

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The St. Bernard Village Special Council Meeting was held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed six members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Culbertson, and Mr. Estep. Absent: Mr. Schildmeyer

President of Council, Ms. Asbach- Let me ask council this, I been approached, typically our rules say that, on the third reading, the question shall be upon the final passage, which is determined by a yes or no vote by roll call. I've been asked if someone could give a statement, so it's up to council whether you want to waive the Rules of Council won't allow someone to speak after the ordinance or if we simply are going to vote.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- My approach to this is, I don't see why not. If we can give them an opportunity to speak, I think we should. What would a motion look like for that?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- It would be a motion to forgo the Rules of Council and allow the audience to comment.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to allow discussion after the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the ordinance. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE 41 2023

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

John Miller, 4283 Dartmouth Dr.- Mr. President, members of Council, I come to you and rise in support of Ordinance 41 and encourage Council to approve it unanimously. We are all here tonight at the 4th Special meeting for the very simple reason that Council Member Hausfeld voted against waiving the second and third reading. Ordinance 39 at the regular November council meeting, much to the surprise of many of us who were present. Former Councilman Tobergte had the idea that the federal grant accepted by the Village of Saint Bernard for retention of police and fire employees was a good thing and that the full-time village employees deserved similar bonuses. If grants were not available, then the council should have voted to fund them out of village finances, and he said so at the time. He said so again this year, and ordinances have been drafted to do so, specifically ordinances 39 and now 41. Council even passed Ordinance 33 at the October 26th council meeting which authorized pension bonuses for police and fire who qualified for the grant and these funds were paid out of village finances. Council member Hausfeld seconded that motion made by Mr. Tobergte for Ordinance 33 and that passed. 6 to 0 After the November 29 meeting, Council Member Hausfeld was gracious enough to meet with representatives of the service department, including myself, at our request. She listened to our

concerns and told us that she hadn't decided how she would vote at the first special meeting that night, but that she absolutely supported the working people of Saint Bernard. She stated, as she has in these chambers, that if a grant had been available for service department employees. Such as was made available for police and fire. She would have voted for it, but that she had concerns about spending village resources for such bonuses. We asked very politely but directly about her vote for Ordinance 33 in October. Her reply was the most disappointing thing that I have ever heard from any elected official in Saint Bernard. She said that her vote for Ordinance 33 was a mistake. Mr. President, members of council investing in the working people of the village of Saint Bernard is not a mistake. No one voted against Ordinance 33, nor should they have even if council member. Russell had it to do over again and would sink the pension bonuses for police and fire. Everyone would have thought that decision to be unnecessarily cruel. Our service department is a great asset to the village and a strong selling point to attracting new residents and new businesses using procedural gymnastics. To finally sink Ordinance 39 and to possibly deny passage of Ordinance 41 tonight is not leadership. It is not fiscal responsibility. Investing in the retention of the village employees with village funds is smart government. One could hardly consider it leadership to vote to approve grant funds. If someone else is funding it, then it gets the full support of council. But if the village has to invest taxpayer dollars, then it's considered wasteful government spending. Ordinance 33 passed six to zero in October. Was that wasteful government spending? It was not. Much has been made of Council member Hausfeld receiving more votes than anyone else in 2023. Congratulations. I wonder if that would have been true if she had sunk Ordinance 33 in late October right before the November election, like she subordinates 39 after the November election. In the end, how this Council votes tonight comes down to how you answer Mr. Tobergte's suggestion at the October 26th Council meeting. He said, and I quote, we had the service department worked throughout the whole pandemic and the people at City Hall work throughout the whole pandemic. I wonder if we take some money out of the treasury and put some money into their pockets like the police and fire." A yes vote supports retaining the full-time employees who work throughout the whole pandemic. I hope you vote your conscience and that you're informed. Conscience says that this vote is a slam dunk yes, I thank you.

Jeff Connor, 4298 Dartmouth Dr.- I work with these men at the service department. Saint Bernard is supposed to be about family values. Those men are family members of some of you here. And ours. Some of them are some kind of extensions to family. To say some people get more than others? These people deserve more and not. Saint Bernard is supposed to be about family values. Everyone is essential. This doesn't affect me, but those guys were out in it every day. Would you treat family members this way? I surely would not. Where I am from, family means something. I support the ordinance and I support those guys in the service department. It should be a yes vote.

Michael Kalb, 4704 Chalet Dr.- been an employee down here for 11 years, and every year I hear many people would upon council say they support us. They value us as a service department. And now, right now, I'm looking out and I'm not seeing the support that I hear you guys say to my face every single day. So, I'm just curious whether or not your votes got you going to be in support of us or for other reasons? I support Ordinance 41 and I do hope that you guys vote to pass this. Thank you.

Joe Lengrich, 622 E Ross Ave.- I'm a senior most employee doen here now, 26 years going on 27. I couldn't agree more with what Michael Kalb just said. You say you support us, but rarely do you. And I'm not talking about new members up here, but some others. It's just a fact. I'm not sour about it, but saying in the service department is it's. Not respected and are not valued. So, if he passed this ordinance tonight, which I highly recommend you do, I think it would change his feelings. Thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I would just like to add one thing just so council knows and pretty impressed with this, Mr. Miller, Mr. Connor are not even on the list to receive this. So, kudos to you guys for speaking up for the men that you work with. That's pretty impressive. Thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 41 2023. Motion passes 4-2.

#### ORDINANCE 42 2023

#### AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I just want to explain to everybody what this ordinance is. It does have a \$13,900 for fitness equipment, but the rest of the numbers are the raises for the elected council members, President, council, clerk of Council. Thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 42 2023. Motion passes 5-1.

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

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.