

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2019**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held January 10, 2019 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Steven Asbach – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Alligiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Dr. Chastain, Mr. Ray Culbertson and Mr. Siefert.

Mrs. Bedinghaus made a motion to approve the written minutes of the December 13, 2018 Council meeting. Mr. Tobergte seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Welcome back everyone. I hope everybody enjoyed the holidays with their family and friends. That is very important. I assume everyone is well rested and looking forward to a wonderful next year. I am hoping for an even better year in 2019.

Tom Paul, Mike Wiedmann, Paul Schildmeyer and I will be meeting with Charlie Frank from the Cincinnati Reds' Organization, representatives from Procter and Gamble and the Cincinnati Zoo to discuss the early stages of what and how we will address the beautification of Ross Park. That meeting will be tomorrow at 3:30.

There was an accident in front of my house at 7:30 this morning. No one was hurt, this was good, but two things impressed me. First, two of our police officers were there in about three minutes. Second, thing was the driver of the pick-up truck, I won't mention his name, moved his truck off to the side, got a broom out and began sweeping up the broken pieces from the two vehicles. I went over, helped him and thanked him for his courteous gesture. Another example of the fine people who live in St. Bernard!

The Tax Commissioner said he will have updated numbers for Council next week. He is home on three different prescriptions for his infection.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor’s office provided Council and the Administration with end of 2018 Expense and Revenue spreadsheets and Cash Fund Report. At the end of 2018 the Village’s expenses were \$12,339,629.09 and the revenues were \$13,851,605.40. At the bottom right hand corner of the expense spreadsheet there is a breakout showing the difference from the original budget, the revisions, transfers from the general fund and what is encumbered from the 2018 budget to be spent in 2019. After all of these calculations the budget came in \$87,583.52 under. The revenues are up 1,875,577.16, but keep in mind there is a large tax refund that most likely will use a part of this.

The Auditor’s office has prepared Resolution 1, 2019 for tonight’s meeting. This is the Meals and Entertainment resolution the state requires to be passed every year to cover when items such as cookies, drinks, candy, etc. are purchased for Village events.

The Auditor’s office prepared Ordinance 1, 2019 for tonight’s meeting. This Ordinance

The Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the following \$1,103,076.00

FROM GENERAL FUND

01-5-A-19 General Fund Transfer Out \$1,103,076.00

TO CASH ACCOUNTS:

05-1000 Master Plan Cash Account \$400,000.00

18-1000 Cap Project-Storm Sewer Improvement \$3,076.00

31-1000 General Bond Retirement Cash Account \$400,000.00

51-1000 Employee Health Plan Cash Account \$300,000.00

It also authorizes the additional appropriations to: Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to provide additional appropriations to the following:

12-01 Drug Offender Fines \$4,000.00

13-01 Criminal Act Forfeiture \$11,000.00

21-01 Mayor’s Court Computerization \$4,000.00

22-01 Clerk of Court Computerization \$12,300.00

As of January 1st, full time employees are enrolled in fully insured medical insurance. The Auditors office is busy with year-end and year start up reports. I am happy to let everyone know that the 2018 W2s were e-mailed to the employees last Friday. If anyone has problems printing your W2 please give me a call and I would be happy to help

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – A little update on the procedural process regarding the Norton outdoor advertising sign. The Board of Zoning Appeals denied Norton’s appeal of their decision. That’s the Building Department ordering them to take it down. So, given that then the Board denied Norton’s appeal. Norton has appealed that decision to the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. So, that’s going to start a long process of litigation in that court which we’ll handle. Separate and apart from that, Norton has also asked for a variance regarding the sign and applied for a variance with the Zoning Appeals. That hearing, I believe, is set for February 11 at 5:00pm in these Chambers. Notices have gone out, but if they haven’t, they will shortly. I’ll announce this again before that hearing. Aside from that I would just like to give my condolences to the family of Dale Wood. An officer from Colerain Township who I’ve become acquainted with over the last 14 years in my service to the court system. I knew him as a very professional officer but other than that I understand he was a very good man as well. He will be put to rest, I believe, Monday. In any event, I plan on writing them a letter from St. Bernard to the Chief of Colerain Township indicating condolences.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have provided Council and the Clerk with the statement from Star Ohio. At the end of December, the City’s investments totaled \$3,456,580.51.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – Again, our prayers go out to the family of Police Officer Dale Woods of the Colerain Police Department who lost his life after being struck by a vehicle while investigating an auto accident. We will keep his family and the Colerain Police Department in our prayers as they prepare to lay him to rest.

This leads me to stress the importance of being aware and cautious when approaching an accident scene where emergency responders are present. Please help keep our Police Officer, Firefighters, Road Maintenance and Tow Operators safe.

Even after this tragic accident there was another incident on Tuesday that involved a Cincinnati Police Officer and an Ohio State Trooper who were assisting a disabled driver on I-75 and were struck by two vehicles that collided. By the grace

of God there were no serious injuries but we are obligated to help keep our emergency responders safe and I feel that I need to stress this a bit this evening. Whether you are aware of this or not, Ohio has a new “move over law” that is designed to protect the lives of everyone who works on or uses our roadways. The law requires all drivers to move over one lane passing by any vehicle with flashing or rotating lights parked on the roadside.

The original law took effect in 2004 to reduce risk to law-enforcement officers, emergency responders and tow operators. It was expanded in December 2013 to apply to every stationary vehicle with flashing lights, including road construction, maintenance and utility crews.

The law recognizes that sometimes it is not safe or possible to move over because of traffic or weather conditions or because a second lane does not exist. In those situations, slow down and proceed with caution. Watch for people or objects that could enter your travel lane and be prepared to stop.

Yielding the right of way to an emergency responder requires you as a driver to pull to the right-hand side of the road and stop when a law-enforcement officer, fire truck, ambulance or other emergency vehicle approaches using a siren, lights, or other warning devices. You must wait until the emergency responder(s) has passed by before you can resume driving.

Yes, you can be cited for non-compliance with the move over law and the issue is so serious that fines are doubled. Violators are fined 2 x \$150 for the first violation (a minor misdemeanor), 2 x \$250 for the same violation within a year of the first, and 2 x \$500 for more than two violations in a year.

I have the Fire Department report for December 2018: Fire Incidents; there were 4 structure fires, 1 non-structure, 4 auto accidents, 2 hazmat incidents, 4 service calls and 31 other fire incidents with a total of 46 incidents. Mutual aid given; 2 to Norwood and 1 to Little Miami. Mutual aid received; 2 from Norwood, 1 from Cincinnati, 1 from Springfield Twp., 1 from Wyoming, 1 from Elmwood Place and 1 from North College Hill. EMS calls: 53 transports and 31 non-transports with a total of 84. Mutual aid given; 5 to Elmwood Place, 1 to Norwood, 1 to Springfield Twp. and 1 to Anderson Twp. Mutual received; 1 from little Miami. Details of interest: 1 non-breather, 11 unconscious, 1 overdose and 5 auto accidents.

Jim Deutsch and Dave Holt will be retiring after 33 years of service with the STBFD. I would like to thank them for their service to the Village of St. Bernard and wish them the best of luck in the next chapter of their lives.

With winter officially upon us please remember to check on elderly neighbors and keep these facts in mind!

Heating is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries.

December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires. Space

heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, figuring in two of every five fires (40%).

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn completely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties.

Most of the U. S. is at risk for winter storms, which can cause dangerous and sometimes life-threatening conditions. Blinding wind-driven snow, extreme cold, icy road conditions, downed trees and power lines can all wreak havoc on our daily schedules. Home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season, and heating equipment is involved in one of every six reported home fire, and one in every five home fire deaths.

Just an update on the Police Department testing process. The written exam, the assessment and the interview have been completed. The next phase will be the physical ability test and then they must submit to a polygraph. Once this has been completed, we will be given a certified eligibility list by the Civil Service Commission and offers will be made.

I would also like to put on the agenda for the next COW meeting to discuss an additional ordinance that is needed for the shopping center. Meredith Hughes, the CIC Secretary and Legal Council will be here to explain the request in detail and a sample ordinance will be emailed to all of you in advance.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – The Delmar Ave. Project has begun. Once again please avoid the area and be patient. The project is from Tower to Greenlee on Delmar Ave. We will be replacing sewer, water and gas lines, then restoring street and curbs.

Exciting things should begin to happen this year within the Village. I attended a meeting about Ross Park this afternoon and it just keeps getting better. Although we all get irritated with construction, the end results are often worth the aggravation. A plus is the most of it will be happening at the same time which means quicker to the end results.

To my Community; The word this time of year is “Happiness”. Happy New Year! The secret to happiness lies in the state of mind of positive thinking and doing things that make you feel good, if it does not interfere with other’s rights and their happiness. You cannot leech happiness from others. You can only share it. If you try to make someone happy you are not taking care of yourself. You are putting our own happiness in jeopardy. Therefore, be positive, happy and may the universal light forever surround you. Peace

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – First I would like to thank Jim and Dave for their work in our Community.

I would also like to make a motion to place Resolution No. 1, 2019 and Ordinance No. 1, 2019 on the table tonight. Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the December, 2018 Police Report. There were 31 accidents, 31 suspicious activity investigations, 7 noise complaints, 18 traffic citations issued including 4 for speeding. 1 DUI arrest, 24 traffic warnings and 538 calls for service.

A special thanks to Landon Dickerson from Verizon Wireless for the presentation on cell phone emergency services at the December Block Watch Meeting.

The January Block Watch meeting will be on the 17 at 6:30pm at the Safety Center.

Congrats to Jim Deutsch and Dave Holt on their upcoming retirement. Thank you for your years of service to our Village.

SERVICE, Mr. Siefert – I have the Service Department report for December, 2018. There were 11 trucks placed at residences, 12 dumpsters placed at residences, 140 special pick-ups at residences and at total of 163.93 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.

The recycling report; 35.11 tons of recycling material and 5.23 tons of scrap metal. I'd also like to remind the residents that yard waste will now be mixed with regular trash pick-up until further notice. There is no need to separate them from collection. The Service Department is working towards a better solution for the spring.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The next CIC meeting will be on January 15 in the lower level at 6:00pm.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Burkhardt – No report.

MARKETING, Dr. Chastain – No report.

Mrs. Kathman (Mrs. Heidi Culbertson) - No COW meeting was held in December.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to read this evening's Resolution and Ordinance by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2019. AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VILLAGE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEALS OR REFRESHMENTS FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OR OTHER PERSONS AS SERVING A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 1, 2019. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2019 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2019. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 1, 2019. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to adopt Ordinance No. 1, 2019 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Stuchell – I have something I would like to read. This Saturday, January 12 the St. Clement Athletic Association will be having its annual “Corn Hole Tournament” which helps support and provides scholarships with Michael Weidner Athletic Award. The Corn Hole Tournament doors will open at 6:00pm at St. Clement. The play starts at 7:00pm and there is a blind draw for partners. \$10.00 is the admission fee. Come and enjoy the evening, delicious food, pop, water and if you wish to play corn hole there is an additional \$10.00 fee. You are welcome to bring your own adult beverages. It's a great evening to spend in the community. Please don't let the pending winter storm sway you from attending, it's a great indoor event and a fun time. If anyone wishes to come, please come join us. I'd also like to thank Mr. Ray Culbertson in advance for providing us with the chips and a pre-acknowledgement thanks to Mr. Tobergte for offering to plow some snow if we get any and offer to salt so everyone will have a safe path to get in.

Mayor Estep – I'd also like to give my condolences to Chris and Nancy Holman. Nancy's father passed last Friday, Bob Pierce. He did live in St. Bernard, he owned Lefty's Edgemont Tavern and knew a lot of people here in St. Bernard. He sponsored football, baseball and basketball teams in the area. He's well known and he was a great guy and our hearts go out to his family.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, January 24, at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Siefert to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.