

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2020**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, October 29, 2020 in Council Chambers.

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

A moment of silence was held for Mark Brickweg and Ester Boehm.

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

A motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus 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 – The St. Bernard Branch of the Hamilton County Public Library will be hosting a free COVID-19 testing site in partnership with the Health Collaborative and UC Health, tomorrow, Friday, October 30 from 3:00 to 5:30pm. The Village will be announcing future testing dates.

As you are aware, COVID did cause a temporary shutdown of city hall due to a contact exposure. I would like to thank our Safety/Service Director Tom Paul and our Village Clerk, Heidi Culbertson for working with the Hamilton Health Department during this closure and as we continue to have additional employees affected by this virus. I am asking that you please keep those that have been affected in your prayers and that you please take the necessary precautions to prevent spreading or contracting COVID-19. Our management team will be serving in a dual capacity as the Governor has requested that each municipality establish a COVID Defense Team. We will keep you all informed as this evolves. Trick-or-treating in the Village of St. Bernard will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 4:30 to 6:30pm. The purpose for this time change is to allow for those who are participating to be more visible and to properly distance themselves, as well as to help those who are passing out candy to take the necessary safety precautions. General Guidance/Recommended Best Practices

- It is strongly recommended that Ohioans exercise caution when deciding to participate in trick-or-treating and events that put them in close contact with people outside their households.
- Always wear a face covering and stay 6 feet away from people who are not from your household, whether trick-or-treating, passing out treats, or attending attractions or events. Stay home if you are sick. (NOTE: Face coverings should never be placed on children younger than 2 or anyone who cannot easily remove them.)
- Carry hand sanitizer and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.
- Consider the people in your household who may be at greater risk of complications if COVID-19 is brought into the home, such as those with certain health conditions, women who are pregnant, or older family members.

Recommendations for Parents/Guardians

- If taking your children trick-or-treating, limit the number of houses you visit and ask your children to stay as far from treat-givers as possible. For small children, consider holding the bag for them.
- Wipe off candy wrappers with sanitizing wipes when you arrive home, (NOTE: Never wipe unpackaged food with wipes.)
- Allow children to eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.
- If your child is at greater risk of complications from COVID-19, contact your doctor before allowing participation in Halloween activities.

Recommendations for Community Members

- For trick-or-treating, reach out to neighbors to discuss ways to ensure 6-foot social distancing, how candy can most safely be distributed, and the need for face coverings.
- Refrain from having children select their own treats from a bowl/common container or set up a hand-sanitizing station. Consider placing treats on porch steps or a table in the driveway with a sign asking children to take only one. Or use other creative ways to distribute treats, such as using a candy “slide” made of PVC pipe, or hanging treats from a wall or fence.

Update on Flu Shots for Senior Citizens

We will announce a date for flu shots to be offered to senior citizens in St. Bernard once the appropriate dosage becomes available from the supplier. This will be a single day event offered by Walgreens and it will be held in Centennial Hall. Tuesday, November 3 is election day, and the polls will be open from 6:30am to 7:30 pm in the Municipal Building. Please remember that masks and social

distancing are required and that you are required to bring an accepted form of identification. Additional information is available on the Hamilton County Board of Elections website.

The Senior Shuttle will be running on election day from 10:00am to 5:00pm for anyone needing transportation to vote. The bus will only be making trips in the Village that day.

Lastly, I would like to thank Patrol Officer John Desotelle, Nancy Haverkamp from the Matt Haverkamp Foundation, and K-9 Officer Creed and his partner Officer Alt for taking the time to make a presentation on forming a K-9 unit for the St. Bernard Police Department. At this time, I am making the decision that we will not be starting a K-9 unit. I do believe that in the near future that this could be a great addition to our department, but I am most concerned about adding a patrol officer to give our citizens the necessary road strength. I cannot say enough with how impressed I was with Officer Desotelle and the community partners who offered to sponsor the program, but I hope that we can come together again to make this a great addition to our department. Please give consideration to donating to the Matt Haverkamp Foundation so that they can continue to provide K-9 partners for police departments.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – No report.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Val Valkenberg/Walden - (read by Mayor Stuchell) Earlier this week I met with members of the public and of the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee to discuss the substantive terms of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance coming out of that Committee. I have also been asked by the Committee to look into a possible ordinance regarding Air BnB's within the Village.

I have also been asked by one Council member to look into the steps necessary to amend the Charter.

DIRECTOR, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the statement from First State Bank. Our balance for the Fourth of July Memorial Fund as of September 30 totaled \$5,655.37.

I also pulled down the Star Ohio account. As of September 30, the Village has \$3,816,420.61.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – I have found a company to repair the damaged stairs at Lower Ross Park. He explained to me what would have to be done and I feel confident that this will work. His estimate was \$19,550.00. We

should move on this as quick as possible. Place it on agenda for the next COW meeting.

There is a program for financing through the lighting company for the Ross Park light poles. The second bidder has under bid the first by \$60,000.00. He included two extra poles and lights for the parking area also. Total bid is \$302,999.50. We should put this on for the COW also and speak of financing.

We have a bid on cameras for the Safety Center. We are expecting more. We should also discuss this at COW.

The leafer is available and will be running until December 1. you may put your bigger pile of leaves out to the curb and we will vacuum them up for you. Please bag or can your smaller loads of leaves and we will pick them up on your normal trash days.

To My Community

When we were given the gift of life, only one thing remained certain. We think of life as a tapestry which we need to weave. Perhaps a game or a maze. However, you think of your life's journey, sooner or later you will find a need to alter the weave, move differently on the game board or blocked by another dead end in a world that seems to be going nowhere. Breathe deeply, calm yourself and smile. Many times, you have heard a person say, "I'm at my wits end". Congratulations! You too have made it to wits end. Seek out your next move and try to remember love is the only way.

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR - Monthly receipts for September 2020.

- Tax collections for September were: \$1,528,601.51
- Tax refunds for August were: -\$19,822.58
- The Village is down -6.06% in tax revenue from September of 2019.
- YTD tax collection is up 5.24%.
- \$69,219.42 in delinquent tax is with Capital Recovery.
- \$105,727 in delinquent tax is with our Attorney for judgement/garnishment collection work.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Village received \$23,851.50 from the garbage fee program for September. This brings the total for the first 9 months of this year to \$221,200.91.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the police report for September. There were 2 noise complaints, 6 juvenile complaints, 42 parking complaints, 17 traffic violations, 42 traffic warnings, 5 DUI/OVI offenses, 3 cases of theft from vehicles,

30 calls of suspicious persons or vehicles, that was a total of 690 incidents that were responded to.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – At the last CIC meeting we had continued discussions about the Long John Silver's property and that is in the process of going through all the different things with Hamilton County to get the property recorded correctly. We will continue discussions about this at the next CIC meeting along with the shopping center property. The next CIC meeting will be November 17 at 6:00pm.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – As was reported by Valerie, we did have a Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting. We further discussed the Ordinance on unlawful discrimination and it will be finalized. We were planning on having and talking about having a tentative a town hall meeting for on how this stands and we can discuss it further as well. As soon as Valerie completes it she will put a copy in all of Council's mailboxes so they can start reading, it is rather lengthy so we will also have a discussion at the COW meeting. So, more to come on that. It is only tentative on the town hall meeting. So, when that gets finalized it will be announced.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

MARKETING, Mrs. Miller – I would like the citizens to know that the newsletter will go out next Friday November 6th. We are going to start featuring local businesses monthly in the newsletter. For the Month of November, we are featuring I Am Coffee which is owned and operated by Carolyn and Ron Spears Jr. The shop was purchased in 2018 and is in the heart of St. Bernard's business district on Vine St. The shop is quaint and cozy featuring Deeper Roots coffee, lattes, pastries, and breakfast sandwiches. Make sure to stop in if you have not already and meet Ron and Carolyn. You will be able to view the full write up on their business in the newsletter. If you have not done so, please make sure to subscribe to the monthly newsletter thru the village website. In other events and something to look forward to, recreation is set to hold their Christmas program in December 2020. More info to come on this event.

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

Committee of the Whole
October 8, 2020

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

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to approve the written minutes of the September 24, 2020 Council meeting.

Mayor Stuchell – As part of the Mayor’s report Officer John Desotelle gave an informative presentation and demonstration on the benefits of a K-9 Unit. Throughout his proposal he outlined why a K-9 Unit would be a great addition to the Police Department. It would enable the partner to do his job safer and faster. It would also enable the Police Department to have an extra officer on the street without an extra salary. Donations from businesses and others have been received for the start-up costs and possibly a new vehicle in order to minimize cost.

Mayor Stuchell noted that this proposal should be considered with pros and cons during this time because we are looking at the budget for next year and now is the time to think of how we can best keep the community safe and also continue the services to the Village. Further discussion on this proposal will be on the agenda for the November COW when we have additional information.

Body cams for the Police Department have been researched. Council was given a comparison of programs for the body cams and were asked to consider one of these for the safety of the officers and community. They are currently using the Axon program in use as a demonstration. This could possibly be considered for the budget for next year also.

The six foot buffer that is in question within the Franklin Avenue Park, the owner of the property is willing to transfer the property as a gift for \$400.00 which he paid for the new fence he had built. The Law Director will look into any additional costs that may arise before the final decision is made of the transfer of property.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg - (read by Mayor Stuchell) - The Auditor’s Office provided the end of September 2020 revenue, expense and cash fund spreadsheets to Council and the Administration. At the end of September, the revenues are up \$329,543.58 and the expenses are down \$830,322.57 compared to last year. I am also happy to report that we were able to put another \$1,000,000.00 in the reserves last week.

As of today, the Village has received \$357,938.80 from Hamilton County for the funds from the State Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The village also received the ability to be reimbursed \$149,163.00 for Covid expenses through the County from a Federal Grant. The criteria for using these funds is very strict, along with a very little time-period. The funds we do not use must be returned and they will be re-distributed. The Department Heads have been meeting to discuss ways to use the funds and talking to other municipalities on how they are using them and how they are meeting the time crunch. This is why Ordinance 24, 2020, which is for the Power Load Cot System is before you tonight. Items over the \$25,000.00 threshold could be purchased without Council's approval at this time because of the Covid Emergency Resolution that was previously passed. After some discussion with the Mayor, we agreed since Council is now meeting again this is not how it should be handled.

While talking to other local municipalities, Hamilton County and our State Auditor regarding spending limits I would like to urge Council to pass Ordinance 25, 2020 which raises the amount a Department Head can spend without Council's vote from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00. This would make the amount the same as what is required to go out for bid and before Council. Many municipalities in Ohio do not have a set amount for approval because they use the \$50,000.00 amount for everything. As always, the Finance Chairperson will receive a copy of all purchase orders. Council will get a copy of the weekly encumbrance report and when possible, Department Heads will inform Council when they want to purchase items between \$25,000.00 and \$50,000.00. I think this will end any confusion between what needs to be approved and what needs bids, since they will both be the same amount. Most importantly it will allow the Department Heads the ability to use the Covid Funds in the time-period required by law and prevent from forfeiting them. It could possibly help us move forward with the purchase of a new ambulance along with a hands-free door opening possibility within City Hall and the Municipal Building. This is an acceptable purchase along with the power load system and the Lucas device, that kind of thing.

Chief Brian Young presented information on an ambulance vehicle that could be bought at a very reduced rate that would have all that the Fire Department would like to have in the future. The COVID funds that are available would greatly help this expenditure to take delivery while we can make this purchase happen. The power load system is covered within the COVID funds along with the ambulance. Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to have a Special

Council meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm to discuss the purchase of a new ambulance. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put Ordinance No. 24, and 25, 2020 on the table for the Special Council meeting at 8:15 tonight.

Mayor Stuchell reported that the money received for COVID is in upwards of \$500,000.00. We have to be preapproved for any purchases to make sure it is a qualifying purchase.

It was decided to put anything over \$25,000.00 to put these purchases in the Ordinance to be approved for COVID use.

Ordinance No. 25, 2020 will be voted on at the next Special Council meeting. So, Ordinance No. 24, 2020 will be on the table for tonight's Special Council Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the report from First State Bank. Our total there at the end of last month was \$5,655. 37.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul – Ross Park, I'm going for a third bid so, we're not finished there yet. And for trash on 2-0-18 I'm requesting an appropriation of \$30,000.00 more dollars. The last bill was \$6,900.00, that's for two weeks, and for the roll off it was four thousand something, so if you do that, I still have like five more payments to finish the year out. So, we will be short.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to place an Ordinance on the table for the next Council meeting for additional money for the trash pick-up. Motion passed 7-0.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Mrs. Helmes - 1. 2019 tax extensions expire 10/15. So, please remember to file your 2019 tax return. Late fees are mandated by State law and will be applied.

2. Due to a business consolidation and additional refund requests, the Tax Office needs an additional \$200,000.00 appropriated for refunds for this year.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to add \$200,000.00 into the refund line item for the Tax Department. Motion passed 7-0.

Service – Mr. Scihldmeyer – In September we placed 35 trucks at residences, 35 dumpsters were placed at residences, 307 special pick-ups at residences and 184.70 tons of garbage were taken to the landfill. 35.25 tons of recycling material and 6,260 pounds of scrap metal.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The CIC will have a special meeting this Tuesday. It will be a walking tour of the new development in Silverton. We are encouraging all that are interested to please attend. It will start at 5:30 and parking will be available in Grass Field north of 6847 Stuart Rd. In Silverton. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Jonathan Stuchell at 543-3780. The CIC is currently looking at somewhere as development possibilities for the shopping center so, this is an opportunity for those who want to get involved to join us at that special meeting. We will also have a regular scheduled meeting on October 20 at 6:00 pm.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mrs. Bedinghaus – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee did meet on September 30 to discuss the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. We will be meeting again on October 15 at 6:00pm on the lower level to discuss the revisions that we did make and hopefully that will be our last meeting.

Marketing, Mrs. Miller - Here are some updates for the St. Bernard Halloween Campout which will take place this weekend. All citizens are invited to attend even if you are not camping.

You may begin setting up your campsite any time after 4pm Friday afternoon. Please do not arrive any earlier to make sure everything is ready before the load-in begins! **NO CARS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE TRACK FOR ANY REASON AFTER 7PM FRIDAY!** If you cannot setup your tent Friday, you may do so between 11am – 4pm Saturday. **NO cars will be permitted on the track for any reason after 4PM Saturday.**

A Recreation Staff member will be on site to direct you to your campsite. Everyone that signed up has been assigned a site number which will be painted on the grass where you are to setup your campsite. **The SITE NUMBERS AND MAP WILL also be TAPED TO THE CONCESSION BUILDING!**

Traffic entering the lower Ross Park lot beginning at 7pm both nights will be blocked for safety reasons.

Coolers with food and drinks are encouraged, including adult beverages. You may bring your own grills to the event, but please no charcoal dumping on site.

Self-contained personal firepits are also permitted, again no **DUMPING ON-SITE!**

Campsites are expected to be cleared out by noon on Sunday

The events for the campout will include

- o DJ Friday night only
- o Halloween Costume Contest Saturday night @ 7pm followed by
- o Campsite trick or treating-remember to bring candy to pass out at your site if you would like to participate
- o Wyoming Air Haunted Trail will take place Saturday evening only
- o Kid themed movies will be playing on the big screen beginning at 8pm & 10pm both nights

COVID Restrictions are listed on the St. Bernard Recreation Facebook site

Lollipop soccer is also happening in St. Bernard through the end of October taking place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm at Vine St park. Stop by to watch our youngest residents in action

The Special Council meeting of the St. Bernard Village is now in order.

ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2020. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TREASURER EMS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) POWER LOAD SYSTEM AND POWER POD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 24, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No. 24, 2020 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

COW audience participation.

None.

A Special Council meeting, Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00pm. to discuss Ordinance No. 25, 26, 27, 2020, the increase in spending and ambulance Ordinance.

The next Council meeting will be October 22, 2020.

Ordinances for the next Council meeting

Transfer of funds and the Trash Ordinance.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kathman, Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

A correction was made to Ordinance No. 28 before the first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 28, 2020 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND MOVE APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 28, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No. 28, 2020 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Requested Council get a notice when articles are due for the Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to move the November Council meeting to November 19. Motion passed 7-0.

The Halloween Campout has replaced the costume parade usually held at the pavilion.

There will be further updates on the Christmas program.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, November 12 in Council Chambers.

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