

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 11, 2017**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council meeting was held Thursday, May 11, 2017.

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

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

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

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – We had our first meeting or our Review Committee and we're making progress. I have something from Marge Niesen from the St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society. She says their next program is May 15, 2017 at 7:00pm. It will be in Centennial Hall, use the Vine St. Entrance. The program is saluting our Veterans. 100 years from the US entry to World War I. The special speaker is David Conzet, he is the curator of the CMC dire center. So she wants to welcome everybody and remind them to come to that.

On a not so good note I have a letter from Dianna Schildmeyer. I won't go reading everything but she has resigned as Fourth Ward Council Rep. She has greatly enjoyed her time as a member. Due to health reasons she will miss working with the colleagues. Although I have not always agreed with all of you I have always been impressed with each one of you and your love of St. Bernard and the effort you put forth to make the community a better place. I wish you all the best.

Respectfully,  
Dianna Schildmeyer

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Office provided Council and the Administration with the April revenues and expense spreadsheets and the cash funds reports; the revenues year to date were \$4,490,791. 73. If you remember the Village received the first half of the Hamilton County property taxes late last year due to the new software the County was using. If you take into account the revenue the Village received for the first half of 2016 property taxes the revenues are down \$437,117.01. The expenditures year to date were \$4,345,905.41. Compared to 2016 expenditures with an adjustment for the 2017 full year Workers Comp payment they are up \$336,037. 89. The Auditor's Office prepared Ordinance No. 7, 2017 for tonight's meeting. This Ordinance creates a new line item 15-01 Cash Expense and provides an additional appropriation of \$41, 895.43. This is the total amount of cost intimate finance that was collected by the County that needs to be paid back to the schools. Council previously passed Resolutions for the cash and worked out an agreement with the schools that they would be reimbursed the total amount they would have collected if there was not a TIF on the property. We also will be using a new cash fund for these transactions. Please remember that even though this is an additional appropriation it is money that the Village received. For those that are wondering what cost increment financing is it is a tax based on the real property. It applies only to the increase in real estate taxes resulting from

development. This financing allows the local government to pay for needed public interest structures such as roads, sewers, storm waters, work etc. TIF is a way to focus otherwise disperse tax money on specific improvements.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – First of all I will direct you to Ordinance No. 9. My hat is off to Paul Myers and of course Heidi for drafting this Ordinance. The small section of property discussed at the last Council Meeting, that the Mayor discussed, I don't think we have obviously enough to go emergency tonight but this is what we prepared.

Also, the MOU, I did make changes to it that I think will satisfy Council. I do however think because it is a new MOU there will have to be a new Ordinance and I'll be happy to discuss that. I don't know if we want to put it COW but I'll be happy to discuss that next time.

Changing the rules of Council, that is an Ordinance that is necessary for that because it is part of our Codified Ordinances so if you want to change the name and the functions of the Committee that would be part of it. Also if you wanted to change the nature and duties of any members of Council or Administrative members of Council it would be the same and that would be necessary.

I think that's all I have.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – Absent.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – As you all are probably aware that there were 50 plus cars damaged late Saturday night into early Sunday morning. The vehicles were deeply scratched with an object and it appears to have been done by an individual while driving around the Village. We are currently analyzing video and working with other law enforcement agencies where damages have occurred such as Deer Park, Cincinnati, Elmwood Place, and Reading. This is truly sickening to have damages to personal property like this and we are working diligently to identify those responsible.

There will be a Safety Center open house on Saturday, June 3 from 10:00am until 2:00pm at the St. Bernard Police and Fire Department will be hosting a Safety Center Open House/ Touch a Truck Event. There will be outside agencies represented, demonstrations by police and fire personnel as well as free food provided to those who attend. I encourage all residents to attend this special event. Further information will be posted on the Village website soon. There will also be some other possible outside agencies such as SWAT, Urban Search and Rescue, Command 400, which is a high tech unit and greater Cincinnati Hazmat.

I also have the St. Bernard Fire Department run information for April, 2017. A total of 34 fire details, mutual aid given 3 times to Golf Manor, 1 to Reading, and 1 to Delhi. We received no mutual aid on fire runs and details of interest, 1 building fire, 1 brush fire, 1 cooking fire and 1 chemical release.

I also have the EMS run report. Total EMS details for the month of April were 91. With 54 patients transported, mutual aid given 4 times to Elmwood, 1 to Norwood, 1 to Cincinnati, 1 to Golf Manor, 1 to Springfield Township with no mutual aid received. Details of interest; 11 auto accidents, 3 non-breathing, 2 unconscious, 2 Psych Emergencies and 2 overdoses.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – I would like to remind those of you who were damaged by the I-75 expansion, that the work is not completed. Therefore, you do not want them to come and fix your damage just yet. I have been assured that you will be taken care of. Please be patient.

I would like to add Ordinance No. 8, 2017 to the table for Moeller Ave. The advertising has went to the local papers. We would like to open bids on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

To my Community, Your mind is the camera for your life. Your heart is the photo editor. You must practice taking pictures and let your heart edit the scene. Your mind will show you the negative. Something you constantly have to hold up to the light. If you allow your heart to do its part, that negative could then be put into a beautiful colored memory. It can actually become the light.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – (Inaudible)

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I sent an email to all department heads asking for their proposed budget for 2018 by May 22. I reminded everyone that this years' budget was over by \$300,000.00 to start with and we are now \$445,000.00 short on income tax revenues for this year compared to last year.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I'd like to remind the residents that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Safety Center. I also have the April, 2017 Police Department report; During the month of April, officers were involved in 754 calls for service. Of those calls, they responded to 28 accident reports, took 28 offense reports, clearing a total of 9 offenses. Police made 100 misdemeanor arrests and 4 felony arrests. Officers responded to 43 parking complaints and issued 14 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 39 traffic citations, 3 DUI arrests and 37 warnings. They responded to 73 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for April 2017. There were 30 trucks placed at residences, 29 dumpsters placed at residences, 203 special pick-ups at residences and 201.35 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. On the recycling report there were 31.29 tons of recycling material, 740 pounds of scrap metal and 213 tires collected.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – I just have a thank you for Tommy Paul for taking care of getting the Senior Housing issue fixed. That's been going on for quite a few months. I've had residents that called and complained to me, call and thank me for thanking you for taking care of that so I just want to make sure you got the thank you.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schildmeyer – Resigned.

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

Committee of the Whole

May 4, 2017

1. Council approved the minutes of the April 20th Council meeting.

2. Mayor, John Estep

a. Gave Council a proposal to allow a six foot buffer for a new home that would be built on Franklin Ave. next to the park. After some discussion, Council voted 6-1 (Kalb voting no) to place an Ordinance on the table to allow the six foot buffer.

3. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg (report read by Mr. Paul)

a. Said that she was sorry she could not make tonight's meeting, but said that the Village received its first property tax payment from TIF revenues. According to the resolution that Council passed, a certain amount of the money received will need to go back to the school and joint vocational school. Council voted 7-0 to place an Ordinance on the table to create a new line item for "TIF reimbursement" and an additional appropriation for the money.

4. Law Director, Mike Peck

a. Reported that there will be a nuisance committee meeting on Monday May 8th at 6pm in Council Chambers.

b. Said that if changes are to be made there needs to be a charter committee and the members need to be elected on the ballot by the residents.

c. Said that he sent copies of the new Park Ordinance, but since most members had not seen it we will discuss it at the next COW meeting.

5. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Said that the bids went out for the Moeller Ave project.

b. Reported that Rumpke charges \$130 for twice a week pickup of their dumpsters. He will look at raising the price of our dumpster pickup, but it will still be less than their price.

6. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Told Council that he will have his reports to Council at the Council meeting.

b. Reported that centralized collection has been taken off the table for now.

7. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Discussed changing committee names and roles, such as changing the Highways & Transportation committee to the Marketing committee. He also discussed pay for elected and appointed positions. There was a suggestion to have the President of Council and Clerk of Council at both meetings. This would not happen until 2018. Law Director Mike Peck will research both of these items to see if Ordinances need to be passed to make the changes.

b. Reported that after talking to Mr. Moore the April numbers are down.

c. Made a motion to move the Council meeting to Thursday May 11th since two members will be absent on May 18th and the Ordinance for the payment to the schools needs to be passed. Council voted 7-0 to move the meeting.

8. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Said that the next Block watch meeting will be Tuesday May 16th at 6:30 at the Safety Center.

9. Service, Steve Asbach

a. Reported that the committee met tonight to discuss charging for trash pickup. A representative from Cincinnati Water Works explained to the committee how the collection process would work. The amount would go on the resident's water bill and would be paid to them. They would charge a 5% fee and the rest would come back to the Village. He will send a sample Ordinance and contract to Mr. Paul so we can review them. Council would have to pass an Ordinance before anything would be put in place. Public Improvements, Patty Hausfeld

a. Discussed calls from residents being upset about charging for trash collections.

11. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

a. Asked that the discussion of the Park Ordinance be moved to the June COW.

12. Ms. Niesen, from the historical society, reminded everyone of the baseball game on Sunday May 21st at 2 pm at Ross Park between the Cincinnati Red Stocking and our Fire, Police and Service departments. Concessions will be available. Fire Chief, Kerry Meyer, said that because of the bad weather on Saturday April 29th, the smoke detector blitz didn't happen, but if anyone needs a smoke detector installed you can call the fire department at 242-9555 and they will install one for you.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

**COMMUNICATIONS**

To the Mayor and Council Members of the Village of St. Bernard,  
My name is Anthony Hert. I have been a proud resident of St. Bernard for eight years. I feel safe living in this community. So much so, I wouldn't hesitate to leave my home with the doors unlocked. That's because of the fine job of our police department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank former Mayor Bill Burkhart and City Council for bringing about the process of building the new state of the art Safety Center. The pumper and ladder truck the fire department have are better than anything the City of Cincinnati has at any of their houses.

Both the Police and Fire Chiefs should be highly commended for the jobs they do and the way they lead their departments. I would also like to commend the new administration to keep up the great job they are doing.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Hert.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 5-0.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to put Ordinance No. 8, 2017 on the table. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Mrs. VanValkenberg-Walden – Clerk may we please have the second reading of Ordinance No. 6, 2017.

ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2017. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND ST. BERNARD, OHIO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 450, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
Mr. Tobergte – That was tabled last meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2017. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH A NEW LINE ITEM AND PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to allow Ordinance No. 7, 2017 to its regular course.

### **REMARKS**

Mr. Asbach – All three of these Ordinances will need to go regular course tonight due to the lack of members here tonight.

The motion to have Ordinance No. 7, 2017 to take its regular course passed 5-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 08, 2017. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A PROPER CONTRACT FOR THE MOELLER AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to allow Ordinance No. 8, 2017 take its regular course. Motion passed 5-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 09, 2017. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD TO CONVEY A PORTION (SEE EXHIBIT A) OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN 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 Mr. Culbertson to allow Ordinance No. 9, 2017 take its regular course. Motion passed 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Asbach - I would like to make a motion to have a Special Council meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017. Possibly two meetings. One at 6:30 and the other at 6:45 to have the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 7 and number 9.

Mr. Kalb – I'll second that.

(Overlapping chattering)

Mr. Asbach – 6:30 and possibly 6:45 due to 5 members not being here or six members being here.

Mr. Asbach – I'll amend that motion to be read Ordinances 7, 8, 9.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – I would just like to explain to the public the reason for this is as I stated before No. 7 is for the TIF financing and there is a timetable on there. I received the money at the end of April, um April 27<sup>th</sup> so I have to make sure the school has their money by May 27<sup>th</sup> so that's the reason why we're having a special meeting so we can get the check to them.

The motion to have one or maybe two Special meetings passed 5-0.

Mr. Kalb – I was in Peggy's office earlier today talking about the TIF money and something that she is going to look into (inaudible) have a line item in the budget even though it will increase expenditures we can also increase our revenues equally, that line item, and then whenever we don't receive any money we can spend and we don't got to worry about, you know, waiting till a bill comes in to find out how much we got to appropriate to spend so we don't get caught in time crisis like this.

Mr. Tobergte – A couple things from my Town Hall meeting last Tuesday: if you are having problems with people feeding feral cats you should call the Police Department. Tommy's working on a lot of and saw a lot of people with high grass. There were concerns about a house on Rose Hill. It is being worked on by the Building Dept.

And Mike, can you speak about the Nuisance Committee with questions about if they can be open to the public and also would it be advantageous to have a member of Council or appoint somebody as a point person who people could contact with information about properties.

Mr. Peck – Okay. It is open to the public, the meetings are. We kind of rushed it but everybody who is on there now was on there before. This isn't a new committee. I have no problem with appointing additional members but it's not my call. I think we had Jonathan taking care of the committees? And I think the only other, I think Ungruhe is the recorder or the present secretary. I don't have any problem with it but it's not my call, I will say our next meeting is in early June. I believe it's June 5<sup>th</sup> but I'll get back to you on that.

Mr. Tobergte – I'd like to have a member of Council be on it but it would be nice to have a contact person so if somebody has a problem they know who to call.

Mr. Peck – Right. We actually addressed that a little bit. I think there's going to be a PDF version and there is already a link on there that citizens can either print off like a complaint form regarding property or click on the link and do it by email. So I guess Walt could be a point person but I'd be happy to explore having a Council member on the Committee to be the point person.

Mr. Tobergte – Also there's questions about a car doing traffic counts up at Tower Ave. By the school. They right out front of City Hall. It's a traffic study for an architectural firm. That's all the details we were given. And lastly thanks to Dianna for her work on Council.

Mr. Stuchell – If I could just pick up on one thing, Mr. Tobergte had stated with reference to the link on the Village website for the actual complaints, I actually, once this gets up and running, it is working, I tested it, I think it's a great way, that way at least there is a record, not just a verbal communication and we're hoping that again this will be the start of something where we're able to go back, you know, it's been I just passed it to the appropriate individual to follow up on. But ultimately if anybody has an issue, yes, you're welcome to even call me but I do like the idea of doing it online if possible. You do still have to, on that, I mean it's not totally anonymous, you still have to identify yourself on there but I would encourage people to at least try and give it an opportunity and if there is a problem with follow up, please let me know.

Mr. Asbach – Just for everybody, I do have on the next COW, Cindi wanted to discuss the new Park Ordinance so that will be on there if anyone else wanted to be here for that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just thought of something that, since we're just meeting twice a month and the next COW is in June, I'm going to have to have the budget ready to go over at that meeting because you're going to have to vote on it the following meeting.

Mr. Tobergte – Like I said, they're supposed to have their budgets to me by May 22<sup>nd</sup> and John and Tommy and I will go over them.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Then maybe put it on the agenda for COW if you want.

Mr. Asbach – Done.

Ms. Hausfeld – I first of all want to give a shout out to Don for his Town Hall meeting. Ray and I both were there and it is very well attended and I like the fact, and I know the residents like the fact, they said stuff to us after the meeting. They like the fact to have those Town Hall meetings to come and voice their opinions and not have to worry about repercussions. So some of the stuff that they mentioned we had already knew about it. But they did mention a couple new items which Don already reported on and its just a very informative way for the residents to come and speak their mind and, you know, let us know as city Council people, you know, what the thoughts and their feelings are which, its just another avenue. I also want to put a shout out to the Women's Club. I attended their luncheon this past weekend and they had Dr. Odell Owens was the guest speaker. And it was a very nice afternoon spent not only with my mother but the women of St. Bernard and their family members and stuff. And it was a really nice day and Dr. Odell Owens gave an awesome speech about how every single one of us can help with children, like the upbringing of children. No matter if they're rich or they're poor every single one of us can hand a hug out to one of them that doesn't have somebody at home to give them a hug. He talked about education for kids. He talked about hungry the hunger for the children and it was just, I know I cried and I looked over at my mother and my mother never cries and I say her crying and I



know that there were other women there crying. It was just a very nice afternoon with all the ladies of St. Bernard. So thank you.

Mr. Tobergte – On last thing. Tommy assured me he was going to check the heating conditioning, heating and air conditioning. It's 70 degrees down there next month.

Mr. Paul – It was very hot.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Culbertson – Tommy this is both old and new business. Could you update us, I had a resident reach out, upset with the Girl Scout Lane situation still blowing garbage and along with that the Vine St., the trees half on, half off. Can we rectify that one way or the other? And then lastly, and this is where it falls under new business, I had some resident from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward ask me about similar traffic problems with St. Bernard Market and boxes and stuff blowing around up there behind the Dairy Queen area. I know it's a lot, go for it.

Mr. Paul – Girl Scout Lane is, what we're doing is, we're moving, taking the dumpsters and moving them over to the right side of the street. There will be a fence put in place and those will be enclosed. Hopefully it deters people from coming in and dropping, like this week I think I saw a tire there and a baby mattress. The week before it was a mattress and we know those are not coming from those businesses. So once we get it closed in we're hoping that that'll cease. Let's move up to St. Bernard Market. We've been dealing with him quite a bit. They lost a fence there so I think my next move is I'm going to ask him to put a little fence up to kind of capture, he lays his cardboard out and we told him that it has to be separated and crushed and all that but it does tend to blow around. So I think I'm going to ask him to just put a little cheap fence up there to catch it and then our guys will pick it up. As far as SureFine and Dollar Tree, we're working with them. We have taken over sweeping their lot. That'll be, we'll be earning \$400.00 a month for that to occur. I think the complaints came when the sweeper guy was off ill. The new person, I shouldn't say new, the sweeper person didn't know that we were doing that at the time so that's all been corrected, everybody knows now that we're doing it because it just started May 1<sup>st</sup>. The street lights. I'm to the point where I'm thinking we'll probably have to unplug them. I even go out now and look and lots of them are unplugged but yes, we do have some that are burnt out. We thought about incrementing a plan to have Eddie, you know, once or twice a week go out and look to make sure they weren't burned out but there are people, actually some people from City Hall take a walk and plug in. So I'm thinking that maybe we'll just have to reassess it and see what happens. And I'm sorry because I really like them and, but it does look odd when you have three in a row, one out. I even thought about every other one but then you know you have them coming in plugging in the opposite so I'm thinking we're going to take another look at that and I hope that answers every one questions.

Mrs. Brickweg - I just thought of something, is it okay to ask Tommy? First of all I don't even know, are there such a thing as solar lights, I have no idea, it was just something that popped into my mind. But there is something and I know I see you every day but it just reminded me. I know some time when I go down my street there's some bushes instead of trees. Maybe that's been like that the whole time and maybe I'm but are we switching from trees to bushes?

Mr. Paul – No. The bushes were actually placed there because of the school signs. Those are the bushes you're looking at and we are actively seeking other trees. I'm not going to point anything out I'll tell you tomorrow.

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay. I'm sorry, it just hit me.

Mr. Paul – No. The trees are there because of the signs for the view.

Mr. Tobergte – There are solar Christmas lights but they're real short strands. Like 20 or 30 lights.

Mr. Culbertson – What, Mr. Peck, is the next step filling the vacant spot?

Mr. Peck – Thank you for asking. I have to look at it but frankly I was surprised like all of you when I got the email today but I know if you appoint the next, I was actually the beneficiary of that when I started here in St. Bernard. So if we don't do it in thirty days it's a Mayor's appointment. So I think that's what I read so let me get back to you on that. So I think we ought to do that relatively quickly.

Mr. Kalb – Mike will there be an email once you get all that? So we can start mulling it over.

Mr. Peck – I will send out the relevant Charter provision as long as well as the ORC on the matter.

Mr. Tobergte – I might add that anybody, any resident of Fourth Ward who would like to serve on Council contact one of the Council members. You don't have to be a member of a party, you can be independent. If you are a member of a party I'm sure you can contact a member of your party. But anybody interested can call me 543-6801 and I'll put your name out.

Ms. Hausfeld – They can also put my name down there. 513-288-6300 is my phone number.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Phil Stegman, 19 Orchard, Fourth Ward – Yes I would like to extend my thoughts for council to consider me as a representative for the Fourth Ward.

Marge Niesen, 4705 Chalet – On Monday the 15th I appreciate your Council meeting, I also have a history session that the Mayor announced at the beginning of the meeting. We're having a program on WW1. So when you get through here, it is peaceful, we hope you come down and hear the balance of the WW1 program. Also May 21 we have an old time baseball game down at Ross Park with the teamwork of the Recreation Department. The old time baseball players, the Red Stockings, playing our own Police, Fire and Service Departments ball players in a free game at Ross Park upper level. And they will also provide refreshments. Admission is free, we will have a split the pot. But we hope that you will find time at 2:00pm on a Sunday afternoon to come down the Ross Park and have some fun. It isn't all work we can have a little fun.

Mr. Asbach – When you said concessions provided, concessions will be there for a purchase, not for free. Correct?

Marge Niesen – That is correct.

Mr. Asbach – When you said refreshments provided I just wanted to clarify that.

Marge Niesen – No Recreation is doing the cooking. We didn't ask Council or Administration separately to help cook, just Recreation.

Pat Kuderer, 4709 Kemper – Are we still going to have a fee on trash pick-up?

Mr. Asbach – There has been nothing decided yet. There was a meeting last week. It's kind of hanging out there. Council would have to pass an Ordinance. We had a person from Water Works here last week and he was supposed to send, and I don't know if he did but he was supposed to send some sample Ordinances and sample contracts to be reviewed before anything could be done.

Pat Kuderer – Okay because they got a thing in the paper today, it's attached the same as a fee and it says in here tax dollars from people who don't have a choice. So a fee you do have a choice and there was something on Facebook somebody showed me the other day about Wyoming, they do pay for trash pick-up but theirs is by Rumpke, it's not by the city employees. So every place I ever checked where they have a fee, it's not by city employees where they use tax money.

Charlie Vonder Muelen, 4306 Greenlee - I have to first of thank the Fire Department for their, they took me over to Good Sam Hospital at midnight on the 23 of April. Luckily everything was fine but I thank Bobby Hausfeld, Greg Lipp, they kind of kept me calm because my wife drove me to the Station so they kept me calm and Christina, is that Christine she was the paramedic that stuck my arm with a with something and the driver ask me about forty million questions, you know. Age, blah, blah, blah, blah and I never did get his name. So anyway I think he knows who he is and I would like to thank him also. The other thing is I was at Don's meeting the other day and I had brought it up is that I don't see no movement on our budget. Tonight I hear that we were \$300,000.00 over what we expected to get in and now we're another \$400,000.00 less than what we get in. Now you know we're not going to our sixth, close to our sixth month and as a citizen I kind of worry about what the heck is going to be going on. I don't hear anything. I don't hear any meetings going on, anything serious. I hear knocking this little job off or this particular job but it doesn't amount to the amount of hundreds of thousands dollars that we're looking we got going into the hole. It's crazy. It's tough. I guarantee you. When I was Mayor I had to make some cuts. It's tough. Then next question is when I say that when we're in this financial problem I find out the other night they got \$3,000,000.00 in reserve. And so Peggy kind of explained that to me but it went over my head. So now Madam President I would like to have Peggy to explain why we can't spend that \$3,000,000.00 because I guarantee you at the end of this year you're going to have to pay your bills. You know, and our credit rating really looks bad.

Mrs. Brickweg – What I explained, and I'll say it exactly how I said it there. Some people believe me about this and they believe the bank about this, some don't. So you can believe it or not. But basically when we went out for the 18.5 million dollars in bonds, at that time there was a group that was put together and they met

with, it was the Fifth Third Bank at that point and they set up a plan and the plan was then that Moody's came in and did a rating on us. But there was a plan set up to reduce, we promote cuts basically so we could reduce our spending. That never happened. So our spending has gone up because this bond payment is now 1.2 million, but at the time when they did the bond they were actually told that the goal of the Village at that time was to build the reserves up to 6 or 7 million. But needless to say, has not happened. So when I contacted the bank who therefore contacted Moody who does our ratings, we were told that we needed to keep it at 3 million or they're going to reduce our ratings.

Charlie VonderMuelen – When you say reduce our rating, what does that.....

Mrs. Brickweg – What he basically said it would tie our hands from borrowing money in the future.

Charlie VonderMuelen – Well I think it's a nice idea not borrowing any money in the near future. So it looks like they have to look at that 3 million dollars as a buffer. While you try to balance your budget.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I agree with you, but there's plenty of cuts out there that need to be noticed but nobody will make them because it's an election year. Nobody wants to be the hard person so we all just keep pointing at each other but I think at some point we had a list, the Mayor has put a list everybody put a list together. There is suggestions of 100 cuts. But it just kind of fell by the wayside so I would like to see us go back to that and see if there is and we need somebody to be the leader and somebody make the decisions that need to be made.

Charlie VonderMuelen – Well it's 80% of your budget is employees benefits and salaries and you also have that million two coming out, where else can you cut? Tough, tough. Okay? The other thing, that's up to you guys. That's why you get the big bucks. The other thing is also at Don's meeting it always comes up about the Building Department and our Code Assistance program that we have. I would just suggest, I know from the past if somebody has orders written up them and they come to court and they say that they're doing something. Maybe 10% which is something they can always get an extension. It's really hard as a citizen to see that house next door or down the street or whatever it is falling apart and I don't know what is going on. I don't know that person is in court maybe. I don't know they've given extensions. So I guess what I would like is to see something come out of the Building Department at a monthly report saying hey, we got X amount, we did X amount of inspections, we have so many people who are in court or so many people on the way to court and at least we know that something is going on. And most of the houses in town are great. They really are great. Proud to live here. I'm eighty or something, anyway it doesn't matter. I'm proud to live here and I know I maybe some people don't have the finances to keep their house up. They need a little nudge now and then. The majority of our houses are good but that's what makes a bad house stand out even more. But I just would like the citizen to know that there is something going on. Right now, they say well there's nothing going on the guys are down there sitting around doing whatever. That's not true. I know it's not true. They're out. But I've got to know they're out. I think the citizens need to know that they're out and what they're doing. Should make it easy on us. It would make it easier on Don when he has a meeting and he comes up and says well yeah, people are banging away on him. And being involved I know how hard it is. You know, you got the citizens who don't know. But anyway that concludes my report.

Have a good one Don.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mr. VonderMuelen I want you to know when I took over Public Improvements, Dianna told me all I need to do is ask the Building Department for a report and I would get it. I've asked several times, Paul Myers and Walt Moeller for a report. I've asked Jonathan Stuchell and the Mayor who asked them for a report so that I could keep citizens informed of what's going on every month and to this point the only time I've gotten a report from the Building Department was when we had Scout Night. And that's the only night and I'm tired of asking for it because I've asked several times, several times and I've asked four people several times and I have gotten nowhere.

Mr. Tobergte – Uncle Charlie I was at the last month's Department Head meeting. There are a couple line items in the budget, salt, I forget what the other ones were for approximately \$200,00.00, \$250,000.00 that we're not going to be spending this year on the budget this year, so without making any cuts. I asked about two months ago for a report on the rental inspection program and Bob is going street by street listing the number of houses are rental units on each street and how many are in the program. He gave me a list Tuesday of maybe 10, 15 streets so far. But it's on my desk at home. I didn't bring it.

Ms. Hausfeld – One of the other things I suggested too is to have Department Heads that at least one meeting a month and to this point we, I don't believe that's happened. The only department head, and I will give him credit, is Kerry Meyer. He's the only one that ever shows up to give us any, like to answer questions or anything. If we have questions to be asked or answered he does it. (inaudible) You guys are always here but I'm saying the other department heads never show up to the meetings unless they are specifically asked to be there and I think that's a shame because that not only active Council members (audience shout out) but he doesn't come to every meeting. He has been coming lately, I'll give you that. Sorry, I'll take that back. But I think that not only us as Council members, but if our citizens could be more informed by certain department heads if they show up and give a report.

Mr. Tobergte – Mike, are the department heads like in a race?

Overlapping chattering.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to excuse the absent member.  
Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, June 1 at 7:00pm. But don't forget the Special Council meeting next Monday the 15th at 6:30 and possibly 6:45.

Mrs. Brickweg - (inaudible)

Motion by Mr. Culbertson seconded by Mr. Kalb to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.