

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held November 19, 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, Mrs. Miller and 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 – (read by Mr. Paul) I am sorry that I am not able to be here this evening, but I will be watching and will be able to communicate by phone if necessary.

First off, I would like to thank the St. Bernard Fire Department and the other mutual aid companies who fought the structure fire on Greenlee Avenue this Wednesday. Fred and Manzie are both in my thoughts and prayers after this tragic incident. I am asking for the community for their support to help these two men get back on their feet. There is a link on Facebook for the Go Fund Me page and there are several individuals who are collecting items like clothing for them.

I would also like to say how proud I am of this community for making a commitment to help those in need during this Thanksgiving Holiday. There were 38 boxes and shopping lists that were picked up this past weekend that will be filled and returned so that they can be distributed this Sunday. How awesome! Remember, if you picked up a box, they are to be returned this Sunday between 3:00 and 5:00pm at the Aquatic Center where there will be a drive-thru drop off. Thank you all for your generosity and thank you to the volunteers who have made this all happen

The exact details of our tree lighting at city hall will be announced along with the location of the distribution of the kids treat bags but the traditional holiday celebration with the trolley, trains, the petting zoo, and pictures with Santa cannot happen this year. I still encourage everyone to participate in the Village PAC Holiday Light Contest-Will Light for Food on Saturday, December 5. those

wishing to register their home in the contest may by emailing thevillagepac@gmail.com. Entries must be received by Friday, November 27 by 5:00pm.

The Hamilton County Public Health Department has issued a county-wide advisory to urge citizens to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. The advisory list the following actions to help slow the current rapid spread of the virus:

- Staying home whenever possible
- Observing the Governor’s curfew order which begins tonight. Residents are required to stay at home between the hours of 10:00pm and 5:00am. There are exceptions for work, medical care, to get supplies, and emergencies.
- Mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, and staying home when ill
- Limiting gatherings
- Working remotely
- Observing all quarantine and isolation measures for exposures.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor’s Office provided the end of October 2020 revenue, expense and cash fund spreadsheets to Council and the Administration. At the end of October, the Village has underspent the revenues by \$657,403.83.

The Auditor’s office prepared Ordinance No. 33, 2020 for tonight’s meeting. This Ordinance transfers \$237,089.38 from the general fund. \$200,000.00 going into General Bond Retirement Cash Account and \$37,089.38 going into CRF Corona 19 CARE cash account. It also provides additional appropriations to:

01-2K-2 Miscellaneous	\$15,400.00 -fire damaged house
01-2-O-10 Parks	\$19,550.00 -Ross Park steps
Utilities	\$12,000.00
20-01 CRF Corona 19 CARE	\$3,833.08

It moves \$40,000.00 from 6-A-3, Police Dispatchers into 6-A-13, Police Equipment Outlay. This will be used to pay for Police body and in car cameras. I would like to request that Council suspend the regular rules of the meeting after the reading of the Resolution and Ordinances to open the floor to discuss 2021 healthcare expenses. This is a time sensitive matter that needs to be discussed tonight.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I would urge that Council pass Ordinance No. 33 2020 tonight. It authorizes the solid waste collection fee for 2021. It is the collection fee (inaudible) and should be passed before January 1 if possible. I would also urge that you pass Ordinance No. 30, 2020. It is an

Ordinance approving and editing inclusion of Ordinances in our parts of our Code incorporating it into our existing Ordinances.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have provided State Bank statements for the Fourth of July Memorial account we have down there. At the end of October, through October 31, 2020 our balance in the account totaled \$5,633.70

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Recycling processing fees have finally fell below the trash per ton rate at the landfill.

Recycling fee is down to \$29.86/ton this month.

We were averaging \$40.00/ton.

I would like to place discussion of a new electric truck on the agenda for the next COW.

To My Community,

I am thinking that we are almost all the way around the sun again. Although this year is fatiguing us, we seem to be managing our way through it. There is still a lot to be thankful for in our lives. Distance does not seem to be a big problem anymore. With our phones and computers, we can dial up and there they are right in front of us. We can still cook, bake, and eat. So, this is a bright side you ask? Yes because no one will be there to ask,” are you having another slice?” I am, with two scoops on the side. I'll be thinking of you. Happy Thanksgiving!

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mrs. Helmes – October Monthly Report:

- Tax collections for October were: \$890,225
- Tax refunds for October were: -\$9,217.64
- The Village is down -1.25% in tax revenue from October of 2019.
- YTD tax collection is up 4.53%.
- \$69,629 in delinquent tax is with Capital Recovery.
- \$106,195 in delinquent tax is with our Attorney for judgement/garnishment collection work.

2019 Non-filers.

Currently there are 610 residents who have not filed their 2019 St. Bernard tax return that was due 7/15/2020 and extensions were over 10/15/20. Letters are now going out to remind those people. I want to stress the importance of not ignoring

the letter that we send you. Failure to file will result in a summons to court and additional penalties that could be avoided.

Ability to file and pay your tax return and quarterly payments online is coming back for 2021!

I have been working with the Baldwin Group, our software provider, and Infnitec to bring back the ability to file and pay your tax returns online. The new overhauled system will allow you to file your tax returns online AND submit your documentation with your filing. Your documents will be stored digitally on your tax account. This improved system helps to prevent fraud, saves paper, and adds convenience to the community.

Resolution 10, 2020 has been placed before Council tonight for approval. This is a Resolution to strongly oppose Senate Bill 352 and House Bill 754 legislation proposing the repeal of section 29 of HB197. The repealing of this section will have dire consequences through Ohio's Municipalities. It will cause substantial loss of revenue that will impede the ability of Municipalities to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of Municipal residents and businesses and jeopardize the future economic growth of the State of Ohio.

As always, if you have any questions you can reach my office at 242-7710.

Happy Thanksgiving!

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – No report.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Fire Department report for October 2020. There was a total of 64 fire incidents, with 7 structural fires and 3 vehicle fires. Mutual aid was given to Norwood 3 times, Elmwood Place 8 times, Little Miami 4 times and 1 time to Springfield Township. Mutual aid was received; 1 from Elmwood Place, 1 from Little Miami, 1 from Springfield, 1 from Norwood, 1 from Reading and 1 from Wyoming. There was a total of 100 EMS incidents. Details of Interest; 6 non-breathers, 3 unconscious, 16 auto accidents and 1 overdose. EMS mutual aid given; 21 to Elmwood Place, 2 to Norwood, 1 to Deer Park, 3 To Springfield Twp. Mutual aid received; 4 from Norwood and 1 from Lockland. I would like to wish all the residents a Happy Thanksgiving as well.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – No report

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – A few weeks I had stated that I thought I would be having a Town Hall meeting and making sure that we could have a presenting of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance that we have been working on in the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee and I thought we would do it around December 3. However, with everything going on with COVID we are going to be not having that. And after January 1 we will decide when will be a better time in order to get that meeting together.

MARKETING, Mrs. Miller – I was able to attend the We Thrive meeting which occurred yesterday. Some updates I would like to make our community aware of, there is a We Thrive St. Bernard Facebook site that is in the works and hopefully will be published in January 2021. I will keep everyone updated as to the progress of this site. I also want to make sure that the community is aware of some services that our local library branch offers most of which are FREE services. I will name a few and I will publish in the December newsletter more information and a direct link to their site.

- Free faxing and scanning to email
- Up to two hours of computer access
- Up to 20 pages of free copying and printing
- Free take home activities (Make and Take Kits) · Free Meal boxes from UMC Food Ministry on Mondays from 3-5 p.m. while supplies last. Each box contains seven meals and seven snacks.

Their hours are 10am-6pm Monday thru Saturday for in person and curbside services. Face coverings are required to enter the library.

Also, an update from the Talbert House

There is currently a Senior Safety Squad Program which is facilitated by Talbert House targeting seniors and their families living here in St. Bernard. You can contact their free helpline which is available 24/7 through calling (513) 281-CARE (2273) or texting “TALBERT” to 839863. This is a wonderful resource to avoid a crisis when families experience depression, anxiety, and grief.

Also please do not forget that the Reds Urban Youth Academy meal box pick up is taking place tomorrow Friday November 20th, 9am to 4pm located at 2026 E Seymour Ave. You do not need to get out of your vehicle. The flyer for this event has been loaded to the St. Bernard Facebook site.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – No report. But I would like to wish all the residents a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Committee of the Whole
November 12, 2020

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

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to approve the written minutes of the October 8, COW, October 15 Special Council meeting and the October 29 Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to put Ordinance No. 30, 2020 on the table at the next Council meeting to update the Codified Ordinances. Motion passed 6-0

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell – A reminder, there will be a Thanksgiving Food Drive benefitting St. Bernard families, sponsored by Crossroads Church in Uptown, hosted by Jake Armentrout.

This is an opportunity to help provide Thanksgiving meals to those who need them in St. Bernard. Take care of one another by being good neighbors.

Step 1: pick up a box at the St. Bernard Pool (drive-thru style) on Sunday, November 15, between 3:00 and 5:00pm. The box will include a shopping list.

Step2: go shopping and fill the box.

Step 3: drop the filled box off at the St. Bernard Pool (drive-thru style) on Sunday, November 22, between 3:00 and 5:00pm.

The cost of an average box will be \$45.00 to \$65.00, depending on where you shop. This will feed a family of six to eight. All boxes will go to St. Clement and

St. Bernard/Elmwood Place schools, who will distribute them to families in need in St. Bernard.

There are a couple other options to be aware of:

Nominate a family, in which you will personally identify a family you know and pick up a box on Sunday, November 15, between 3:00 and 5:00pm. Then you will fill the box and personally deliver it to the family before Thanksgiving.

2. Donate cash or gift card on Sunday, November 15, between 3:00 and 5:00pm at the drive-thru, and we'll shop and fill as many boxes as possible.

Let's work together to take care of the people in our neighborhood! The direct link to the Facebook Page is available on the Village website.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – Explained the use of COVID-19 funding expenditures that needed to be used in the amount of \$357,938.18 plus a Federal Grant of \$149,163.00. Also, \$428,603.50 from BWC to help with expenses because of COVID. \$227,700.16 is going to a new ambulance, \$230,000.00 for scan cards for the municipal building and fitness center and municipal hall. \$130,238.18 of the County money towards that. Also, hands free sinks throughout the municipal hall and city hall and all around these areas. All these funds need to be appropriated for the necessary expenses. These funds need to be spent up front for reimbursement, everything else is given to us.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to put Ordinance Nos. 29, 31, 2020 on the table for the Special Council meeting tonight. Motion passed 6-0.

Also. by the end of the year, we will be receiving another \$805,645.00 from BWC.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul – The bid for the Ross Park steps came in at \$19,550.00. Money needs to be appropriated over to that to 2-0-10, Parks.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Ms. Helmes - A few updates from the tax office. · Ohio Supreme Court ruled on the State's Municipal Net Profit program;

The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled the centralized collection of municipal net profits is constitutional due to the General Assembly's authority to restrict municipal income tax. However, the Supreme Court also ruled that it is unconstitutional for the state to charge the 0.5% fee to the municipality to cover the state's administrative costs to operate the central collection scheme. The Court ruled that the state does not have the power to tax municipal revenues, which is why the opinion states the 0.5% administrative fee is unconstitutional.

Municipalities may be entitled to a refund of this fee. Without the State having the

ability to charge the fee the Ohio Municipal League is wondering whether the State will continue the program.

Ability to file and pay your tax return and quarterly payments online is coming back for 2021!

I have been working with the Baldwin Group, our software provider, and Infintech to bring back the ability to file and pay your tax returns online. They have overhauled the system. In order to file your tax returns online you must submit your documentation with your filing, or it will not be accepted. Your documents will be stored digitally on your tax account. This improved system helps to prevent fraud and adds a convenience to the community.

2019 Non-filers.

Currently there are 591 residents who have not filed their 2019 St. Bernard tax return. The 2019 tax return was due 7/15/2020 and extensions were due 10/15/2020. Letters will be going out to remind those people. I want to stress the importance of not ignoring the letter that we send you. Failure to file will result in a summons to court and additional penalties that could be avoided. Please contact my office if you have questions.

Due to obligations with Court, Attorney calls, and meetings, etc. some dynamics of the tax office have changed. I may not always be available 9-5 Mon-Friday in the Tax Office for drop-ins. I encourage the community to use the drop box, my e-mail or call to make an appointment if you need to actually meet with me. I would not want you to have to wait for long periods of time while I am tied-up on a call or waste a trip down to the tax office if I am not available.

Working from home will not be a factor for income tax.

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to put Ordinance No. 32, 2020 with the emergency clause on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Service, Mr. Schildmeyer – I have the Service report for October 2020. There were 29 trucks placed at residences, 24 dumpsters placed at residences, 410 special pickups at residences, 193.05 tons of garbage taken to the landfill and 39.69 tons of recycling material and 2,000 pounds of scrap metal.

Marketing, Mrs. Miller - I would like to let the citizens know that during this holiday season there are programs out there to help those with food insecurities. No one should go without during this holiday season. I would like everyone to know that the Reds Urban Youth Academy has teamed up with the Free Store Foodbank along with some other fantastic sponsors to coordinate a Thanksgiving Food Distribution. The event will take place on November 20th from 9am to 4pm at the Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy located at 2026 East Seymour Ave. This is a food drive thru set up, so you do not need to leave your vehicle. Families will receive A turkey or a chicken along with holiday items and fresh produce. This is just another fantastic opportunity like the one Johnathan mentioned that Crossroads will be putting together.

Also, I will be meeting with We Thrive on November 18th and will report back to the community after that meeting takes place on what was discussed regarding opportunities for our village.

In regard to the 2020 Holiday Light Contest if you would like to participate in this event all entries must be received by Friday November 27th at 5PM. If you would like to participate please contact the St. Bernard Recreation department at recreation@cityofstbernard.org

Business and Industry, Ms. Hausfeld – I have the Building and Zoning Department 2020 September Activities Report: there were 5 residential permits, and 2 commercial permits. The total fees for residential permits were \$928.37 and the total fees for commercial permits was \$696.80. Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio (Residential) \$9.29 and the amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio (Commercial) \$20.91.

Audience wishing to address Council:

A request for an Ordinance approving the contract for the lights.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to put an Ordinance on the table to approve the contract for the lights at Ross Park. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to put an Ordinance on the table to repair the steps at Ross Park. Motion passed 6-0.

There will be a budget at the next COW meeting.

After some discussion, it was decided to include the purchase of a third vehicle with in car video equipment in Ordinance No. 29, 2020.

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

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kathman, Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to place Resolution No. 10,2020 and Ordinances No. 33 and 35, 2020 on the table this evening. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2020. STRONGLY OPPOSING SENATE BILL 352 AND HOUSE BILL 754, LEGISLATION PROPOSING THE REPEAL OF SECTION 29 OF 197, WHICH WILL RESULT IN A MYRIAD OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES THROUGH OHIO'S ENTIRE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX SYSTEM, CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF REVENUE THAT WILL IMPEDE THE ABILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF MUNICIPAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 30, 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. 30, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 30, 2020 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 32, 2020. AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 32, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 32, 2020 as read. Motion passed 5-2. Mr. Tobergte and Mr. Bob Culbertson voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 33, 2020. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS, MOVE FUNDS AND 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. 33, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 33, 2020 as read motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 34, 2020. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GERKE ELECTRIC, INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 34, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

REMARKS

Bids were received from two different companies and the Gerke bid was the lowest.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 34, 2020 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 35, 2020. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LEBANON FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) POLICE CRUISERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 35, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

REMARKS

These cruisers will be 2021 models.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 35, 2020 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the regular order of business to discuss health care for the Village. Motion passed 7-0.

United health care had a very high bid. We must have had a very bad year because no other carrier bid for our insurance. The bid came in at \$600,000.00 over what was appropriated. Working with everything that the employees can do we think we can ask for half of that. \$300,000.00 more in that line item is what is requested for next year's budget. The agreement needs to be signed the beginning of December. The tax department is continuing to monitor Senate Bill 352 and House Bill 754 that could affect our income status and continue to try to collect delinquent taxes. A comparison to the public sector and private sector was also considered.

Motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to add \$300,000.00 to the 2021 budget for the health care line item. Motion passed 7-0.

This will be put on the agenda for the next COW to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to change the December 24 Council meeting to December 17. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

None

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00pm. and the next Council meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00pm.

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