

ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL
JANUARY 27th, 2022

The St. Bernard Village Council was held on January 27th , 2022, in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that seven members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson, and Mr. Schildmeyer.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I am going to stop you there. We did not have a council meeting in December, we just had the special meeting, which we already approved at the COW meeting.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- The Village of St. Bernard is partnering with the Hamilton County Health Department to offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Currently the village has a very low vaccination rate, so please do not miss this opportunity on Thursday, February 10th 2022, from 10am to 4pm in the main hall of the Municipal Building. They will have all vaccines available, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson in any dose. Whether it is your first, second or booster, come on down. Anyone ages 5 and up is eligible. If under 18 a parent or guardian must be with them. Ages 12 and up are eligible for booster doses, as long as it has been 5 months for Pfizer, 6 months for Moderna and 2 months for Johnson & Johnson, since their last vaccine. Please bring proof of prior COVID-19 vaccinations. Hamilton County Public Health is using ArmorVax to document the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. Help us avoid lines by creating an ArmorVax account for you and your family. Accounts are only needed for the Head of Household, and that account can register your spouse and kids. You can create an account using the ArmorVax smartphone app or create an account using the web browser by visiting [ArmorVax.com](https://armorvax.com). Once you create an account, you are good to go. No reason to make an appointment, as this clinic will be walk in only. If anyone has questions about receiving a vaccine at one of our clinics please call 513-946-7800,

then dial 6. St. Clement will be hosting a workshop titled BRAVER ANGELS, SKILLS FOR BUILDING THE DIVIDE, on a new date- Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 from 7pm to 9:30pm. It will be held at St. Clement Church, 4536 Vine Street, St. Bernard, OH 45217. No RSVP needed. In our current polarized, political environment, many people dread political conversations with friends or family whose politics differ from their own. They worry that any attempts at political discussions will develop into arguments, and result in hurt feelings or anger. Braver Angels, Skills for Building the Divide workshop teaches the skills for having respectful conversations that clarify the differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of relationships. So, if you are interested, please feel free to join them in this safe environment. I would like to thank Fire Chief Bryan Young, the St. Bernard Fire Department, and Safety/Service Director Tom Paul in their swift action in dealing with the large propane leak that occurred during the early hours of Wednesday, January 26th at the construction site of the new St. Bernard Elmwood Place School. I know that many residents were concerned about the strong odor in their homes. The situation was quickly isolated but the order did linger for several hours and affected residents of Hamilton County from St. Bernard all the way through Norwood, into Anderson Township due to the perfect weather conditions. The consultant that we have retained for reviewing our charter and evaluating our form of government will be announcing the public engagement portion of our process within the next 30 days pending the schedules of several participants. We hope to have further information available for you all very soon. Lastly, as you probably heard in my call command this evening, sports sign ups will be held in the recreation office for all 2022 activities this Saturday, January 29th from 11am to 2pm, Thursday, February 3rd from 6-8pm and Saturday, February 5th from 11am to 2pm. We are now accepting applications for summer employment at the Aquatic Center, including lifeguard positions and support staff. Deadline to submit applications is January 31st, but that is being extended with the hopes of filling the positions. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. The Auditor's office provided the end of year revenue and expense spreadsheets to Council and Administration. At the end of the year, the Village revenues were up \$2,179,952.70 compared to 2021, and the expenses were up \$250,257.86 compared to 2021. The Auditor's office prepared Ordinance 2, 2022 for tonight's meeting. This ordinance appropriates an additional \$193,943.61 to line item 07-08 Capital Equipment for the purchase of a new packer. Resolution 1, 2022 has also been prepared for tonight's meeting. This is the annual meals and refreshment resolution that allows the Village to purchase food and drinks for Village events. I'd also like to be

placed on the COW to review the part time employee pay ordinance. Minimum wage did go up, so we need to adjust the line items in that. I will send out the current one via email so you have that and we can discuss at the COW. Thank you Mr. President, that concludes my report.

Director of Law, Ms. Van Valkenburg- You have before you tonight, Ordinance 3, 2022 which is authorizing the solid waste collection fee for residential accounts for the year 2020, and I would ask that you pass it this evening. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- No report, absent.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul- I would like to ask Council to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss a Civil Service position's wages and holidays. I would like to bring to the Council's attention the posting locations on the bottom of the Ordinances. Due to the glass being broken, doors being broken and lock failures, I switched to plexiglass hoping to help with the safety issues. However, the plexiglass idea failed also as it is being scratched up so you are not able to read postings. Of course you can read the other writings. Therefore, I would ask Council to allow me to remove all but the Vine Street and Washington Ave location. Please keep in mind that today we post them on our website also. It is that time of year again, where I spend time with our insurance company. Cyber security has become a hot issue for coverage and rates. I spoke with my personal contacts, and they confirmed that is it necessary. Once of them said it is like the wild west out there. With this confirmation, it is necessary to layer up our security. Most of us have already took the steps but without 100% compliancy we are not eligible to even start the process of negotiating out rates. I will ask IT to block the people from our server who have not completed the task thereby forcing the solution. If you get the alert, I will be happy to help you. Instructions have been given to new officials. To My Community, I think of musicians and the words they write. I really believe that they do not speak this way but rather go deep within themselves and find their soul which in turn notifies their intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical attributes that connects their minds and hearts to allow for them to communicate to us through music what needs to be taught. I am sorry but I cannot help but smile thinking how many of us are now going to try singing what cannot be said. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to go into Executive Session after the end of the meeting to discuss Civil Service Employee wages and holidays. Motion passes 7-0.

Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Thank you Mr. President. I have December 2021 monthly report.

- Tax collections for December: \$1,844,237.71.
- Tax refunds for December \$-947.48
- December 2021 is up 19.05% from December 2020.
- 2021 year-end tax collections: \$12,698,376.00

The e-file portal is under maintenance right now in preparation for the upcoming 2021 tax filing. The portal should be ready in early February.

Tax Assessments are going out to all of those who have not yet filed their 2020 St. Bernard tax return. Please address the Assessment within 60 days, after that the assessment becomes final.

As always, you can call the office with any questions you may have 513-242-7710. That concludes my report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- No report.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- Mr. President, I would like to report for the Fire Department. I would like to inform the people that the ladder truck which had the engine problem, Ladder 91, the complete engine overhaul was completed by Cummings in West Chester and totaled \$25,600.00. This also included 2 tow bills with all the work totaled together. The Fire Department also purchased new battery operated rescue tools through Howe Rescue. These will be replacing a set of 24 year old hydraulic tools. Also physio controlled light packs are being replaced due to potential critical failures. All annual maintenance on vehicles was completed. Also I want to wish our Fire Captain, Kerry Meyer, he had shoulder replacement surgery today, it looks like it will be 4 to 6 months for total recovery. So I want to wish him the best in his recovery. That concludes my report Mr. President.

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have the Service report for the Village. The Village received \$23,945.00 for the waste fee collection for the month of November 2021. That concludes my report Mr. President.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. The CIC met this passed Tuesday. Some of the topics they discussed was that 2022 mowing contract. That will be put together and be put out to bid on here in the next coming weeks. Also was discussed, the properties on Tower, that the CIC owns, which is

4806. The next CIC is Tuesday at 6pm in Council Chambers. That concludes my report Mr. President.

Law, Contracts and Claim, Ms. Bedinghaus- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. This is a very early save the date reminder. The 3rd annual German Luau will take place Friday August 5th and Saturday August 6th and possibly on Sunday August 7th, that remains to be determined. But again, save the date, and plan your vacations accordingly to be in town that weekend. That concludes my report Mr. President.

Business & Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Clerk has submitted the COW to council and administration. No communications this evening.

RESOLUTION 1, 2022 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VILLAGE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OR OTHER PERSONS AS SERVICE FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 1, 2022.

Clerk called roll to suspend the reading of Resolution 1, 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 1, 2022.

Clerk called roll to adopt Resolution 1, 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 2, 2022 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 2, 2022.

No one in audience wished to address council on Ordinance 2, 2022.

Clerk called roll to suspend the reading of Ordinance 2, 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt the Ordinance 2, 2022.

Clerk called roll to adopts Ordinance 2, 2022. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 3, 2022 AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 3, 2022.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- When this was first passed, it was 3 years ago. We were in financial difficulties, that is why this was passed. Everyone up here on Council said if there was ever a time that we didn't need the money, that we wouldn't pass it again. John Ungruhe said we have \$7.3 million in the bank, I don't think we need \$15 a month from our residents.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- Mr. President, don't we owe some kind of fee if we break this contract before 5 years?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Yes.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- I can't remember what it is, does anybody?

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- I think its about \$5,000 a year.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- For each year? So, it would be \$5,000 times the 2 years?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I can place it on the agenda for the COW to discuss?

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- Mr. President, I support the Ordinance, unless other council members would like to discuss in COW, I am still in favor of voting on the ordinance.

Council Member, Mr. Brickweg- I also support the ordinance. Times are different these days, and to keep a community and good and as proud as I am of our community, \$15 dollars, I think we can afford that. I support the ordinance.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Mr. President, I consideration or this, obviously I can't vote on this, but I am in support of the Ordinance. The fact that we were in a position where we couldn't replace equipment for a period of time, as you have seen over the last several years, we have replaced 3 garbage trucks, which is not an inexpensive adventure. At this point, I would be in favor of sticking with the original plan and reevaluating at the end of the 5 years. We can get back to a more productive replacement schedule, so we are no in the situation where we have to but 3 garbage trucks consecutively like we did. We can review that, maybe allow the contract to expire and not renewing.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Mr. President, from financial point of view, I see what you are saying Mr. Tobergte, but we go up and down up and down. I would say you continue this. I am from Green Township originally, and I was paying \$15 20 years ago, so this is nothing compared to what other communities are paying. We are one of the very few communities that did not pay, and we have twice a week pick up. I think you should continue it, and like the Mayor said, we will need to keep replacing equipment. We replaced 3 packers and put off things for the Fire Department and the Police Department. We don't know what the future hold, I have no issues paying \$15 a month for someone to pick up my garbage twice a week. I think that is a heck of a deal, and I would encourage you to continue, especially now that the residents are used to paying it. I would even continue after the 5 years from a financial stand point.

No one in the audience wished to address council on Ordinance 3, 2022.

Clerk called roll to suspend the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 3, 2022. Motion passes 6-1.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt the Ordinance 3, 2022.

Clerk called roll to adopt Ordinance 3 of 2022. Motion passes 5-2.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Would anyone on Council like to discuss anything under old business? New business?

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul- I probably didn't give you enough time, but I really would like to remove those posting cabinets. They are dilapidated and 2 of them are actually gone already. These are on the bottom of the Ordinance where the clerk posts them for people to read.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- Mr. President, that would have to be an ordinance, does it not? It was an ordinance saying they were there?

Director of Law, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I believe so, and I think we will need to look into that, yes.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I have this on COW, I was going to ask her.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Mr. President, you can do an ordinance, and it says where you are going to post them, so I did not put any ordinances that you all just voted on, I just have the ordinances being posted at City Hall. The official ones do not have the other locations. The official ones that were just voted upon only have City Hall locations for posting, that is all I am trying to say.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Tom, are those the same places that we post Civil Service notices?

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul- Mr. President, yes, I believe, but 2 of them are not being used because of the glass and the plexiglass and the doors. The wind is taking all the posting and blowing them away.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- The question I would have is, I don't know the rules of Civil Service. I know you have to post them publicly.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Mr. President, If it is ok, I would like to check on the ordinance and check all the rules. Thank you.

Safety/Service Director, Mr. Paul- Mr. President, I agree, also that is why I put in my report to remind you that we have postings on the website which we never had before.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Mr. President, Peggy, you were saying the official ordinance doesn't have the locations? Do we need to put them back in until it is figured out?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I can tell you, in my experience, we have changed this quite a few times. When we put the new one up on Heger and Chalet, we just added to the ordinance where they were going to be posted. That one was put in probably about 8 or 9 years ago. I'm not saying we can't look into them; I'm just saying we just added to the ordinance. It's not in the Charter where you post them, we just must post them, so this just saying where you post them.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Anyone in the audience wishing to address Council? Please state your name and address for the record.

Iris Wainscott, 4247 Bertus Street- Thank you Mr. President. Good evening, My name is Iris Wainscott, President of the Village Positive Action Committee (PAC). I appreciate this opportunity to speak to all of you this evening. As a refresher, the PAC was formed in 2015, and has become a recognized non-profit organization in 2016 with the following mission statement: The Village Positive Action Committee is dedicated to the vitality and enrichment of the St. Bernard community. The PAC's primary goals are to create events and activities that are positive, fresh, inclusive, and beneficial for our community. We want to showcase the many ways our community continues to thrive and support the mission statement of other community groups and organizations. The past 2 years have presented some unique challenges. Out of respect for the community and individual comfort levels, the PAC paused, or slowed down, but we still found a few opportunities to give back or support other activities. I want to thank those that offered and continue to offer the PAC opportunities to generate funds for our ideas and projects- namely our Recreation Department, the German Luau committee, and our mayor, Mr. Stuchell. With that, I want to share some of the ways the PAC utilized their funds the past 2 years. The PAC has continued to support our local schools by sponsoring events when asked. In April 2020, the PAC purchased \$630.00 worth of gift cards from local businesses and delivered a thank you card with \$10.00 gift cards to the Police, Fire and Civil Service personnel. With the state mandate shut down, some of our local businesses were financially struggling. The gift cards not only helped the business, but also allowed us to thank our police, fire, and civil service personnel. Many of us began to work remotely, but they did not. I extend another thank you on behalf of PAC and our community. We have been able to set aside \$600.00 for a new sound system for the Dance and Fitness studio. If anyone knows anyone in the audio/sound installation world, we are currently taking bids. We've been able to set aside \$2,500.00 for the general needs of the dance and fitness studio's needs. The floor will need to be replaced very soon. We donated to the Cincinnati Marlins Master's swim team, who made St. Bernard their home pool for some of 2020 & 2021. This group brought in new,

young families who may not have discovered the wonderful community of St. Bernard. We even had a young family affiliated with the Masters group purchase their first home in St. Bernard after they fell in love with our community. We offered to financially assist the St. Clement Food Pantry. Our last Light for Food contest collected over 23,000 items. As a result, the pantry needs more storage space, and the PAC has offered to contribute storage needs. In the past, for the holiday light contest, we have asked local businesses to donate gift cards to our winners. Moving forward, the PAC would like to use the remaining funds to support a larger community project and we have our eyes set on the baby pool area of the outdoor pool. I have had discussions with Paul Schildmeyer about the possibility of converting this section into a splash park or even an extended concession area that families can reserve for pool gatherings. In closing, the PAC is committed to being more active in 2022. Our group is all inclusive and we will always welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the PAC, please contact me at 513-375-3208 or you can email thevillagepac@gmail.com. Our next meeting is Wednesday 2/9 at 6pm. All are welcome. The St. Bernard Sting Rays are scheduled to host the NSSL Championship in summer of 2023. I put that in the table because it will need to be discussed for budget purposes. I believe that will be in the fall. We will start to form a committee, and we will need representation from Council for that committee.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Mr. President, first I would like to thank you and your organization for all that you do for the community. The positive energy that you all carry is absolutely incredible. Getting the people and the community behind you is phenomenal. As far as your interest in the baby pool area, that is something I have demanded we deal with. Because we do have the awesome pool that we do, even with the shallow area, the idea on putting in a splash park did seem cost prohibited from a budget stand point. One of the things I was hearing from other residents is by increasing deck space, and community shared areas where we can have grilling space, just having a secured area if you wanted to have a birthday party. The fence will not leave, but they areas will be contained. We will remove the mosquito infested area so it will be a much more pleasurable experience and enjoy the area. Possibly provide some shaded area for families to enjoy. I am very open to working with you on the idea of that. We would like to hear what your ideas are, and I am again very excited to work with you. The last 2 years have been tough, but The Light for Food was just amazing. We couldn't do it without you all, so thank you very much!

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- Mr. President, I would also like to say thank you to you and your team. The items you listed I did not realize you had done. But

I did drive around the Village during the Light Contest, and it was gorgeous. I couldn't believe how many people participated. You are doing some really positive things for this Village.

Next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, February 10th at 7pm.

All members leave chambers to discuss in an Executive Session.

Council returns from Executive Session.

A motion by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausefeld, to adjourn meeting.
Motion passes 7-0.