

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2020**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, M.r. 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.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Tobergte seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell – First off, I would like to welcome Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew McKee to the St. Bernard Fire Department. I had the pleasure of swearing him in on Wednesday when he started his orientation. While I am about the Fire Department I would like to thank Lt. John Goeke who took on the project of refinishing the pergola at the Safety Center. Thank you to everyone who helped with that project also, we are currently working with legal counsel of the Village of Elmwood Place to enter into a contract so that we can be compensated for the EMS responses that their department is not capable of handling. We will present the contract to Council for review and discussion before asking for an ordinance.

As you are probably aware, there has been concern about some of the recent police activity in the Village and how information is disseminated. We do need to improve how this happens and we owe it to the citizens to do it in a timelier manner. Over the last several weeks we have had some activity that has been very alarming to our residents such as occupants of two vehicles shooting at each other on Vine St. In front of St. Clement, a resident's vehicle was stolen, a suspect who had a felony warrant fled from our officers and was later chased by a canine officer, then captured in a resident's backyard, and various situations where residents vehicles have had items taken.

We are committing to utilizing a text and email system that will allow for an alert to go out to the community when necessary which would be in addition to the already existing call command. Once this system is operational, we will notify our residents as to how they can register for this service. While this improvement is in

process, we will also better utilize the Police Department's Facebook page and I will report incidents on the Keeping St. Bernard Informed Facebook page which was started by two residents.

I have been following the posts on that page and I understand the need to have a platform to share information and concerns, so I am supportive of this private page. However, I do want to stress that even though this may be a way to warn other residents of suspicious or criminal activity, it is still imperative that you report this to the police. I truly believe that the eyes and ears of the community will be able to help the police make St. Bernard much safer. This will be a good partnership if properly utilized. There was one final post from this page referencing a possible Citizens on Patrol. I am not encouraging residents to do this on their own, but I am willing to work to form a Village sponsored Citizens on Patrol that would be supervised by the Police Department. I know that Councilman Tobergte and a previous Safety Director tried to organize this in the past, but I truly feel that this could be beneficial to the community. Residents are stepping forward and they want to help so that tells me that I need to make this happen. I will be working with the Chief, the Safety/Service Director, Safety Committee Chair Ray Culbertson, and possibly Block Watch Commander, Councilman Tobergte.

There have also been some concerns about the Airbnb's in the Village due to recent police activity at those locations. Safety/Service Director Tom Paul has been addressing the immediate issues but there is still a need to put together an ordinance that would regulate this type of business. I am asking that we immediately put this into the Laws, Contracts, and Claims Committee so that we can draft the appropriate ordinance. I would like to put this on the agenda for the next COW meeting for further discussion. I would like to thank the residents who have reached out to their Council members and I am confident that we can resolve this.

I would also like to be put on the COW agenda to discuss a pay ordinance for our current Deputy Auditor who is now also filling the position of tax clerk. He will have a new title and job description, but his level of compensation needs to be more in line with the duties and the consolidation of positions. I am truly excited that he is doing a fabulous job and that we are moving towards making city hall more efficient.

Lastly, I am asking for the residents who utilize the shopping center for parking to please find an alternate location for Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6 because the lot is going to be seal coated and restriped.

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AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Office prepared Resolution 8, 2020, this resolution is required to be passed by the Board of Election's to remove the

levy from the November ballot. Since the voters passed the levy, we no longer need to have it on the ballot.

The Auditor's Office prepared Ordinance 16,2020 it transfers \$506,152.00 from the general fund into the following cash accounts:

04-1000 Swimming Pool \$100,000.00

05-1000 Master Plan \$200,000.00

18-1000 Storm Sewers \$6,152.00

31-1000 General Bond \$200,000.00

We are making new changes in the Auditor and Tax Departments which will save the tax-payers money and cross train both departments. The Auditor and Tax Departments are dividing work up between three employees instead of four. Jake Johnson, who was hired as the Deputy Auditor, will now work for both departments. It has been promised for years to combine departments to save money and cross train and I am very pleased that the Mayor is doing this.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I met with members of the public and the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee earlier this month. That meeting resulted in a change in approach enforcement provision which I am in the process of reviewing and redrafting. Our next meeting is September 8.

As Mayor Stuchell mentioned, I have been working with Council for the CIC regarding possible transfer of the former Long John Silver and Fire House location for development. We will have several ordinances for you to review in advance of the next COW meeting.

Lastly, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code S121.22 (G) I would ask that we go into Executive Session towards the end of the meeting to discuss pending or imminent litigation.

The Law Director was asked to make note of the delay of property in the ordinance.

There are a number of steps that have to be taken because of a couple of things that need to be tweaked with the plats. This will probably be a multi step ordinance process and we want to have a chance to explain it so, we will be discussing this at the COW.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – Absent.

SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Our studying of Ross Avenue has not been completed. I am waiting on two different bids. One for traffic lights and another for flashing stop signs at the corner of Ross Avenue and Imwalle Avenue. We will soon be eliminating the intermittent white line going East which will cause the lane to end. Painting and signage will be put into place. We feel this will put a damper on speeding.

To My Community:

We are in troubled waters. Steady as she goes. You need to go within and see who you are and want to be, then be that person. Surround yourself with the arts. Music can stir within us and blend peace, love and beauty. I'll start you off with words from Bob Dylan to his youngest son then you should think of who you would say them to. I'd like to say it to everyone.

May God bless and keep you always

May your wishes all come true

May you always do for others and let others do for you

May you build a ladder to the stars and climb on every rung

May you stay forever young

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Ms. Helmes – There have been some changes in the tax department over the past month.

Jake Johnson is now located in the tax office. He is doing a great job at being cross trained on the tax code. He has been a tremendous help to me and errors in the tax office should be at a minimum now that a couple of problems have been eliminated.

3rd quarter 2020 bills are on schedule to go out in early October. The 2020 tax year has been a hot mess, so call me if you have any questions regarding your quarterly 2020 taxes.

As always, if you have any questions please call me 513-242-7710.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – the Village received \$25,836.38 from the garbage fee program for June and \$23,043.09 for July. This brings the total for the first 7 months of this year to \$172,580.25.

I would like to thank the residents that help keep our Village clean, I've seen residents picking up trash in the streets, weeding some of our landscaped areas, using their own equipment to clean the weeds from the curb area, even one neighbor hired his own contractor to repair the curb alongside his house. Even Mr.

Stuchell cleaned up the shopping center parking lot pulling weeds and cleaning up leaves.

Just to let the residents know there are census takers working in our Village.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Police Report for July. There were 8 hit/skip accidents, 36 parking complaints, 3 railroad complaints, 51 traffic warnings, 22 traffic violations, 1 stolen vehicle, 2 breaking and entering (1 unfounded, 1 suspect arrested) 31 calls of suspicious people and vehicles.

I would also like to pass along that the training of two new police officers Lucas Barron and Nicholas Doyle is going well. Nicholas is on his own now and Lucas will be in the near future.

I also have the monthly report for the Fire Department for July:

There were 10 structure fires, 8 other fires, 1 vehicle fire, 8 auto accidents, 12 service calls, 10 fire alarms, 2 CO alarms and 13 EMS assists for a total of 64 Fire Incidents.

Mutual Aid Given: 4 to Norwood, 4 to Elmwood Place, 2 to Little Miami, 1 to Reading, 1 to Springfield Twp., 1 to Mariemont.

There was no Mutual Fire Aid Received.

EMS incidents: 73 Transports, 52 non-transports for a total of 125 EMS incidents.

Mutual Aid Given: 27 to Elmwood Place, 2 to Norwood, 1 to reading, 1 to Springfield Twp., 1 to Delhi. 1 Mutual Aid was received from Elmwood, 1

Details of Interest: 3 non-breathers, 7 unconscious, 10 auto accidents and 3 overdoses.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – Just to let the residents know, we'll have a special CIC meeting this Tuesday at 6:00pm to discuss 307 Bank.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As the Law Director mentioned, the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee did have a meeting on August 18 to continue to discuss and review and create the new anti-discrimination ordinance. I want to thank the two individuals that came from Oquailty, Ohio and assisted with the verbiage as well as recommendations to the ordinance. They were very helpful.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00pm in Centennial Hall.

MARKETING, Ms. Miller – The deadline to sign up for Lollipop soccer is tomorrow Friday, August 28th. If you are interested, please make sure to sign up your child by tomorrow

If you are looking for something to do this weekend while supporting a great cause stop down to Wiedemann's on Saturday August 29th 4-9PM for the Heart to Heart Celebration of life in remembrance of Allison Estep. They will have masks and koozie sales and a few baskets to raffle. Proceeds from this event are donated to Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Our Recreation Department is putting together the Halloween campout again this year. The event is set to occur on October 9th & 10th at lower Ross Park so mark your calendars. More details to come for this event

I would also like to thank Tommy Paul and the Service Department for their quick response in regards to the stop sign issue on Bank Ave. Cars have been ignoring the stop sign in that area and residents brought that to my attention at which time I also noticed as well it has become an issue. There is now STOP written in the street as well as a stop ahead sign prior to the actual stop sign. Hopefully, this will resolve the issue

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – The Building and Zoning Department 2020 July Activities Report

BUILDING ACTIVITIES

7 Residential permits

7 Commercial permits

Total fees for residential permits: \$1,115.66

Total fees for commercial permits: \$2,537.39

Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio (Residential) \$11.15

Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio (Commercial)\$76.12

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

Committee of the Whole

August 13, 2020

Roll call showed six members present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Ms. Miller and Ms. Hausfeld. Mr. Ray Culbertson was absent

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to approve the written minutes of the July 23, 2020 Council meeting and the July 30, 2020 Special Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to place Ordinance No. 15, 2020 on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.
Ordinance No. 15, 2020 updates our quarterly codified ordinances.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to place Resolution No. 8, 2020 on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.
Resolution No. 8, 2020 rescinds Resolution No. 6, 2020 for a special election since the tax levy passed.

Mayor Stuchell introduced Scott Weber and then swore him in as a new member of the Tax Review Board. The other two members, Joe Kempe and Daniel Lee will be sworn in privately when arrangements are made.

Mayor Stuchell – I would like to announce that we have had some personnel changes in city hall. Recently, the tax clerk turned in his resignation so it was decided that because the Deputy Auditor was so efficient that we would consolidate the positions. Jake Johnson will be given a new title and I will be reviewing his compensation for his new level of responsibility. There are additional personnel changes that will be coming as we move to be more efficient and look at the future needs of the Village.

Some of this may be repetitive as Mr. Paul will be explaining how the Village will be dealing with the large number of property maintenance issues. I held a Department Head meeting last week to discuss some of the issues regarding high grass, noxious weeds, junk cars, parking in yards, and other various code violations so that we could come up with a plan on how to aggressively deal with these issues. I am very confident that we will get this under control and Mr. Paul will explain the simple way that you can report a problem property.

Speaking of properties that need improvements, I would like to give you an update on the shopping center. The CIC has been working with a developer for more than two years to try to bring a particular business to the community that was interested in the Save-A-Lot and Chinese Buffet space and due to unforeseeable circumstances that deal fell through. As our board reevaluated the situation and the current condition of the shopping center, we asked for a proposal that shared in our vision for mixed use that would include potentials restaurants, retail, office, and residential space. The developer that we had been working with specializes more in strip malls so we are seeking new proposals for the site that might allow for new development that would complement a walking community and a possible entertainment district. This would require that the current structure be demolished but, in the meantime, while we entertain proposals, we are committing to at least make the property more aesthetically pleasing. We are having the parking lot

repaired, seal coated and stripped, the Oriental Buffet sign will be removed, the shredded decorative façade in front of the Save-A-Lot space will be removed with appropriate paint work to follow. Improvements to the landscaping will be done as well but we are addressing the weeds which have taken over and I will have that completed this weekend.

While I am on the topic of improvements to this vital area while we are entertaining proposals from developers, I would like to revisit the transfer of the old Firehouse and Long John Silver's property to the CIC so that it could be included in one RFP and to have the current structure immediately demolished. The CIC has paid to have the entire site surveyed but we are currently working with ODOT to deal with some boundary issues as they still show us having parcels that are in the middle of I-75. It was our original intent to wait until the parcels could be consolidated but we all feel that there is an immediate need to have the site prepared as it is a huge eyesore in the Village which will make the entire area more attractive for potential suiters. As discussed before, the CIC would like to have this property transferred without a financial commitment to the Village as we are no longer funded. We will assume all responsibility for site preparation, maintenance, and property taxes.

Questions concerning the Village receiving a percentage of the monies received were raised since the CIC has a sizeable savings.

It was explained that the CIC has worked to sell properties and the money received has been earmarked for future development, and potential property acquisitions for best possible options for the Village. The boundaries are clear for the properties and we want this to be free and clear for any individual that might want to take on and develop that site. This site does belong to the Village and we want to consolidate the shopping center and the Firehouse and Long John Silver property to make it more attractive to a developer.

Motion by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to prepare an Ordinance to transfer the Firehouse and Long John Silver properties to the CIC. Motion passed 6-0.

Any issues concerning the boundaries of the parcels will be cleared up before any construction will be approved. This Ordinance is basically making the transfer to the CIC so the demolishing can happen, and the area can be made more attractive.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Office provided the end of July 2020 revenue, expense and cash fund spreadsheets Council and the Administration. At

the end of July, the revenues are up \$485,052.97 and the expenses are down \$463,028.43 compared to last year.

Thanks to the residents that approved the tax levy renewal. This will help the Village continue all the great services it provides. The Auditor's Office prepared Resolution No. 8, 2020 this resolution is required to be passed by the Board of Election's in order to remove the levy from the November ballot. The Board of Elections wants the resolution passed this month. So, I am asking for it to be placed on the table for the next Council meeting.

I would like to also request an appropriation ordinance be on placed on the table for transferring funds from the general fund into the following cash accounts:

04-1000 Swimming Pool \$100,000.00

05-1000 Master Plan \$200,000.00

18-1000 Storm Sewers \$6,152.00

31-1000 General Bond \$200,000.00

The Village received \$134,458.12 from Hamilton County for the funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The Department Heads will be meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the best way to use these funds.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to place Ordinance No. 16, 2020, additional appropriations and transfer funds, on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Law Director, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I have been working with the Chief of Police regarding public access request and also working with him in regards to his service provider which should help with recording issues.

Also, I continue working with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee on an anti discriminations ordinance and we meet again this coming Tuesday, the 18th at 7:00pm.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the statement from Star Ohio Bank. At the end of June our total there with the State was \$3,813,287.82. On the back of that report I also pulled in July at that point since the month is over. So, our total at the end of July at Star Ohio was \$3,814,764.79.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul – We had a department head meeting and decided to be less tolerant of issues in our Village.

High grass, weeds and trash are some of the issues. People are becoming complacent about our warnings.

Therefore, after our due process, we will cut, clean and remove waste from the property that is not in compliance and the bill will be placed as a lien on your property. Be fair warned, it is less expensive to hire a lawn service than to pay our fine.

We also decided to incorporate a complaint line. This line will be used for anonymous property complaints that will be recorded, placed on a list, then dealt with accordingly. You will not get to talk to a person. The phone number is: (513)482-5688.

My estimate on the trash fee may be under estimated as I figured that it would start to diminish. It did but the last two weeks of July once again saw a spike of \$11,641.55.

The phone number for the complaint line will be in the Newsletter and sent out on Call Command.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Ms. Helmes – These are the tax receipts for July:

Tax collections for July were: \$907,869

· Tax refunds for July were: -\$16,284.95

· The Village is up 41.03% in tax revenue from July of 2019. (which is due to the filing date being 7/15 this year.)

· YTD tax collection is up 13.64%.

Service, Mr. Schildmeyer – The Service Department report for July 2020:

There were 29 trucks placed at residences, 36 dumpsters placed at residences, 574 special pick-ups at residences, 192.89 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.

Recycling: 38.49 tons of recycling material and 8,620 pounds of scrap metal.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The CIC available properties to be built, there's one on Bank and one available on Andrew Street.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As Valerie said, the Laws Contracts and Claims Committee will meet August 18 at 7:00pm.

Marketing, Ms. Miller – The aquatic center will remain open for weekends starting 8/15 until Monday, September 7th. Arts and Crafts are officially over and will be back next summer.

Some of our local schools are starting back this week I would like to remind citizens to be mindful while driving through our village. We want to make sure that our students remain safe, so please be mindful in our school zones.

We still do not have any new information regarding SAY soccer or the Dance Program. As information comes in, we will share the updates.

Audience Participation

None.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Resolutions and Ordinances for the next Council meeting.

Resolution No. 8, 2020. Rescinding Resolution No. 6, 2020. Special Election Ordinance updating quarterly codified ordinances

Ordinance transferring the Firehouse and Long John Silver properties to the CIC
Ordinance providing for additional appropriations and transfer of funds.

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting will be August 27, 2020 at 7:00pm. The next COW meeting will be September 10, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kathman, Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS

None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2020. A RESOLUTION TO APPEAL RESOLUTION 6, 2020 AND TO WITHDRAWL THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF A SEVEN (7) MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING EXPENSES, 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. 8, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

This Resolution needs to be certified and sent into the County.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Resolution No. 8, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2020. 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 Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 15, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 15, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2020. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 16, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 16, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss pending litigation. Motion passed 7-0.

A thank you to the Paramedics from Mr. Tobergte.

The Law Director was asked her best guess on the time frame to transfer that over to the CIC. She stated discussion would begin at the next COW and if approved it would be on the table for the next Council meeting.

A meeting of the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee will be arranged so the Airbnb problem can be discussed before the COW.

The Airbnb is also changing bi-laws so that should be considered as well.

Within the Police Department minimum staffing has been reduced to two, but this will be changed to a three man minimum on all three shifts shortly as the budget allows.

NEW BUSINESS

The Halloween Campout, as of right now, is still being scheduled. The Recreation Director is comfortable to have this continue. Some things may have to have some changes due to COV-19, but the event should still be able to happen.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

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