

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, (pro-tem) Mrs. Bedinghaus – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Dante Johnson spoke to Council. He is running for Municipal Judge of District 2. He is endorsed by the Democratic Party and would like your vote in November.

Mr. Tobergte made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Ms. Hausfeld seconded the motion. Council agreed 6-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICEALS

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell – The St. Bernard CIC will be hosting the final community engagement event for the proposed redevelopment of the St. Bernard Square Shopping Center on Tuesday, September 28 at 6pm. in the Main Level of the Municipal Building. For those who are not able to attend in person the event will be available for viewing on the village Facebook page and it will also be available of ICRC’s live feed as well. Anyone wishing to participate via Zoom will need to preregister and you will be able to ask questions that will be answered by a host/moderator. All of the links to either view or participate are available on the village website. We will make every effort to answer all of the questions from those people who are participating via Zoom but if we are not able to do so I will personally make myself available where questions can for forwarded to me at mayor@cityofstbernard.org or you can call me on my cell at 513-543-3780.

I would like to thank Officer Brendan Blair for his brief service to the Village as he has decided to further his career in fire service. We have extended a conditional offer to an excellent candidate and she will hopefully be starting very soon. With this most recent job offer we will have exhausted the current eligibility list for the position of Patrol Officer and the official request by the hiring authority has been made to the Civil Service Commission to test for that position.

This Friday night is Roger Bacon's Homecoming and the Spartans will host Norwood at 7:00pm. The Homecoming parade will begin at roughly 5:15 pm. On Saturday, the St. Bernard Elmwood Place Titans will host Cincinnati Country Day at 7pm. So come out and support our local teams this weekend.

There is also a great fundraiser that will be held this Saturday in the Pavilion from 6:00 to 11:00pm. To celebrate the life of Allison Estep. Allison's Dance will benefit Cincinnati Children's Hospital and her family is hoping to reach their goal of raising \$100,000.00 in her memory. More details are available on Facebook.

The St. Bernard Recreation Department will be hosting their Bengals Community to watch the Bengals take on the Jacksonville Jaguars. The game starts at 8:20 pm. And the gates will open at 6:30pm. Bring your own chairs and drinks and hot dogs will be provided while they last.

The St. Bernard Annual Halloween Campout will take place on Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 at lower Ross Park. Activities will again include DJ's, a Halloween costume contest, trunk-or-treating, movies, a firepit, and more.

Campsites will be approximately 30' x 30' with a limited number of RV spots with no electric or water hookups available. Campers will be responsible for their own setup/cleanup/food/drinks. Residents can reserve their spots by emailing recreation@cityofstbernard.org or calling 641-3137. The Saturday night costume contest and trick-or-treat is open to anyone in the community so come and enjoy. Further details will be announced. This event has been cleared through the Hamilton County Health Department.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Office would like to ask Council to please place Resolution No. 5, 2021 on the table for tonight. This Resolution is accepting the amount and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. I'd also like to ask to be put on the agenda for the COW to discuss line item 8-A-2 and 2-K-2. The one is the Safety Center and the other one is miscellaneous. We're having a lot of issues with air conditioning at the Safety Center. If something happens within the next month, we're going to have to use that money for the repairs.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded Mr. Ray Culbertson to put Resolution No. 5, 2021 on the table for tonight's meeting.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - I would like to go into Executive Session at the end of tonight's meeting to discuss ongoing litigation.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to go into Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss ongoing litigation. Motion passed 6-0.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – No Report.

SAFETY/SERVICE, Mr. Paul – We have another sink hole on Tower Ave. MSD will be taking care of that soon.

Spring Grove Ave. painting will start as soon as we dry out a little bit more. Ford Development has Delmar Ct. Sidewalk repair on their agenda along with three basin repairs - 2 on Bank and one on Baker.

To My Community:

How many times have we wondered “What Happened?” then responded, “Well that wasn’t supposed to happen!” Sometimes it is a happy occurrence, others though, not so welcoming events. However, if we learn as though the next try is our last, make it work! Live as though time is running out. Finish that bucket list, then put more on it. And love as though “it” is the only thing that matters, whatever “it” may be. This will surely make our existence a lot easier to endure.

TAX COMMISSIONER/ADMINISTRATOR, Mrs. Helmes – Tax collections from the month of August were: \$801,590

2021 3rd quarter tax statements will be mailed the week of Oct.4th. Please return your payment with the attached coupon. It has a special bar code that identifies your tax account.

2020 tax extensions expire on Oct. 15, 2021. If you do not have a copy of your federal extension with your tax return you may be charged late fees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – Thursday, Oct. 7 at 7:00pm I will be hosting a meet the Candidates night in the upper lever of The Municipal Building. All three Judge Candidates and the School Board Candidates have indicated they will attend. All of Council has been invited.

Brandie Schildmeyer will MC the evening. I will allow the Judicial Candidates to give a brief biography and field questions. Then the School Board will be introduced and answer questions of them. The unopposed Council Candidates will be introduced then the 5 Council At Large candidates will be given three minutes each to present their biography. They will field questions from the audience. I will be contacting ICRC to see if they can broadcast the event.

SAFETY, Mr. Ray Culbertson – I have the Fire Department Report for August: there were a total of 49 fire incidents which included 8 structure fires, and 3 hazmat incidents. Mutual Aid was given to Norwood 3 times, Elmwood Place 8 times, Little Miami 2 times, Springfield Twp, 1 time, Wyoming 1 time, Cincinnati 1 time, and North College Hill 1 time.

Mutual Aid was Received from Cincinnati once, Springfield Twp. once, Norwood once, Little Miami once, and Wyoming once.

EMS totaled 117 EMS incidents, which included 4 non breathers, 4 unconscious 6 auto accidents and 3 overdoses.

Mutual Aid was given to Norwood 5 times, Wyoming 1 time and Cincinnati 1 time. Elmwood Place contractual incidents were a total of 27 in August.

The next Block Watch meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 21 at 6:30pm. In the Main Level of the Municipal Building.

Service Department employee will read the presentation on the recycling program.

SERVICE, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Bob Culbertson – This Tuesday, the CIC will meet at a special time at 5:30. That's before the meeting with community involvement. Afterwards we'll discuss the square site to give everybody a chance. Also I just want to take a minute to discuss the incident at Vine St. Park. I just wanted to keep the residents informed and not cause a panic. The police agencies involved did a good job in taking care of the matter.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – The Resolution that was put on the table tonight will not come up for a vote after the Law Director has deferred so we can discuss it at COW. As we all just received it this past week, there is information here that we are just reading through and would like the opportunity to discuss or ask questions. So, I will be deferring that vote until the following Council meeting but we'll be discussing it at the next COW on October 14.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

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

Committee of the Whole

September 9, 2021

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

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to approve the written minutes of the August 26, 2021 Council meeting. Motion approved. 6-0.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell; This Wednesday I had the honor of swearing in our newest paramedical/firefighter, Eric Gallett. He comes from the Little Miami fire district. We look forward to having him here.

Our third CIC meeting for the proposed St. Bernard Square Shopping Center will be combined with our regular meeting on Tuesday, September 28. Our regular Board Meeting will start at 5.30 pm. And the main portion will start at 6:00 pm all in the main hall of the Municipal Bldg. It will be an in-person meeting, with the ability to watch it on Zoom. This is your opportunity to give input on this project. Lastly, I would like to touch on the incident that happened here in St. Bernard on Monday evening wherein a young lady had her cell phone taken and was assaulted when trying to recover it. This is by no means directed at the parents but a number of comments directed at the Police Department. I feel it was necessary to give some additional information on what was posted on Tuesday. These were some kids hanging out by the shelter. Just before they departed they began talking to the Police officer which he was checking on them. When there was no signs of any issues the group left the park. The group was then down at the shopping center when the female asked to use her cell phone to call her family member. Which the victim complied. The group then headed north on Vine Street where the victim tried to recover her phone and was assaulted. She and her mother called police and were only able to tract them as far as Spring Grove Avenue. The phone was not recovered and suspected to be in Winton Terrace and the Cincinnati Police Department, District 5 is working on the leads they have and is working on potential addresses. We were advised not to interfere in the investigation. Any questions will be answered.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg, - The expense and revenue report were emailed to all of Council this evening. The expenses for August 2021 were \$8,235,618.58. The revenues for August, 2021 were \$10,810361.39. Comparing the revenues to expenses we are up \$1,845,743.01. I would like to explain, with the Coved and the way they did property taxes, and the property taxes are not in yet so that could make a difference of probably about \$450,000.00. It also includes a Coved refund

of \$223,100.30 and finally closed out account we had three years ago when we were self insured with Healthnet which was \$413,513.07 that happened in August.

Director of Law- Mrs. VanValkenberg/Walden - We are working with the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee on a Resolution. I will have something for you next week for the table.

Also I would like to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss current litigation.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to go into Executive Session to discuss current litigation. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to put a Resolution on the table. Motion passed 6-0.

Treasurer – Mr. Ungruhe – I have the First State Bank statement for the fourth of July memorial fund. At the end of August our total was \$5,658.99.

Safety/service director – Mr. Paul - I want to make Council aware the line item which would be fuel and landfill will be coming close and I think they will be needing appropriations before the year is out.

Tax Administrator/Commissioner, Mrs. Helmes - August 2021 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for August: \$801,590
- Tax refunds for August: \$-10,984
- Payments from the e-file system for August: \$806
- \$2011.53 in delinquent tax was collected with Capital Recovery.
- \$502.30 in delinquent tax was collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office
- \$6143.55 in Judgement payments was collected for delinquent taxes.

*A new tax form with instructions is now available on the tax department's website. This form is more complete and should be easier to use.

*A new feature on our e-file portal allows you to pay your current year quarterly tax payment.

*Third Quarter 2021 tax bills will go out at the beginning of October and will be due October 31, 2021. ***Please note that you cannot make payments through this portal for outstanding tax balances that are in collections, have a judgement or the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

As always, you can call me if you are unsure or have any questions.

513.242.7710

Finance, Mr. Tobergte – Emery Federal Credit Union is having a Shred Day, Saturday September 18th at 3 locations. Check the website Emery FCU.org for time and specific locations.

Thursday, October 7, I will be hosting a Meet The Candidates Night in the main level of the Municipal Building at 7:00pm.

Safety, Mr. Ray Culbertson – This is another reminder that the Police and Fire Benevolent will be holding the Steak Fry on Friday, September 17. The event runs from 4:00 pm until 11:00pm and the cost is \$20.00. There will also be free hot dogs for the kids.

This has to do with the assault. I have been told that one individual had a gun on them.

Chief Simos - I don't believe he did.

Another question I heard, there has been a lot of gang activity in our parks?

Chief Simos – Unequivocally false. Absolutely no gang activity in our parks.

Service, Mr. Schildmeyer – I have the Service Department report for August, 2021. There we 27 trucks placed at residences, 20 dumpsters placed at residences, 342 Special pick-ups at residences, 205 tons of garbage was taken to the landfill, 32 tons of recycling materials, 57 pounds of scrap aluminum, 1 pound of brass, 8 pounds of copper, 26,820 pounds of lead and 21 pounds of auto radiators. In addition I have the waste collection fee for the month of July, \$24,417.87.

I did have a question of what time of day that incident happened in the park?

Mayor Stuchell - About 8:30 pm.

The change of closing the park at dark was discussed and found it could not be done due to the changing of time.

Special events would have to be considered, such as the festival and baseball games etc.

Chief Simos assured citizens that there was no ball dropped, this was an isolated incident, nothing happened all summer and we are very aware of all our parks.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson – (Read by Mr. Tobergte)

On a separate note, as some of you might have already seen on Facebook, I would like to take this time again to warn the residents about a gang from Winton Terrace that is hanging around the parks on Vine St. Unfortunately, on Monday night a 12 year old girl was attacked by four members (3 black males and 1 black female), all young teenagers, and had cell phone stolen. The police were called and information was provided to them about the phones location. The girl sustained several injuries, but will recover. It was later learned that this group had a gun in their possession and we are very fortunate that it was not utilized during the events. The case was supposedly turned over to Cincinnati District 5, however I was informed as of this morning by the District 5 Lead Officer who handles Winton Terrace, that they do not have any information of this case, including any photos. I am shocked by this. I would ask Chief Simos to follow up with District 5 to find out where the ball was dropped. My concern is if this is happening on this case, how many other cases has this happened on?

I am also asking that the photos of the suspects be released to the residents, so that all can assist in keeping an eye out for them if and when they should return to the Village.

Unfortunately, this serves as a terrible reminder to the residents that we need to be aware of our surroundings. Please let your kids, no matter how old, know that they need to keep their guard up and be very careful around Vine Street Park, particularly the shelter area. We, as the residents of this Village need to band together and help the police in deterring these individuals from setting up shop in St. Bernard.

The CIC will meet on September 20 th.

The audience participation will start at 6:00pm . The regular meeting will be at 5:30pm.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mrs. Bedinghaus - I will be scheduling a meeting in the next two weeks to discuss short term rentals. When this is scheduled, the date and time will be posted on the Village website.

Marketing, Mrs. Miller - I have several updates to share with the community.

These updates will be also shared with the September 20, 2021 newsletter.

Lollipop soccer will begin on September 21 and will end on October 21.

The St. Bernard Women's Club will have their first meeting on Monday, September 13 in the Main Hall of the Municipal Bldg.

The Historical Society will have their next program on September 20. The topic will be "agricultural, here's home" at the Main Level of the Municipal Building.

Thursday, September 20 is the Bengals Tailgate, 6:00 to 11:00 pm. at the pavilion.

The St. Bernard Annual Campout will take place on Friday, October 8 and

Saturday October 9 at Ross Park. Activities will include DJ's, a Halloween Costume Contest, Trick-or-treating, movies, a fire pit, and more. Residents can reserve a campsite by emailing recreation@cityofstbernard.org or by calling 513-6413137.

Audience Participation

A question was raised about the dance program and the legality of the class. Laura Mosely, who was instrumental in the initial program, 28 years ago, who brought it back after Covid, explained it very well and told everyone if there was a problem with this program, she lives in St. Bernard, to please contact her

Another question was when does the Executive Session become public record? Not while there is ongoing litigation.

Laura Mosely would like to let everyone know that the dance program is available to the community and that we are able to have a professional dance program in the community with people who don't have to travel. She wants this program to succeed.

We are getting tax money for the sign down at Ross Ave.

A Facebook post was laid to rest about the incident that involved the 12 year old that lost her cell phone.

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

Ordinances and Resolution.

Resolution No. 5, 2021

Mr. Asbach – The next Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 23, 2021.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Kathman

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 5, 2021. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNT AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSONE AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVEE AND CERTIFYINE THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

MOTON BY Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson to suspend with the second and third of Resolution No. 5, 2021. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Resolution No. 5, 2021 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing wrong with the roof. The air conditioner is leaking.

Mr. Paul will look into the project with the Delmar Ave. Sidewalk project.

Mr. Paul will look into the sink hole on Bertus St.

A reminder to the residents, the Laws, Contracts, and Claims will meet on Wednesday, the 29th to discuss the short term rental issue.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Members of the audience expressed support for an Ordinance instead of the Resolution concerning fair rights.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Bedinghaus - The next COW will be Thursday, October 14 at 7:00pm.

Council went Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation.

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