

**VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 22, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Village Council was held Thursday, July 22, 2021 in Council Chambers.

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

Council had a moment of silence for former third ward Councilman, Joe Hollman.

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.

Mrs. Bedinghaus made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Ms. Hausfeld seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell – I would like to start by thanking the Hamilton County Commissioners for choosing St. Bernard to introduce their 513 Small Business Assist Program. As you may have seen the large group of representatives from local government and various agencies out by our monument, the press conference gave a great shot of our Heritage Hill Business District while they were making this great announcement. I am very grateful that we were chosen to host them and I look forward to future opportunities as well. Information about this program is available on the village website and all small business owners to see if you qualify. This past Sunday I had the pleasure of presenting Henry Wall with a proclamation declaring July 26, 2021 as Henry Wall Day in the Village of St. Bernard in honor of his 100 birthday. Henry and his wife Verna lived on Tower Ave. for 40 years and they were active parishioners at St. Clement and he was very involved with Boy Scout Troup 354.

This Sunday, July 25 from 10am to 2 pm, St. Clement Parish and the Village of St. Bernard will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination event brought to you by Mercy Health. This will take place at the St. Bernard Square Shopping Center and is available to anyone ages 12 and above. Thank you to everyone who helped organize this event and to all of the local businesses who donated give certificates for those who are vaccinated.

Next Wednesday I will be swearing in Alex Wachendorf as a Patrol Officer for the St. Bernard Police Department. You will likely see him paired with his Field Training Officer and I look forward to him getting familiar with the community. We will be scheduling a ceremonial swearing in for all the recent hires and those that were hired while we were limited on capacity for both the Police and Fire Departments. There are many new faces serving our community and I couldn't be more pleased with them.

Last night the CIC and the development team for the St. Bernard Square hosted the first of three community engagement events. We had approximately 100 people who came out to this interactive event where the developers wanted their feedback and input on the proposed project. I would like to thank Darin Hall from Civitas Development Group and Steve Kenat from GBBN Architects for their presentation and leading the group discussion. We look forward to hosting the next engagement opportunity the week of August 16 and we hope to have the date secured by next Tuesday.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brichweg – The Auditor's Office provided the end of June revenue and expense spreadsheets to Council and the Administration. At the end of June, the Village revenues were \$5,862,911.47 and the expenses were \$6,055,570.50.

I completed the grant for the American Plan Act – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. St. Bernard will be receiving \$454,200.50 over two years, which is \$227,100.30 each year. I will keep everyone up to date on the process.

I am happy to report that I was able to transfer \$1,000,000.00 into the reserves this month.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Wallden – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the balance with Star Ohio which is \$5,320,472.35.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – Parking: I realize that a lot of you around the school are having a difficult time finding parking for school workers. Do not get your hopes up as public parking on the streets is allowed by anyone. The Village cannot not mark your parking in front of your residence as private. We also cannot force workers to the alternative parking if we find a place. We can only ask.

Speaking of Parking. Our lot behind us will get a face lift next week. Parking there will be minimal for a day or so.

Hats off to our firemen. They are going to do what they do best. Save property. With the power outage coming on Saturday night into Sunday morning they are

going to save 10,000 popsicles from the possibility of melt down. Next a hardy thanks to Chili Time for allowing Street Pops to use their freezer. It's episodes like this that makes me proud of our Village

Painting will begin in the next week or two. Spring Grove to Vine and Ross Ave from Vine to Kieley. Please take your time around these areas. It will not take long.

To My Community,

I think about this from time to time. I worked at a factory once long ago and learned amusingly not to judge labels of packaging or people. We produced shaving cream and used two different labels. I was surprised how many statements were received about the cheaper label being the worst shave they ever had. It just happened to me with coffee. I wondered why they kept sending me a coffee with different label and I did not like it. I told him that if he could prove to me that it was the same coffee I would laugh out loud. As I read this to you, it has been 7 days and I am still laughing he told me if ever I am sad to think of his having a good cup of coffee. How does our minds do this? And if it can do this with simple things, imagine what happens with complex things like people who look and act differently.

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mrs. Helmes – Update on HB 157: Modify Municipal Income tax rules regarding COVID work from home.

House Bill 157 was passed by the House and is currently in the Senate Committee and has NOT been passed by the Governor.

The Ohio House of Representatives will contact me regarding the status of HB 157 as this bill changes.

If the Governor signs this bill and this law goes into effect, these are the changes that will affect the Village of St. Bernard:

1. Working from home from January 1,2020 through December 31,2020 will not be applicable for a municipal tax refund.
2. Working from home from January 1,2021 through December 31, 2021, will be applicable for a municipal tax refund.
3. My best estimate for requests for refunds for St. Bernard tax will be \$550,000 - \$1.3 million.

\*\*\*If the Governor vetoes the bill, it is returned to both houses and will need a vote from 3/5's of members from each house to override the veto.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to congratulate Ward 3 resident Thackston McMullen for receiving All American honors in the 200 freestyle, 200 freestyle relay, 400 freestyle relay, for the St. Xavier swim team.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the monthly report for the St. Bernard Fire Department: there were a total of 75 incidents, which included 0 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 6 auto accidents, 3 hazmat incidents. Mutual Aid given: 6 Norwood, 8 Elmwood Pl., 3 Little Miami, 1 Springfield Twp. 1 Delhi, 1 Colerain, 1 West Chester, 1 Cincinnati. Mutual aid received 2 Norwood, 2 Reading, 2 Little Miami, 2 Springfield, 1 Wyoming, 1 Cincinnati. EMS inc: 3 non-breather, 6 unconscious, 2 auto accidents, and 2 overdose. Mutual Aid given: 6 Norwood, 4 Cincinnati, 1 Springfield twp. Mutual aid received: 2 Cincinnati, 1 Little Miami. EMS incidents: 68 transports. Going back to Elmwood Place, there were 37 contractual incidents. The St. Bernard Police and Fire Benevolent Association Steak Fry will be held on Friday, September 17 from 4:00pm to 11:00pm. A New York strip steak dinner will be served from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Refreshments will be provided. Tickets can be purchased at the Safety Center or at the park the night of the event. Cost is \$20.00.

There will be no Shred It day this fall. The cost has doubled and we decided not to have it.

The Block Watch meeting will be Thursday, August 19 at 6:30 pm in the main level of the municipal building.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – I want to thank Ed Kallmeyer, he came in on a Saturday to take care of a couple of lost dogs and that's going over and above the call of duty.

I attended the CIC meeting yesterday and I wanted to say that I thought it was an excellent meeting and a lot of good information. So, if you were not able to attend, please come to the next meeting.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – I'll echo what Chris just said, it was a great meeting, a lot of residents got a lot of questions answered. The next meeting will be scheduled for August 16, that week, so we will keep you informed on what day to come.

The next CIC meeting is July 27 at 6:00pm here in Council Chambers.

Long John Silver's - we are in the process of demolishing that piece of property so we'll let you know when the date is confirmed.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm. In Council Chambers. The topic will be the non-discriminatory ordinance.

MARKETING, Mrs. Miller – First, I would like to congratulate the St. Bernard Stingrays on their 2nd place win in the NSSL small team division championships. Way to go guys!

Our German Luau is set to kickoff in just 16 days! Please make sure to checkout our Facebook site St. Bernard German Luau for up-to-date information regarding the event. The event will run Friday August 6th to Sunday August 8th!

Also recently scheduled is an adult night at the St. Bernard Aquatic Center set for Friday, August 20th 6-11PM

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – Our Newsletter for July 2021 featured Street Pops for our local business feature. Street Pops is owned and operated by Sara Bornick and is located at 4720 Vine St. They feature gourmet popsicles in a variety of fruity and creamy flavors. Sara’s biggest challenge has been staying relevant and coming up with fresh new ideas. Her biggest accomplishment: Street Pops’ tenth anniversary!

Although many people are aware of Steet Pops’ retail store, they may not know that Street Pops also has fundraising options. Street Pops recently implemented a fundraising program in which local schools and organizations can purchase pops at a discounted price and sell them to keep the profit for their organization. Street Pops itself supports The Trevor Project, LGBTQ rights and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation JDRF.

You can read the full article if you have not already by visiting the Village website under July newsletter.

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

#### Committee of the Whole

July 8, 2021

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

Mrs. Bedinghaus was absent.

A proclamation was made for the lifelong resident of St. Bernard of 99 years, Mary Boehm, the Mayor of Heger Drive, friends called her. It was proclaimed Mary Boehm Day on July 8, 2021.

Marge Niesen of the Historical Society also recognized Mary and extended an invitation for her to tell some of her memories to the Historical Society.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to approve the written minutes of the June 17, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Stuchell – A Government Structure Analysis is ongoing to have our Charter changed so that we can further the Village’s efficiency and effectiveness. The proposal would take \$10,000.00 to complete the study. This outside consultant could be a better way to look at the structure of the government and speak openly about the changes that could be made.

The CIC has recently signed an agreement for a \$32 million dollar redevelopment at the shopping center. This includes 200 residential units and 5000 square feet of retail space.

They will also be announcing the Long John Silver’s demolition party which will held to celebrate one of the Village’s eyesores.

The St. Bernard Seniors are back to meeting and would like to have you join the Club if you are 50 years of age or older.

St. Clement and St. Bernard would like to invite you to join a Covid-19 vaccination event to be held on Sunday, July 25 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in the St. Bernard Square.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg – We had a perfect audit this year and it was done on time. Secondly, I received notification from the State of Ohio that we are now able to apply for grants for the Covid monies.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the statement from First State Bank. The Memorial Fund at the end of June has a balance of \$5,659.31.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Mrs. Helmes - Greetings everyone, attached are the monthly receipts/reports for June 2021.

- Tax collections for June: \$607,580.
- Tax refunds for June: \$27,184.01
- The Village is down -10.33% in tax revenue from June of 2020.
- The Village is down -1.59% YTD from YTD 2020.

- Payments from the e-file system for June: \$444.
- \$1737.25 in delinquent tax was collected with Capital Recovery.
- \$2147.12 in delinquent tax was collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Over 300 residents have not filed a 2019 tax return.
- Over 800 residents have not filed a 2020 tax return.
- Assessments will be going out to those who have not filed.

\*\*\*\*\*I wanted to remind everyone that if you fail to file your tax return the law allows for an assessment of your taxes and, you only have 60 days from the notice that is sent to adjust that balance. After 60 days, your tax balance is finalized, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office will contact you for payment and/or garnishment.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – The Block Watch will meet next Thursday, July 15 in the main level of the Municipal Building at 6:30 pm.

Service, Mr. Schildmeyer - I have the Service Department report for June, 2021. There were 41 trucks placed at residences, 29 Dumpsters placed at residences, 360 Special pick-ups at residences and 225.23 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.

For recycling: 41.6 tons of recycling material, 52 pounds of scrap aluminum, 4 pounds of aluminum cans and 15 pounds of brass.

In addition to that I have the waste collection fees for May, 2021, we have collected \$25,740.98.

Marketing, Mrs. Miller – We have lot of exciting things happening in our village. Regarding the Luau, we are working to finalize everything for the event that is scheduled for August 6 – 8th. If you are on social media, please follow our page St. Bernard German Luau for updates.

We do have a pre-sale opportunity for our Luau merchandise that will be available to purchase in person July 12–July 15 6:30p to 7:30p at City Hall in the Village of St. Bernard (110 Washington Ave St. Bernard, OH 45217). Visa and Mastercard are accepted

One package is \$40 and includes:

- T-shirt
- bucket
- plastic mug

The second package is \$100 and includes:

- stainless growler
- stainless stein (personalized) 20oz
- plastic stein 32oz
- stainless bucket
- T-shirt

Deadline for SAY Soccer registration is Friday, July 16 (NEXT WEEK)! Please stop by City Hall anytime M-F from 9am - 5pm OR stop by next week M - Th from 6:30 - 7:30pm in the main entrance to City Hall!!

The aquatic center family night and concert is still set to occur on Saturday July 17th 6-11PM. Strangelove will be performing at that event

The St. Bernard Historical Society will be hosting a program on July 19th at 7PM titled from cemeteries to Championships

The Ben Strong blood drive will be held on Friday July 23rd 1pm to 7pm in the St. Bernard Municipal building.

Business and Industry, Ms. Hausfeld – I have the Building & Zoning department 2021 May Activities Report.

9 Residential Permits

4 Commercial Permits

Total fees for residential permits \$1,430.40

Total fees for commercial permits \$2,278.80

Amount paid back, Treasurer, State of Ohio (Residential) \$14.33

Amount paid back to the Treasurer, State of Ohio (Commercial) \$68.37

Audience Participation



No Resolutions or Ordinances

member. Motion Passed 6-0.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The lines rerouting traffic on Ross Ave. should begin shortly. The curb lane from St. Mary's Cemetery to Kiley Pl. will be for parked cars.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Residents of Tower Ave. Had some complaints that have been addressed by the Service Director and he is also looking into new equipment for the play park.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

An inquiry as to the minutes of the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance met the Sunshine Law standards..

Mr. Asbach - The next COW will be Thursday, August 12 at 7:00pm.

Motin by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.1