

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on January 26th, 2023, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was given in honor of Mrs. Shrank, mother of Sandy Shrank who works for the village in the Fitness Center.

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

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

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This evening you have Ordinance 1 and 2 of 2023 in front of you. Please consider the proposed charter amendments where we would transition from a 4-ward system to a 7 at large system for council members. We would also transition to 4 year staggered terms commencing the first day of December after the election. The first year of transition, the candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to 4-year terms. The next 4 candidates receiving the least number of votes will be elected to 2-year terms in office. Thereafter, all council members will be elected to 4-year terms. The Vice Mayor/President of Council shall also be elected to office for the term of 4-years. The Mayor will also be aligned with taking office the first day of December after an election. Ordinance 3 2023 deals with converting the Director of Safety and Service into an appointed Municipal Administrator to serve as the Village's Chief Administrative Official. Also, the consolidation of the elected Auditor and Treasurer positions to an appointed Finance Director to serve as CFO of the Village and the transition of an elected Law Director to an appointed Law Director with a background in Municipal Law. Our attorney advised us to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading due to taking 30 days to go into effect, which would not allow us to have this ordinance in by March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I would like to thank Dan Middendorf, along with this students and families, who cleaned up Girl Scout Lane. I was contacted by troop 354 regarding scout night. I want to make sure council is ok with them participating and I would like to pair them with a council member or village official to read our reports. I would like to extend the same opportunity to the girl scouts. St. Clement will be hosting their annual spaghetti dinner on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm in the school cafeteria. I would also as we add to the COW agenda the MOU and SRO for the St. Bernard Elmwood Place School District and the contact for supplemental patrolling.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Just to clarify on Ordinance 2 2023, Vice Mayor and President of Council are not two positions. Our charter states President of Council/Vice Mayor.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I have the final numbers for 2022. The expenses were \$13,835,312.94 and the revenues were \$17,186,310.93. We have over \$3,350,997.99 overage but part of this number was an additional \$1 million that we paid cash for equipment. On the table for tonight is Resolution 1 2023. This is to use public fund to pay for refreshments and meals when needed. Also, Ordinance 1 2023 is an update to the minimum wage and a 3.5% raise for most positions.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I anticipated having an ordinance for you this evening in regards to the presentation last meeting for the owners of the Pub and their attorney. We are still doing some negotiating and I want to make sure that we are not only giving a release of the easement but that it is properly documented in exchange for additional fund from the village for maintenance. I will have something for you next COW meeting.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- The statement for First State Bank has not come in yet. I should have that at the next meeting.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- Our plastic materials are becoming problematic. Our trash can order is nearing the top but not yet started. I searched the internet and this caliber of can starts at \$148 unstamped. We pay \$75 for stamped. Trash bags are also low, and I am trying to receive an order. In the meantime, I am allowing the purchase of 1 box per quarter per resident. The playground equipment is also looking more towards March. Orchard Street bids have been opened and JMA is going over final figures. This construction will start shortly. We are aware of streetlights out on Tower. There will be pole replacements in that area, please be patient. To My Community: I sometimes wonder if everyone can listen to their inner voice. Not the voice where you may hear "I hope you have broccoli on your teeth for the next photo," but rather the quick voice of "Don't do that, you'll get hurt." Becoming in tune with the gut feeling take practice. You must move quickly to find another way or change your thought rapidly as you get that inkling. Once you are well versed in its existence, you'll understand that it is caring and protective of each of us.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- 2022 tax year reminders.

- Your Federal, state, and local (St. Bernard) taxes are all due on April 18, 2023.
- The St. Bernard e-file portal is up and running. This is only for the 2022 tax year filing. Delinquent tax years cannot be filed through this web portal.
- All tax returns, either filed electronically or by paper, must include: W2's, 1099's, federal 1040 page 1-2 and any federal schedules. E-file users can attach these to the e-file or submit them by paper. Your tax return cannot be audited and processed without this documentation.
- Paper tax form submissions must have printed documentation. All paper tax returns must be completed, signed, and dated. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
  - Paper tax forms with instructions are available in the tax office or on the Village tax website.

- Please, do NOT e-mail tax documents or credit card information to my e-mail. Our city e-mail is not encrypted. The e-file portal and payment site are encrypted.
- If you owe \$200 or more from a previous year tax balance, you are required, by law, to pay estimated taxes quarterly. Please call the office if you need additional information.
- Retirees, who have an exemption, do not have to file, unless:
  - You have winnings of \$500 or more from gambling/lottery.
  - You have gone back to work.
  - You have income outside of retirement, social security, etc. such as rental property or business income.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- Absent.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- I have the fire department report for December 2022. For fires, we had structure fires 7, 1 other fire, 1 vehicle fire, 7 auto accidents, 3 hazmat incidents, 10 service calls, 14 fire alarms, 1 CO alarm and 13 EMS assists for a total of 57 responses. Mutual aide given: Norwood 8, Elmwood 5, Cincinnati 2, Lockland 2 and Springfield Twp 1. Mutual aide received: Norwood 1, Reading 1, Wyoming 1, Lockland 1, Springfield Twp 1. We had a total of 95 ambulance runs with 42 being transports. I'd also like to report that St. Bernard hosted the Hazmat IQ course attended by several other community department. All units completed hazmat tech refresher.

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- The waste collection fee for the month of November 2022 is \$23,957.68.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- CIC met this past Tuesday and received a presentation from the development group working on the St. Bernard shopping center. I encourage everyone to go to the village Facebook page to see the presentation. Thank you, Auditor Brickweg, for adding the slides. They are in the final process on finalizing the design. They gave us a timeline of 6 months to get the permits before we will see any demolition. If anyone is interested in doing the lawn care for the CIC properties for 2023, the application will be available at city hall. Applications are due back February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Ms. Bedinghaus- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- Sports sign ups will be Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the recreation office. Sports include knothole baseball ages 7 to 13, girls softball ages 7 to 13, both are \$40 for residents \$60 for non-residents, swim lessons for all ages is \$20, mommy and me swim lessons up to 36 months will be on Thursday evenings in March cost is \$20. Sting Ray Swim Team sign up are \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents, tee ball ages 4 to 7 \$20. SAY Soccer ages 6 to 18 \$40 for residents \$60 for non-residents and lollipop soccer ages 3 to 5 is \$20. The rec department is accepting applications for

summer employment at the Aquatic Center. Deadline to submit your application is Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the service department for their excellent snow removal.

Business and Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Minutes were submitted Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and there are no communications this evening.

#### RESOLUTION 1 2023

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VILLAGE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OF OTHER PERSONS AS SERVING A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Resolution 1 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 1 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

#### ORDINANCE 1 2023

FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART TIME AND CERTAIN APPOINTED EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 1 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 1 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

#### ORDINANCE 2 2023

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF ST. BERNARD'S CERTAIN AMENDMENTS OF THE CHARTER RELATED TO VILLAGE COUNCIL.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 2 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

#### ORDINANCE 3 2023

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF ST. BERNARD'S CERTAIN AMENDEMENTS TO THE CHARTER RELATED TO VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 3 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Bedinghaus, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 3 2023. Motion passes 6-0.

Mayor. Mr. Stuchell- We are accepting application for part time/ seasonal employment for the Service Department. We encourage anyone who might be interested, or pass the word, to come pick up an application.

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

The next Committee of the Whole will take place Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

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

Meeting is adjourned.