

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
November 17th, 2022

The St. Bernard Village Council was held on November 17th, 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 six members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Bob Culbertson, Ms. Bedinghaus, Mr. Ray Culbertson, and Mr. Schildmeyer. Absent: Mr. Brickweg

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by to suspend with the regular order of business to hear a presentation. Motion passes 6-0.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This evening we have representatives here from BASF, Tasso Rigopoulos, the Site Director, and Mike Feldman, who is the Site Technical Engineering Manager for BASF. We also have Dan Ferguson, who represents Hamilton County as the administrator for Alloy Development. So, I will turn it over to these gentlemen who will give us some information on this upcoming exciting project.

BASF, Site Director, Tasso Rigopoulos- Hi, I am the Site Director for BASF here in Cincinnati. Mike Feldman is also here. He is the Project Engineer Manager for the site. So, BASF is a German multi-international chemical company, and the largest chemical producer in the world. BASF has a very large footprint here in the US, and globally we service about 90 thousand plus customers. We are taking a proactive approach and by 2050 we plan for zero net admissions. We plan to do this by offering our customers products by renewable energy, operational efficiency and innovative technology. So, the site here in St. Bernard has over 180 years of history of making chemistry here. I will let Mike go into more detail on that along with the new growth opportunity here.

BASF, Project Manager, Mike Feldman- I thought it might be interesting for you to know a little bit about the site history here. I have worked at the BASF plant in St. Bernard for 40 years now, so I'm designated as the site historian. So, 1840 is when the business started in downtown Cincinnati by Thomas Emery. Cincinnati was the regional center for meat packing back then and the city was named Porkopolis. So, there was all this animal fat to do chemistry with. So, Thomas Emery was making lamp oil and candles. A couple guys by the name of Proctor and Gamble were doing similar chemistry. So, all this chemistry was very important for the growth of this community. In 1885 there was some flooding downtown, so the plant then moved to its present location in St. Bernard. P & G did the very same thing the next year. The business became to really grow with new chemistry. By 1975 the descendants of Thomas Emery decided it was time to sell the business to National Distillers and Chemical Corporation. Then National Distillers decided to sell the liquor division to Jim Beam. So, they changed their name

to Quantum Chemical. It was then sold to Henkel, which was the German products giant. It is the European equivalent of Proctor and Gamble. Henkel heavily invested in our plant and built to what we are today, and we are expanding now. Henkel decided they wanted to focus on marketing, so they spun us off to an entity called Cognis, which then BASF then bought us in 2010. That is how we go to where we are today, back to German ownership with BASF. The operations at the Cincinnati site has three plants. We are currently making synthetic lubricant, automotive coolants, and surfactants. We have a packaging line and an administrative building. We have about 180 employees full time. Our products go to a diverse portfolio of many different customers. We have gone 6 years without an OSHA reportable injury. Here is a Google Earth view of our plant just so you can have an idea of where we are talking about. (Mike pointed out where the new project would be in accordance with the existing plant, per the picture provided.) We have 34 jobs lined up already and 18 more coming in the future for that part of the plant. Payroll will grow by 1.5 million dollars. If our plans go through, we will start construction early next year. The important thing to understand is that we are in competition with sites globally for this very same business. We feel that this place is the most advantageous for BASF business because the largest customer base is here in North America. This project will be a very helpful and lucrative project for BASF and for St. Bernard and for the area. We are asking you for your support and help us push this project through. We appreciate any kind of help you can provide. This is a great opportunity for the area.

A motion by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- As you heard, we had the presentation from the BASF reps. As previously discussed, we have been working with Alloy Development, who is the administrator for Hamilton County Enterprise Development, on a tax abatement in the amount of \$45,848,000.00 on the improvement to the real property based on the new construction. It is being recommended that we approval a 10-year abatement for the exemption of 75% and in accordance with the ORC we would have a revenue sharing with the St. Bernard Elmwood Place School District if payroll for the new jobs associated with the project meets or exceeds \$1 million. I believe this is a win-win for the Village and the school district to be able to support this investment. I am asking for your support on Resolution 8 2022. I am also asking for your support on Ordinance 34 2022, so the Village can enter into an agreement with Alloy Development to represent the Village on economic development issues. They would focus on new opportunities and retention of local businesses and industrial partners. Also, this coming Saturday November 19th, there will be a community engagement for the proposed changes for the Village Charter. Mark Wendling, our consultant for the village government, also with administration personnel will be making a presentation. There will be a second event Wednesday December 7th at 7pm. Both events will be in Council Chambers. Once both events have been held, there will be a survey to follow. There is also a Power Point presentation on the village website along with links to the ICRC broadcast. I am also working with the police union contract that will expire in January. I am hoping to be able to discuss current collective bargaining process at the next COW. I am also working with the school on the agreement with the MOU for an SRO and I will hopefully have an update by the next COW as well. I am also asking that we try and bring back regular black watch meetings

rather than have on demand town hall safety committee meetings. When issues came up on social media, I think that we go back to a regular occurrence of scheduled meetings where we can give proper updates on a regular basis. I don't know who I need to speak with on that but I'd like to schedule regular meetings so we can meet the demand in the community.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- I have been checking with the chief and he keeps putting me off. We are going to start block watch back up the beginning of next year once he gets all the new members up. He said he didn't have time for both.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, we will make time. We will have that whenever you can get it scheduled. If we could do one in December, we can still make it happen. So, you tell me what works for you. I'd like to get an update on that, and I already spoke with Lt. Ungruhe so we can try to get someone that can hold the first meeting and answer some questions. I don't see a reason why we can't start sooner. We can make it happen before the first of the new year.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- The third Thursday, December 15th, 2022, down at the Safety Center at 6:30 I believe.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Absent.

Director of Law, Ms. Van Valkenburg- You have before you Ordinance 35 2022 which I have prepared from the COW session last week. Raising the expenditure limit, not requiring council's approval, to \$50,000.00. I'd like to vote on that tonight and approved. Also, I do need to go into executive session after the meeting to discuss pending litigation.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Absent.

Safety & Service Director, Mr. Paul- To My Community: Are you one of those many who like to seek things? Spotting a shiny on the ground or perhaps delighting in an Easter Egg hunt? Better yet, a scavenger hunt. Solving a puzzle while seeking what the signed mean? Earthly treasures in my beliefs are also fun. I looked at that 100 times and never noticed it. Now that Winter's gloom is upon us, you may not feel enthusiastic about what you joy. Other may feel this way also. Turn inward to find your valued treasures. Your treasure may be lonely wrapped in a blanket unaware you are the treasure they long to hear.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- October 2022 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for October: \$977,728
- October 2022 is up 4.80% from October 2021.
- Tax refunds for October \$-33,840.19
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$823.09
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$4,290.00
- Taxes paid through the e-file portal: \$1,632.22

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- I urge the passage of Resolution 8 2022 for the tax abatement tonight.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- Absent

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- Tonight I have the Service Department report for October 2022. There were 31 trucks placed at residents, 21 dumpsters, 107 special pickups, 150.64 tons of garbage taken to the land fill. The recycling program report has 20.85 tons of recycling material collected, 3,360 pounds of scrap metal, and 10 30-yard roll offs. There was a waste collection fee for the month of September in the amount of \$25,672.13 was remitted to the Village.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- The CIC meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday has been cancelled.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Ms. Bedinghaus- No report. I just have a question for Valerie. Last meeting, we discussed short term rentals and discussed having a meeting for laws, contracts and claims. Do you want to meet in December or push to January?

Director or Law, Ms. Van Valkenburg- The first part of January would be better. I'd like to get it to you next month, so you are familiar with it before we meet in January.

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- This year's Christmas Celebration will be help on Saturday, December 3rd. Santa Claus and Ms. Claus will be available for picture. Please bring your own camera. Lastly, Light Up St. Bernard will take place on Saturday, December 3rd. Please stop down to the Recreation Department on the following days to pick up your free luminary kit, Sunday, November 13th from 2-6pm, Sunday, November 20 2-6pm, Sunday, November 27th 2-6pm, and Thursday, December 1st from 6-8pm.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- If I could add to Mr. Culbertson's report. I am actually asking for volunteers. I would like to see if any council members would be available on Saturday evening from 6-9pm. We need help with hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. We just need a couple people to help. Again, this is an indoor activity. It's a whole lot easier doing this inside than outside. We will also try and have some of the games on too. I will be sending out an email.

Business and Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Clerk of Council, Ms. Stegman- No communications.

RESOLUTION 8 2022

A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY OHIO AND BASF/COGNIS PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PROJECT WHICH WILL EXPAND INTO THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE ZONE OF HAMILTON COUNTY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Tobergte, to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution 8 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt resolution 8 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE 33 2022

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OR CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PART OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD OHIO REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSIVE CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance 33 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 33 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE 34 2022

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLOY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance 34 2022. Motion passed 6-0

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 34 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE 35 222

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 121.08 REGARDING THE EXPENDITURE LIMIT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance 35 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 35 2022. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion passed 6-0.

Mathew Durbin, 36 Baker Ave- I'd like to address council. Some of you it seems like every meeting have no report for how much you get paid to be here for an hour of your time. There is a

lot that goes on in this village and you never have a report. Some of you have had no report than you have had reports since you have been elected. That is very sad. I also feel sad to say I don't even trust out police department because officers have watched me almost get hit by a car at the traffic lights. The person who saw it happen is actually a supervisor for the department who is training these new guys. I'm glad we are bringing the block watch meetings and safety meetings back, that is nice. I'd love to know how many tickets were written last month, but I didn't know Mr. Brickweg was not going to be here, and how many traffic stops we had because I feel like there have been none. They say they are always busy, but I feel like that is a load of crap since they are always at the station. I feel like they are sitting on their butt doing nothing, when they should be keeping our family and kids safe in this village. Is it going to take someone getting hurt before it changes? That is what's coming.

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

Council went into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Council returned from executive session.

Motion made by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.

Council is adjourned.

The next COW meeting will be Thursday, December 8th, 2022, at 7pm in Council Chambers.