

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 25, 2020**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, June 25, 2020 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Ray Culbertson, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Ms Miller and Ms. Hausfeld.

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

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell – I would like to congratulate our two newest Patrol Officers who were sworn in over the last two weeks. Lucas Barrow and Nicholas Doyle have started working with their field training officers and I look forward to formally introducing them at a future Council meeting when we can host their families along with our four newest Firefighter/Paramedics who recently started with the Village.

I would also like to wish Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Martini a speedy recovery from a knee injury which occurred during a mutual aid structure fire in Norwood and I want to let Firefighter/Paramedic's Joe Meister and Ryan Case know how proud I am that they were there to assist Jeffrey when he became disabled on the roof. I thank God that this had a positive outcome.

I have asked Safety Committee Chair Ray Culbertson to schedule a meeting to discuss possible traffic pattern options for Ross Avenue from Broerman to Keiley Place. The goal would be to allow the residents to have input on the configuration. I appreciate Mr. Culbertson's willingness to assist.

We have been getting a large number of requests about the future use of the halls and shelters. They are still not available for use as gatherings of 10 or more people outside of a single household is prohibited. The latest extension is currently in place through July 1.

On August 4 we will be having a special election for the renewal of our 7 mil operating levy which pays for services for our residents and businesses. Our auditor can shed more light on the history and need for this renewal.

Lastly, I was asked how many confirmed COVID-19 cases there have been here in St. Bernard and to date there have been 12.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor’s Office prepared Resolution 6, 2020. This is the second step in the levy renewal process in case the levy does not pass in August. Resolution 6, 2020 includes the certificate from the Hamilton County Auditor and is required for the Board of Elections so the levy can be placed on the ballot.

The residents of St. Bernard will be voting on the renewal of the current 7 mill operating levy on August 4th. This levy will bring in \$538,250.00 per year. If it does not pass the village will have to operate on only a 3.68 inside millage. This is a renewal levy so resident’s taxes will not increase. The estimated annual cost to the homeowner is \$194.04 per \$100,000.00 of the market value.

As the Mayor stated, this is a large chunk of money which we do use for all of our services. So, I do encourage people to hopefully to go out and support the levy so we can continue with our level of services that we’ve always had.

The Auditor’s Office also prepared Ordinance 10, 2020. This is an emergency Ordinance that the Service Director is asking to be placed on the table to be voted on tonight. It is an additional appropriation of \$16,000.00 to 01-58-13 Equipment Outlay for the Fitness Center. The Fitness Center floor was ruined many weeks ago and Tom Paul has been working to get bids for replacing the floor. The Village’s insurance has a deductible of \$25,000.00 so we will need to pay outright for the floor. Many residents have inquired about when the fitness center will open so I urge Council to place this on the table tonight

One thing in addition, I received word that we are done with our audit for 2019 today and it has been sent up state.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I met with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee earlier this week to discuss the proposed Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. We received some additional information from the public the evening before. So, we are taking time to review and consider that. We are meeting to discuss any changes or additions. We are meeting on July 8.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I have the statement from Star Ohio with the holdings that we have with the State of Ohio. The total at the end of May was \$3,811,394.08.

SAFETY/SERVICE, Mr. Paul – McClelland Ave. Project is underway and will be completed by the end of July.

The Bank Ave. Landfill monitoring will start being shut down on July 6. The EPA has given us permission to do this, as our readings have been 0 for greater than 6 months. We will go from quarterly readings to semi annually, then eventually being stopped. This is good news for the residents and Village.

We have made progress on the fitness center. The floor was ruined, so it needs to be replaced. We had to wait on insurance then bids from companies. These have been completed. I am waiting on when the company can start. It is rather a big job with moving all the equipment around.

There will be another easement at the Safety Center for Duke Energy. I will explain more to you at the COW. Gerry Stoker and I have been researching it.

To My Community

To the younger ones, I hope you came to the realization that the elders bring about a feeling of security by just knowing that they are there to help, comfort, listen and love.

To the older ones, I hope you came to peacefully understand that although you felt you were desperately needed and no way will they ever survive without you, that they will endure after you are gone.

To the ones whose faces still feel the warmth of the sun, may you comfort, listen, help and love those who are afraid but yet are enduring.

TAX ADMINISTRATOR/COMMISSIONER, Ms. Helmes – Just wanted to give everyone a friendly reminder that St. Bernard Municipal tax returns are due July 15, 2020. Please file early and do not wait as lines will be long on July 15.

There have been some questions regarding 2020 estimated quarterly payment due dates:

First quarter is due: 7/15/2020

Second quarter is due: 7/31/2020

Third quarter is due: 10/31/2020

Fourth quarter is due: 1/31/2021

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to put Ordinance No. 10, 2020 on the table tonight. Motion passed 7-0.

The Village received \$26,308.07 for the garbage fee program in April. This brings the total for the first 4 months of this year to \$100,114.27.

July 18 from 9:00 to 11:30am, Don and Lilly Middendorf will be holding one of their Matthew 25 Ministries disaster relief drive in the lower level of city hall parking lot. They will be accepting lightly used clothing items along with latex paint and cleaning supplies.

With July 4 being next Saturday, the Service Department will be off Friday, July 3. Thursday's garbage pick-up will be Wednesday and Friday's will be Thursday.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Fire Department monthly report for May. There was a total of 54 fire incidents, which included 10 structure fires, 3 other fires, 10 auto accidents, 7 service calls, 10 fire alarms, 1 CO alarm and 13 EMS assists. Mutual aid was given 7 to Norwood, 1 to Elmwood Place and 1 Little Miami. Mutual aid was received 3 from Norwood, 2 from Elmwood Place, 2 from Little Miami, 2 from Wyoming and 2 from Springfield TWP. For EMS there was a total of 122 incidents; 57 transports and 65 non-transports. Details of interest, 3 non-breathers, 10 unconscious, 15 auto accidents. EMS mutual aid was given 21 to Elmwood Place and 2 to Norwood. Mutual aid received, 1 from Norwood, 1 from Springfield Twp and 1 Lockland.

I would like to congratulate the two new Police Officers that have started and I will also announce the Safety Committee Meeting during the next day or two once I get with the other two members to pick and appropriate date.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee met on June 23 to further discuss the Anti-discrimination Ordinance that the Village is recommending. The content relative to what the Ordinance will cover is pretty much completed and agreed upon by the committee members, Ray and Chris, as well as by the Mayor and Law Director. What is yet to be decided is the membership and roles and responsibilities of the Human Rights Committee to preside over claims violating the Ordinance. At the meeting the committee, as well as the Mayor and Law Director, received several examples of other community Human Rights Commissions to review. It was decided that the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee needed time to review the information and come back together with recommendations relative to the Human Rights Commission content. There will be another Laws, Contracts and Claims committee meeting on Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00pm in Centennial Hall.

Thanks to Nicole Klungle and the Law Director for the Ordinance to review.

MARKETING, Ms. Miller – Tonight, I would like to remind everyone that the Virtual Fresh market will be held this Sunday June 28th from 9am to 1pm for more information please visit their Facebook site listed as St. Bernard Fresh Market.

The say soccer deadline is Friday July 10th. With that being said please make sure to sign up if you have a child interested in playing soccer. Signups are at City Hall Monday thru Friday 9am to 5pm

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – I have the Village of St. Bernard Building and Zoning Department for May, 2020 activities report.

Building activities: 16 residential permits, 2 commercial permits. Total fees for residential permits: \$930.00. Total fees for commercial permits: \$1,900.00. The amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio, residential \$9.30. Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio, commercial \$57.02.

Mrs. Kathman – The COW report has been submitted to the Administration and Council and reads as follows:

Committee of the Whole  
June 11, 2020

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Ray Culbertson, Mr. Schldmeyer, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Ms. Miller and Ms. Hausfeld.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to approve the written minutes of the May 28, 2020 Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was turned over to the Auditor for the Public Hearing of the 2021 budget for the Village of St. Bernard.

This budget will be submitted to Hamilton County for their review and action. I would like to thank the Mayor and the Finance Committee for their work in coordinating the budget requests of the Village's Department Heads. The 2021 tax budget reflects the Village's General Fund which is the basic operating fund of the Village.

## **REVENUE (ESTIMATE FOR 2021)**

Est. Revenue from the Village's earned income tax	\$10,200,000.00
Expected General Fund receipts from property taxes	<u>\$ 1,100,000.00</u>
Total local tax receipts are estimated to be	<u>\$ 11,300,000.00</u>

Est. Revenue from the State & County from revenue sharing & certain taxes & permits	\$ 202,200.50
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Other expected revenue for the Village of St. Bernard comes from:

Charges for services	\$ 375,000.00
Fines, local licenses & permits	\$ 100,000.00
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>\$ 680,000.00</u>

Total Estimated General Fund revenue for 2021	<u>\$12,657,200.00</u>
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**EXPENDITURES (ESTIMATED FOR 2021)**

Within each class of expenditures in the tax budget, estimated costs are itemized for personnel, contractual services, supplies & materials, and equipment or capital outlay.

Classification:

Security of persons & property (Police & Fire Depts.)	\$ 4,840,306.76
Public health services	\$ 6,100.00
Leisure Time Activities (parks & recreations)	\$ 253,856.52
Basic utility services (Service Dept.)	\$ 1,395,250.00
Transportation (Dial-A-Ride and Medical Bus)	\$ 28,500.00
General Government	\$ 2,510,883.24

Transfers from the General Fund to other funds: (e.g. streets, swimming pool, debt service, master plan & employee health plan)	\$ 3,600,103.48
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Total expected General Fund expenditures for 2021:	\$ 12,635,000.00
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This brings us to a zero balanced budget that I will report to the County.

This concludes the Public Hearing.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell - I would like to thank our community for being so strong. These are very difficult times and it has affected us all.

I would also like to thank the Auditor for all of her hard work on the preparations of the summer budget for Hamilton County.

I would also like to announce that our Police Department will have two new officers who will have staggered starting dates over the next two weeks, and I will introduce them upon being sworn in.

Also, the Chief will be looking into the implementation of body cams. Now we are in a position with our police department where we actually have two police clerks that are there during the day from 7:00am until 7:00pm who would be able to manage the data storage. So, we will be looking into that and the financing options and our potential for implementing that program.

Also, I had asked Mr. Paul to look into the cost of restriping part of Ross Avenue. With the increase of accidents that we have had there has been some discussing about that in the past and actually eliminating the curb lane on the East bound side of Ross Avenue. Mr. Paul has been talking with some of the engineers regarding that and the cost for restriping that. Hopefully that will have some affect eliminating individuals from being able to pass on the right-hand side. So, we are going to look at that. We're not going to pay for another traffic study. We will be talking about that and maybe talking to some of the residents about how it will impact parking, but we do want to explore some of that.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Office provided the end of May 2020 revenue, expense and cash fund spreadsheets to Council and the Administration. At the end of May the revenues were up \$278,121.92 and the expenses were down \$492,425.65 compared to last year.

I provided Council with Resolution 6, 2020. This is the second step in the levy renewal process in case the levy does not pass in August. Resolution 6, 2020 includes the certificate from the Hamilton County Auditor and is required for the Board of Elections so the levy can be placed on the ballot and it has to be there before we vote in August.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to put Resolution No. 6, 2020 on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I recently met with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee regarding a possible anti-discrimination ordinance. Several members of the community were also in attendance.

I've incorporated some of the suggested changes to the draft ordinance. We are actually awaiting additional input from some interested persons before I circulate a

second draft. We have a date scheduled to meet again later this month to review and discuss.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I received the First State Bank statement for the memorial funds that we have with them. The current balance at the end of May 2020 totaled \$5,654.07.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul – I'd like to talk a little bit about fitness. I'm waiting for the insurance company to give us an estimate. Our deductible for that type of damage would be \$25,000.00.

The trash number we were going up quite substantially, so the first two weeks of May was \$9,585.00 and now it's dropped in the last two weeks of May to \$5,237.00 so it is going to go back to normal.

McClelland Avenue is on target. It will start here shortly and it will end before the end of July. It's not a big project but it is a necessary one.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Ms. Helmes – The monthly receipts for May 2020: Tax collections for May were: \$582,703

Tax refunds for May were: -\$108,913.40

The Village is up 2.18% in tax revenue from May of 2019

Due to the 7/15 extension to file, only 33.6% of taxpayers have filed their 2019 city tax return.

We want to remind everyone to file early, as lines may be long on July 15. The tax office hours are 9 am -5pm. There is a drop box available. It should be noted that only complete tax returns will be processed.

You must:

Sign and date your St. Bernard Tax Return

Attach all w2 and federal schedule information

Attach page 1-2 of your federal return.

Zero tax returns must have supporting documentation for financial support.

Tax returns not meeting these requirements cannot be processed and will be returned to you by mail.

All returns and payments are due by July 15, 2020

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 242-7710.



Finance, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to thank Congressman Chabot for delivering lunch to the Safety Center today.

Don and Lilly Middendorf will be having their Mathew 25 ministry collection of latex paint, lightly used clothing and cleaning supplies Saturday, July 18 from 9:00am until 11:30am at the lower level of City Hall parking lot.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Police Department report for May: there were 10 noise complaints, 64 parking complaints, 2 railroad complaints, 2 vehicle thefts, one vehicle unlocked and keys in the vehicle, 20 traffic violations, 25 traffic warnings and 37 calls of suspicious people or vehicles.

Thankfully there was no civil unrest in the Village due to the tragic incident involving Mr. Floyd. We appreciate everyone's understanding and co-operation during the emergency curfew. There were no arrests made for curfew violations. Thanks goes out to the residents, business owners and Police. Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that they can still call 242-2727 for any police matter.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The next CIC meeting is June 16 in the lower level at 6:00pm. Just to let the residents know the playgrounds are now back open on June 10.

Laws, Contract and Claims, Mrs. Bedinghaus – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee met on June 3 to discuss the anti-discriminations ordinance. There were two main focus areas within the ordinance that were discussed. 1. content of the ordinance and 2, complaint procedures. There were only a few changes that were recommended for the content section. There was a great discussion relative to the membership and role of a commission that would be established to hear complaints for potential violators. The Law Director is taking all final recommendations to revise the ordinance and will be bringing the ordinance back to the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee. That meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00pm in Centennial Hall. Thanks to the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee members, Ray Culbertson, Chris Schildmeyer for their input and recommendations.

I also want to thank Mayor Stuchell, Nicole Klungle and Sean Pratt for attending the meeting and providing very valuable information for consideration for the ordinance. Valerie thank you for sifting through the many anti-discrimination ordinances across the state of Ohio and creating the most appropriate ordinance for our Village.

Marketing, Ms. Miller – I have just a couple of updates this evening.

The St. Bernard Fresh Market will be hosting its first ever virtual market on June 28th from 9am to 1PM. You can receive updates on this event on their Facebook site under St. Bernard Fresh Market.

Our Recreation Department is looking for a few extra people to help work the entry gate at the Frank Robinson field during the Cincinnati Flames tournament games throughout the summer. The hours range from 6am to 9pm Wednesday thru Sunday starting 6/18 thru 8/9. This position is for 16 years of age and older and the rate per hour is \$10. Please contact the St. Bernard Recreation department if you are interested.

In regard to the German Luau we hope to have some more definite answers in regards to this event after 7/1

Audience Participation:

None

Resolutions for the next Council meeting:  
Resolution No. 6, 2020 – tax levy resolution

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting will be Thursday, June 25, at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kathman, Clerk

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2020. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RENEWAL OF THE SEVEN (7) MILL TAX LEVY ON THE CURRENT REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF**

**ST. BERNARD, CERTIFYING SAID RESOLUTION TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 6, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Resolution No. 6, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2020. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 10, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Ms. Hausfeld thanked the Mayor for getting the information on COVID-19 and the tax levy.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, July 8 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

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