

ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL
JANUARY 3RD, 2022

The St. Bernard Village Council was held on January 3rd 2022 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. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson, and Mr. Schildmeyer. Roll call showed one member was absent: Mr. Tebergte

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Stuchell- So this evening, I would like to welcome Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge, Mike Peck who will be doing our swearing in ceremony this evening, again as a reminder, I am sure everyone knows Mike and remembers him as our former Law Director. Good to have him back in the Village. So again, I'd like to welcome him and thank him for coming tonight.

HAMILTON COUNTY JUDGE, Mike Peck- Hi, its great to see all of you and thank you for having me back to swear you all in. Congratulations Mr. Brickweg, our new member here, on your first election. Congratulations everyone who was elected this past year, and this new term, not just the ones who are newly elected but the ones who are in the middle of their service as public officials, and also those who perhaps are winding down their service. Congratulations all of you, and I wish you all a successful term in office. Members of council who will be sworn in please stand and raise your right hand.

Oath of Office was then administered to President of Council: Mr. Steven Asbach

The Oath of Office was then administered to all council members present: Mr. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson, and Mr. Schildmeyer.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, Mr. Asbach- At this time we will have the election of the Clerk of Council. I'd just like to profess by saying, there are three people

who contacted us about filling the role of Clerk of Council, Ms. Cheryl Abrams, Mrs. Caroline Stegman, and Brian Rolfson. At this time, I will open nominations from council.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to nominate all three candidates for the position of Clerk of Council.

REMARKS FOR THE MOTION:

COUNCIL MEMBER, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Real quick question for the Law Director. I know Cheryl is a part time employee for the Village, is there any conflict with her holding two positions in the Village? Collection two pay checks?

LAW DIRECTOR, Valerie Van Valkenburg-Walden- I'd have to say, I have done a substantial amount of research and I have found no binding precedent on it one way or the other. I am concerned there may be a conflict of interest. This position, although largely ministerial and very important, is actually the clerk for the legislative branch of government. As the assistant to the mayor, she is the assistant to the administrative branch, so I would have some concerns about that. I did not have time to check with the ethics and compliance office, unfortunately. I think it's probably okay, but I am not 100% confident in that. I am sorry I can't be more definitive, but there was no binding precedent. If someone would challenge it, there is a substantial fine. I feel my concern is a possible conflict of interest between someone working so closely within the two branches.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg- I can say from a payroll stand point, we have employees with multiple jobs within the city, and get paid from two different line items.

LAW DIRECTOR, Valerie Van Valkenburg-Walden- It is not without precedent, for example there have been city clerks who have worked, like the early 1900s, where they have talked about clerks of council who held other positions. I could not find anyone who worked directly for the Mayor as an assistant, and that is my concern. If it were a different position, I don't think it would be an issue.

Motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to close nominations for the Clerk of Council position.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Brickweg, to elect a permanent Clerk of Council. Mrs. Caroline Stegman elected Clerk of Council, 5-1.

Oath of Office was administered to Clerk of Council: Caroline Stegman.

Oath of Office was administered to Treasurer: John Ungruhe

Motion by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to elect Mrs. Bedinghaus as President of Council Pro-Tem. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – For the St. Bernard Council Committee assignments from 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2023 are the following;

FINANCE	Don Tobegte, CHAIR Cindi Bedinghaus Bob Culbertson
SAFETY	Kurt Brigweg, CHAIR Cindi Bedinghaus Ray Culbertson
SERVICE	Patty Hausfeld, CHAIR Ray Culbertson Chris Schildmeyer
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS	Bob Culbertson, CHAIR Don Tobergte Patty Hausfeld
LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS	Cindi Bedinghaus, CHAIR Kurt Brickweg Chris Schildmeyer
MARKETING	Ray Culbertson, CHAIR Bob Culbertson Patty Hausfeld
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	Chris Schildmeyer, CHAIR Don Tobergte Kurt Brickweg

Motion by Mr. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to receive and follow the Committee Assignments report. Motion passes, 6-0.

Motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to read ordinance no. 1 by title only. Motion passes, 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO 1, 2020. AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2020, AND ESTABLISHING A NEW LINE ITEM, AND DECLARINING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to dispense of the 2nd and 3rd readings of ordinance no. 1 of 2022. Motion carries, 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to adopt ordinance no. 1 2022 as read. Motion carries, 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to set regular council meeting to the 4th Thursday of each month at 7pm, and 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm for COW meetings. Motion passes, 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to adjourn the council meeting. Motion carries, 6-0.