

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held on February 25, 2021 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 six members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Ray Culbertson, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Ms. Hausfeld. Mrs. Miller was absent.

Mrs. Bedinghaus made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Ray Culbertson seconded the motion. Council agreed 6-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell – I would like to take a moment to congratulate two members of our Safety Departments on their recent retirement. Patrol Officer Charlie Barnes retired earlier this month from the St. Bernard Police Department with 30 years of service and Firefighter/Fire Apparatus Operator Bill Kreyenhagen retired from the St. Bernard Fire Department this last weekend with 35 years of service to the Village. Thank you again gentlemen for your service and I hope that you both enjoy your well-deserved retirement. You will both be missed! The testing process is underway to establish and eligibility lists for both the police and fire departments.

We are still working on finalizing the contract with the Village of Elmwood Place so that the St. Bernard Fire Department can start billing for EMS responses. I just received the revised version of the contract from their Village Solicitor, and I would like to be put on the agenda for the next COW meeting. I know that a motion was made to put an ordinance on the table, but I would like for everyone to have an opportunity to review it. I have placed copies in your mailboxes.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – (read by Mr. Paul) The Auditor’s Office provided the end of January revenue and expense spreadsheets to Council and the Administration. At the end of January, the Village revenues were \$772,777.06 and the expenses were \$1,108,904.91.

I have started working on the preliminary reports required for the 2020 audit and Cheryl Abrams is assisting with the summer payroll packets. As soon as they are

all prepared the summer employees will receive an e-mail informing them that they can be picked up at City Hall.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I've been working with the Police Department and the Fire Department the past couple of weeks regarding matters including, the Fire Department with their dispatching that they have and I'm also reviewing currently audit camera policy for the Police Department.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the bank statement from Star Ohio for the Village's account with the State. The total at the end of January was \$5,818,650.41.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – We made it through the worst of the season, so, let me invite the people who might be interested in a summer seasonal part-time job to please come down to City Hall or go to our website and get an application for summer employment. It will be under Recreation on the website. I would like to discuss the retaining wall for Ross Ave. Park for the residents on Ross Avenue at the next COW.

To My Community:

Snow can blanket your pathway. As with life, when your path is covered you may need to clear it so you will not misstep. Look around, in your mind, you can find a shovel and salt. Take a deep breath, notice that "love" is contained in the word shovel and the word salt rearranged is "last". Now start clearing your path and sprinkling your salt. This will give you a sure-footed path contained within love that will last forever.

TAX ADMINISTRATOR/COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Helmes – The tax information for January 2021.

- Tax collections for January: \$688,427
- Tax refunds for January: \$-3622.60
- The Village is up 9.61% in tax revenue from January of 2020.
- \$60,897.39 in delinquent tax is with Capital Recovery.
- \$104,199 in delinquent tax is with our Attorney for judgement/garnishment collection work.
- The tax office is now sending delinquent tax balances to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for collections.

To maintain COVID guidelines, privacy issues, and eliminate long waits: St. Bernard tax return preparation assistance is available by appointment only.

We will not be able to assist in St. Bernard tax preparation THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-15. So, please plan accordingly and file early.

According to our software providers, our online filing system should be available soon.

All of the tax forms are available now on the city's website.

Please do not e-mail tax returns to our office as a method of filing your tax return. This is not an acceptable way to file and there is no guarantee that we will get them. The IRS does not accept tax returns by e-mail, and we cannot either.

Acceptable methods of filing:

- Mail completed forms to tax office.
- Drop off completed forms in the overnight box.
- Present completed forms to the tax office
- Use the online filing portal, which will be available soon.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to put two things on the agenda for the COW, 1. putting more money in the capital equipment fund and 2. I had asked years ago if we could start a fund for retirement payouts. I would like to put those two things on the COW agenda.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The Block Watch is exploring the idea of doing a "Shred -It-Day" this coming fall. More details to come on that. I too would like to thank Bill Kreyenhagen and Charlie Barnes for their service to the Village, wish them good luck on their retirement.

And once again, not to beat a dead horse, but I would like to thank Mike Wiedemann and his guys down at the Service Department for another wonderful job of snow removal.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – The CIC did meet this past Tuesday. The topic being was the Long John Silver property and the old Fire House property. The transaction and conversion and doing all the fun stuff with the property nearing the completion and hopefully sometime this Spring we'll actually start to have the demo of that property.

The other thing, anybody that's interested in mowing the properties for the CIC, stop by City Hall to get that mowing application.

Lastly, the next meeting will be March 23 at 6:00pm. In Council Chambers.

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

MARKETING, Mrs. Miller – Absent.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – The Building and Zoning Department 2021 January Activities Report.

Building Activities:

9 Residential permits

1 Commercial Permit

Total fees for residential permits: \$1,545.03.

Total fees for commercial permits: \$3,145.00

Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio(residential) \$15,45.

Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio(commercial) \$94.35.

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

Committee of the Whole

February 11, 2021

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

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to approve the written minutes of the January 28 Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell - As you have seen, I have presented you with sample Ordinances that aren't numbered yet but Heidi will have that taken care of. The Ordinance that has multiple departments, police department clerk, service department, laborers, the pool and swim program, etc. All of those positions, I have a 3% increase in each step. I eliminated the dispatchers in the police department, we do have the clerk, but the clerk that we currently have do not have a step program. Again, everybody was given 3% across the board so that was before adding 10cents for the increase in minimum wage. I highlighted the items where the minimum wage is in effect. You can see under the swim lessons, assistant to craft and the pool assistants, but I felt 3% for the seasonal part-time individuals and the part-time employees in the police department was sad.

On the other sample Ordinances, I also addressed the transportation, dispatchers and drivers. There is only one person that is in the second year and I believe that's Sandy, and that's why there are two Ordinances. There's 3% given there. The new ordinance has steps and the other did not.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to place all three Ordinances on the table for the next Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

The next item I have is the contract with the Village of Elmwood Place to bill them for emergency medical responses. This is back on the table. We're back working with them. A copy of this agreement is in the hands of their legal counsel. I wanted to give you all the option to review this. I have not heard back from them but they are perfectly aware of this. We still are discussing and leaning with the amount that was discussed previously of \$350.00 per response. Yes, I am aware that we could bill them more but that was based on an average over the number of responses over a year's time so I still feel that is a fair amount to recover but we had also assumed all EMS billing so any response that we made we would be billing insurance for that as well on that run. Again, at this point with the way the numbers have escalated we have gotten back together with them. They are in a position and we all agree this is not a permanent solution. This is really meant to be a temporary fix for now for us. So, we receive some compensation while they work through their process. I believe they are going to be putting a levy on for EMS. I do feel that this is reasonable, and we can address the long-term solution if that is something that would ever come into play. This, I think, will get by until they can actually work through their options to attract additional employees to make coverage. This is a renewable contract, and my suggestion would be after a year. I will let Council know if this is possible. I am waiting to hear back from their legal counsel to find out if this is something that is a go. If so, yes, if not I will advise you on whether or not this is delayed until next month. That is my goal. We will be able to start billing once both parties agree on it and we can have an actual Ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to put an Ordinance on the table for an agreement for emergency services for Elmwood Place. Motion passed 5-0.

Thanked the Service Department for the great job on how they dealt with the snow event.

Auditor, (read by Mr. Paul) - I am happy to report that all of the W-2s and 1099s were sent out. We did have a small issue with employees signing into their accounts. After working with the payroll software company, it was determined that an update they did now required that everyone must use all caps when signing in and for their password. Any employees having problems signing in should try this first. If it still does not work, please e-mail me at auditor@cityofstbernard.org. As I

continue to work from home do not hesitate to call or e-mail with anything you need.

Law Director, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I would like to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss ongoing litigation.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss ongoing litigation. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the bank statement from First State Bank for the City’s Memorial Fund that we have down there to maintain the square outside of City Hall. At the end of last month, January 31, 2021 we have a total there of \$5,656.68.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul - I would like to thank our fireman for all the work that they are putting into the Safety Center. They have taken upon themselves to make repairs and saving us some funds. Thank you.

Thanks for all the hard work on keeping our streets clear. Our Service Department is second to none. I will try to keep my special assignments to a minimum until the weather cooperates. They were probably hoping I said until spring, but they know what it takes and usually do not complain. Thanks again.

Tax Administrator/Commissioner, Mrs. Helmes – St. Bernard tax return preparation assistance is available by appointment only. We are transitioning away from drop-in preparation. To maintain COVID guidelines, privacy issues, and eliminate long waits: We will not be able to assist in St. Bernard tax preparation the week of April 12-15. So, please plan accordingly and file early.

According to our software providers, our online filing system should be available hopefully next week. All of the tax forms are available now on the city’s website.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson - I would just like to thank Officer Charlie Barnes of our Police Department who retired this past week for all his years of service to the Village.

Service, Mr. Schildmeyer - I have the report for January 2021 for the Service Department. There were 18 trucks placed at residences, 31 dumpsters placed at residences, 219 special pick-ups at residences, 167.24 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. Recycling report; 37.5 tons of recycling material and 4,220 pounds of scrap metal.

I also want to thank to the Service Department for doing such a great job with our streets. Also, to the guys collecting garbage in these conditions.

Public Improvements - (inaudible).

Marketing, Mrs. Miller - I would like to let our residents know that the deadline to sign up for boy's knothole baseball and girls' softball is tomorrow February 12th. You can sign up at city hall between the hours of 9am to 5pm. The We Thrive meeting is set for Thursday, February 18th @ 4pm. I will report back with any updates at the next Council meeting this month.

Also, a special thanks to our service department for keeping our roads clear.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to excuse the absent members. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next Council meeting will be Thursday, February 25 and the following COW will be Thursday, March 11.

Ordinances for the next Council meeting.

3 Ordinances for the 3% wage increases

1 Ordinance for the emergency services contract with Elmwood Place.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kathman, Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS

February 19, 2021

Mayor Jonathan Stuchell, Mr. Chris Schildmeyer, Mr. Ray Culbertson and St. Bernard Council.

Reference: 2 Hour Parking in Public Lots

We are **APPALLED** at the 2 hour minimum parking lot on Vine Street next to **WES BANCO**.

Our teachers are to park behind LaRosa's. Our teachers get to school between 6 – 6:30a.m., so they have been walking in the dark, cold, snow, ice and rain to St. Clement School, since the start of February 1. The school has not parked in that lot since that date. But that lot sits empty all day. The Village does receive taxes from the teachers' paychecks to support the Village, and this is what we are getting in return for their tax dollars. We were told this is for the Coffee Shop moving into the Ellerbusch Building, but as of today the building is still vacant. Some of the staff have health issues. We carry a lot of books and computers, etc. So, all this time the teachers are inconvenienced by this Ordinance. **THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!!!!!**

We ask Council to please change this Ordinance or, maybe this is a thought, to share a couple of parking spots for the Coffee Shop and the Restaurant and the rest of the spots for everyone else.

Sincerely,

Arlene Fay
163 Church St.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to received and file the communication.

REMARKS

There is no Ordinance concerning this parking lot. Other businesses complained about no parking.

After meeting with the owners of the businesses it was decided to make this move to allow parking for the businesses as parking in the Village is at a premium. Asking the teachers to park off Martin Street is not an unreasonable request. Those individuals with health issues working at the school could be helped internally. We're willing to watch this and if there's anything that changes and becomes underutilized but we need to give the businesses a fighting shot in this. I do think we can work with the school. It is required by zoning that they have parking

available for customers. Half the lot is not going to be enough for those three businesses. If it needs to be reevaluated, I will.

The parking could also be used for pick-up after school instead of parking along Vine street. I will talk to the principal and the Police Chief to see if we can better evaluate those concerns.

The motion to receive and file the communication passed 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2021. FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 1/1/2005, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 3, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No. 3, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2021. FIXING THE 2021 COMPENSATION FOR PART-TIME DIAL-A-RIDE EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHO STARTED IN THE POSITION PRIOR TO 1/1/2005 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2021. FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE DIAL A RIDE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 12/1/2012, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 5, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The Dial-A-Ride did shut down because of the snow but the usage has picked up and the service is worth while even though we're not close to breaking even.

Citizens on Patrol is a dead issue for right now. We are focusing on getting to minimum manning right now.

The age requirement for summer employment is 16 and over.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

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

Mr. Asbach - the next COW meeting will be Thursday, March 11 at 7:00.

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