. The First Safety Bank and the old Winton Savings and Loan but yes we will be investigating that this next month.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Walt before you leave, Mrs. Brickweg I think that just so the residents know that that money cannot be attached other than for this correct. We cannot put it back for anything else.

Mrs. Brickweg – The money, where it is sitting now, it has to be used for that. If it is decided not to do the program it would go back filed to the Hamilton County Court House and you can do that and they can permit us to put it back in the General Fund or somewhere else but we cannot do it. It has to be done by the Court House but yes it can be moved.

Marge Niesen, 47 Orchard – I am the president of the Historical Society. Thank you Mayor Estep for your comments about the Historical Society. I just want you to know we have had a very successful "How well do you know St. Bernard" quiz last month for our program. We have a trophy for our winners and in case you see Sherry Beringhaus and Ken or Richard Berter or Don Hunsicker they were the winning foursome that won the "How well do you know St. Bernard" quiz. We will be sharing that quiz with St. Clement School. The eighth grade teacher is teaching history about the local schools so we will agree to share that and challenge the students that live in St. Bernard. And I thank you very much.

Chris Sauer, 131 Baker – At the Mayor's request, he wanted me to give you folks an update on the marketing group that we have here. So this began last fall and Jacob Bobo, the co-op that was here, was going back to school and it was decided to try it out with a group of volunteers. Word went out, there were some volunteers, there was a meeting in November and December to try to get our thoughts together and some ideas and figure out how we wanted to put this together. After the December meeting I rose my hand and decided to help run this thing and we've had meetings on the first Wednesday of the month in January and February and we will continue on. So even though all of the members are volunteers we have plenty of things going on in their own lives, they are committed to this and they bring with them a diverse set of ideas and talents. We have folks who have been lifelong residents, that have business ties but are no longer residents, we have folks I can say that have just moved here within the last twelve months and provide a unique perspective that the other folks don't, myself included. We also have a great set of talents. We have a graphic designer. We have a banker, we have PHD students. We have folks with marketing degrees. We have professionals in digital marketing in this committee so again a wide range of experience none of which do I bring but we do have good people there. Our goal is to provide a deliberate and consistent continuation of the work that Jake did. We are going to focus on three main areas; improving the business climate of St. Bernard, attracting the next generation of St. Bernard citizens, and keeping St. Bernard a great place to live. The committee meets for an hour or two every month we're never going to match a full time employee but we have started with some small and concrete steps that we hope to build upon in the months to come. Some examples of that, we have drafted a branding guide for the Village that we can recognize all the existing assets and logos just to provide some consistency in communication. We're working on templates for press releases and other standardized communication coming out of the Village. Guidelines for event

promotions and other activities within the Village. We're reviewing catalog information for a real estate website for homes here in the Village just to make sure its consistent, accurate and up to date. We also recognize that as a group of volunteers we should rightfully be conservative and hesitant with what we do and say in the name of the Village. Towards that end we are getting our ducks in a row so to speak before we, you know, we'll do much of anything. We're also working to get a sponsor within your group, within you guys, within the government to kind of provide that direction. A little bit of authority but also help us with priorities and kind of ensuring that what we're doing is in line with what you want us to do. I've had some initial conversations with Mr. Kalb. We'll see where that goes. Again I would welcome anyone's participation. Anyone's thoughts, advice, anything you want to throw my way would be helpful. That's really it and I'm open if you have any additional questions.

Mr. Stuchell – Actually I live right by him, this is my neighbor Chris. I actually look forward to working with that organization as well. The new marketing focus group. I think it's an exciting venture to have here in the Village and I actually see them taking the CIC to another level. I think partnering with this organization to work hand in hand I think it's going to be great for our Village so I really look forward to it.

Ms. Hausfeld – Chris you said you meet the first Wednesday of the month?

Chris Sauer – Correct.

Ms. Hausfeld – First of all is it open to the public?

Chris Sauer – Anybody can show up who wants. We're down, we've been downstairs in Centennial Hall at 6:00pm.

Ms. Hausfeld – Thank you.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I would like to be involved. My name is Dianna Schildmeyer. You can find me at the Village website.

Chris Sauer – Will do.

Mr. Asbach – Ditto to what everybody else has said. I applaud you and all the other volunteers and hope you move forward.

Marge Niesen – One of the committee has contacted (inaudible). My major is marketing so obviously I've been working on this since '70 and if I can be of help we'll be more than happy to help you. We have a website (inaudible)

Mr. Tobergte – Before we close, Tom, last year we bought a new Dial-A-Ride, the old one was supposed to be on it's last leg, I haven't seen it on the road in over six months. What's going on with it?

Mr. Paul – First we were going to have it screen wrapped. That has fell by the wayside. So right now we're going through the process of putting the decals on the doors. It will be a simple design with St. Bernard and the Dial-A-Ride number. We were holding off waiting to see what was going to happen with the budget and I

think we're just going to go ahead and keep Dial-A-Ride as it is and hope for a better year in '18. I think we can make it work.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm glad Don asked that. I had somebody ask me that Friday night. They all say, I don't know if you guys took care of this or not, you probably already did. It was brought to my attention that the Block Watch wanted to use the Dial-A-Ride to go out to their next meeting place which is out of Hamilton County and I thought they said that they were shot down. I just wanted to make sure that somebody took care of that.

Mr. Paul – They were not shot down. They are picking it up at 5:30 on, I don't have the date in front of me. Tuesday? No they were more than welcome to it. What they were shot down on was using the new one because it doesn't have license plates yet and you have to have license plates on the new truck so I just got the paperwork today.

Ms. Hausfeld – Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to inform Council that we had payroll today and that General Fund second account is kind of low and if you remember I invested \$300,000.00 (inaudible) to bring the account back up but I will let you know we will (inaudible) and see what the tax department brings in before we go ahead and get into the reserves but I still will not be going below three but (inaudible)

Tom Rolfsen - I just want to bring it to everybody's attention in the Village that St. Clement is having their major Bingo fund raiser this weekend. They are looking for donations and I thought somebody would announce it here but its one of their major fund raisers and Dianna can probably tell you more about it.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Tom the reason I did not bring it up is because I was reprimanded before about separation between Church and State.

Mayor Estep – It went out tonight on Call Command.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to excuse the absent member.
Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 2 at 7:00pm.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation.

Council returned to the regular meeting.

Motion by Mr. Asbach seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.