

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 9th, 2023

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on November 9th, 2023, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed all 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 approve the written minutes of the October 26th, 2023, council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda is something that came up back when we were having meetings on the amendments to the Charter and the vote and everything, so everyone on Council has been given a copy of the Rules of Council and I'd like to discuss Rules of Council section C2. The way that it currently reads is all committee shall be appointed by the Committee on committees standing Committee shall consist of three members for fall. But what they suggested back to time is that they suggested that either the Mayor or the President Council. Be in this role as opposed to committee on committee and with the staggered terms for Council now, they said that would even make more sense. I am proposing a change. Any comments or questions?

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I personally think that it should be the seven members that were elected to council can sit down like adults and figure out what committees we would want to do personally, then somebody dictating to us, sorry, I'm maybe not should have used the dictating word but somebody telling us what we're going to be in charge of when there's seven members of council in, we could have a brief discussion and figure things out.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- While I understand, remember Council kind of got into trouble two years ago with the Committee on Committees. The past reference used to be whoever had majority council. It was never seven people. The committee on committees is three people. Basically, who it's kind of a succession if I'm not here, the President pro temp is usually the first person and so on and so forth. If somebody's not here. You will need to come up with three people to be the committee or the President of Council will do it. The mayor appoints in other Villages because not all Villages have a President of Council. I am just trying to simplify this. We only have 2 weeks to get this taken care of.

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- So if we do decide to go with President of Council doing that, would the President of Council do it every two years as a staggered? And would they people staying for the 4 years would stay on that same committee?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Every time someone would leave the committee, or there would be a change, this person would have to reassign committees unless they would request a change to their committee. This is Council's call, but it needs to be by December 1st.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I would like to hear from the newly elected council members, if they want to speak on this or those of us that are still on council.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I like the change as you have written it here. I think the sever of us should have a discussion, but I do think there should be a tie breaker.

Jeff Edwards, 310 Jackson- I would suggest probably would be if we could give someone the desired committees we want to be on and if it works, it works. I guess it would do the same way. If the seven people would work it out, but there's a couple I would I thought about being on. I don't really know what they entail, but I know they sound really interesting to me. We can give you some input, you know, whatever you guys want to do. Yeah, I'm sure it'll work out.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- I'd look to Valerie on this. But you know, when we talk about having discussions about what committees' people want to be on, we run into sunshine law issues. So, we want to tread lightly on that. So, if we're going to have that discussion, it needs to be in a public forum I believe.

Law Director, Mr. Van Valkenburg- I agree with you.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, just make it a public meeting and everything will be fine.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Is there a reason it needs to be in by December 1st? Why can't the new people coming in decide?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Typically you give a report on who is on what committees and who the committee members are at inauguration, which is December 1st this year.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Are we breaking any laws if we give the President of Council our first three or four choices. And then he appoints. By that I mean, at least we have a say. So, we would get a say in what we're going to be chairing then?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg-I don't think it would constitute as a ballot. I don't know why there couldn't just be a general discussion.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- So, I need some direction. Our we keeping a Committee on Committees? Or switching to President of Council?

Council Member, Mr. Ray Culbertson- I would not mind if we changed it to President of Council, but I would like to see a group discussion during an open meeting.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- We can call a meeting after the next Council Meeting, which is to be determined, to discuss it so we can get things in order before December 1st.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I think some of it does depend on when our next council meeting is, because I know there's been talk about the 15th and I know there's been talk about the 29th and 30th, whatever date that was. Why couldn't we call a public meeting before our next council meeting, whenever that is? Why can't we have a discussion before the next meeting and go from there? That way all of the new council can be there.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- The 30th is a problem because we'd have to run copies of everything. The next meeting was scheduled for the 21st but the Auditor wants to move it to the 30th. So, you would have a meeting with everyone on the 30th then have inauguration on the 1st, the next night. That is the problem.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Let's be honest, not all of the committees really do a whole lot. And I think if you wait till December when the council are sworn in and to discuss it at the meeting, I think you'll just be fine because I don't think there's any pending business for like a week or two for a bidding. I wouldn't think that you could wait. So, if you guys want to be able to discuss it. Just do it at the first committee of the whole in December and let it go. This is a lot of talk.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Ok, I still need direction. Someone needs to make a motion one way or the other.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to change section C2 in the Rules of Council to read as follows: All committees should be appointed by the President of Council instead of Committees on Committees. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Bob Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to place Resolution 5 2023 on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- First, I'd like to start off by thanking all of the candidates who ran for office during this last election. Congratulations to all those who will be retaining their seats into those newly elected candidates. A big thank you goes out to all of the candidates who took the time to run with the intention of improving our community. Also wanted to give an update but we will be having a special newsletter coming out regarding the St. Broward Christmas celebration, Light up the Saint Bernard, but I wanted to give everyone just kind of a brief rundown of the agenda and schedule for Saturday, December 2nd. Two lighting will be at 6:00 PM. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Get your picture taken, bring your own camera phone, ride the trolleys and participate in the Pack light contest. We'll light for food, Visit the petting zoo and listen to Christmas carolers. Grab some cookies and hot chocolate in the main hall. The Fresh Market will also be going on Washington Ave. And the Queen City High retailers will have their training display down in the teen Center. And of course, Santa Mrs. Claus will be riding around the village in the morning handing out treats to all the kids. Also, if you'd like to participate in the Will Write for Food contest. Again, additional details will be sent out in the special newsletter, but. If anyone has any questions, you can e-mail the village pack@gmail.com. For more information also Light up Saint Bernard Kit pickups will be available in the Recreation Office on Saturday November 25th from 2:00 to 6:00, Monday November 27th from 6 to 8 and

Thursday November 30th from 6 to 8 and will also be available in City Hall from November 27th to December 1st during normal business hours from 9:00 to 5:00 PM. Also, volunteers are needed for Light Up Saint Bernard specifically for helping decorate Vine Street. We will be meeting on Saturday the 2nd. At 1:00 PM to start working on Vine Street to decorate. If you have questions, please call the recreation department at 513-641-3137. Also, this evening, I'm asking that Ordinance #37 be put on the agenda for the next council meeting so that we can continue to retain the services of Alloy Development, who's providing economic development services to the village. The annual contract is for \$30,000 and this team is well worth the investment for the recruitment of new business and for retention. Also, if council would like, Alloy has offered to come and give an annual presentation depending on when you decide to have the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to place Ordinance 37 2023 on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I am going to back track from a minute. I am going to ask for a moment of silence for Mr. Ralph Fleek. Raph was a former Service Department employee who passed away after our last council meeting. I'd like to have a moment of silence please. I would also like to thank all the vets for all they have done for our country. Happy Veterans Day to you.

Moment of Silence was given in memory of Ralph Fleek.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- On my agenda, I need a couple additional appropriations for the Mayor's rate of pay, Council members, President of Council rate and Clerk of Council rate. It looks like the council members will be \$38.68, the President of Council rate is \$22.00, and the Clerk of Council rate is \$20. I also received an e-mail from Paul Schildmeyer for the recreation. Some of our equipment at the fitness center is breaking and it's from I think he said 2006 or 2008 and they can't even find parts anymore, so he was asking if it was possible, to have they have \$13,900 left in concerts. So, what I would like to do if it's OK with councils, to priest the concerts by that amount and add it to the fitness equipment outlay. And depending on when you decide when your last week or the November meeting is going to be, if you can work it out for November 30th, it would really help me give me a little more time to get a grasp on the end of the year numbers and I could possibly do the end of the year ordinance then.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to place an appropriation ordinance on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

Law Director, Ms. Val Valkenburg- No report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Paul- No report. To My Community: The microphones were supposed to be here today. Technician did show up, however, I sent him home since the microphones weren't here. They should be here by the next meeting we should have our sound system back. We did an all points newsletter and call command about holiday trash pickup. It apparently did not register with anyone. We tried to pick up some today and we will call people tomorrow to pick up more trash. If we don't, the trash will sit there till Monday. Come Monday, our trucks aren't big enough to hold that much weight on the road.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- October 2023 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for October 2023: \$987,887.
- October 2023 is up 1.04% from October 2022.
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1,116.34
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$12,347.53.
- January-October 2023 tax collections: 8,831,650.00.
- 800 letters are going out to the residents of St. Bernard who still have not filed their 2022 tax return. Please do not ignore this letter. Failure to file a tax return will result in a tax assessment.

And then finally, I have before Council Ordinance #38. I'd like to be put on the table. This is in regard to the passage of House Bill 33, and its mandatory changes to the municipal tax code that we must adopt for the first of the year. I mean I could go through all of them if you want. I could hit the highlights. Basically, some existing language correction has to do with alternative apportionment for business with remote workers and that's something new net profit extension filings extended by one month. Late following penalty cap, the waiver required information exchange between municipalities and the Ohio tax commissioner. There's some strike out language that they wanted you know to on the Ohio business gateway. Are there any questions?

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Ray Culbertson, to place Ordinance 38 2023 on the table. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance, Mr. Tobergte- I'd like to discuss raises for the Auditor, Tax Administrator, and City Clerk. Everyone else seemed to get a raise, they deserve one too. I am not sure what step that are all in, but I'd like to give them the average raise the service and fire and police departments got.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I heard you only mentioned two people, correct? So, there is more we would need to consider there's another person that has there was an ordinance. We have the mayor's court clerk. We also need to address as far as those steps, whether you address the mayor's administrative assistant so you know can we still have to deal with obviously the Sharon and Heidi but they're there would be there would be four of them.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- You're just going with like the percentage of the police fire service department contracts. Can I just put them all on one ordinance then? Because right now they're separate because it's all different amounts of pay.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- Just take them out of the step program.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I will think about it and look at it and I will work on that.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So I would pose this question as well if they're still in the STEP program and they were only getting. You said an increase that was that averaged 2%. You know that's far from a cost of living increase you know as far as so whether or not it's even possible to. To

change their if they're in the latter part of their steps, if they're in yet one has eight steps, so if they're still have a couple left, I would actually like to, if it's possible to make their increase instead of it being 2%, to make it your average starting now. Because again, they're only getting a bump of 2% right now annually on the couple of those.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- The only one that would affect is the Assistant Finance because she would be going into the last step. I can word it so she will get the 3.5%. So, how about we put a 3.5% raise for 2024 and after that we can do the average of the contracts. Does that sound ok?

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to place an ordinance on the table for raises for full-time City Hall employees. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Member, Mr. Tobergte- I also think because we voted on giving the grant money to the fire department, the service department and city hall employees should receive that also.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I think the only one that was not here full-time would be Sharon. I do not think she was working at that time.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- My only thing is if you do anything other than full time. You're going to open stuff up to Like Dial A Ride people, fitness people, like everybody that works for the city. You are looking at a lot more people.

Auditor, Mrs. Brickweg- They we not working. We closed those things during covid.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Wasn't City Hall closed also?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Some worked from home, and some came in.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- There were never any days that someone wasn't here. We closed the main lobby, but we still had people working here.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I'm going to be, I guess, Devil's Advocate Police and fire service department. We're working. They're regular. Not saying you guys weren't. But. City Hall was closed. You guys were still. Some people were still here, other people were working from home. It's not the same to me. It's not the same.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I'm sorry Patty, but when I work from home I am working.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I have no doubt that you weren't working. I am saying they were all out in it amongst the people. They were exposed to covid. That is different than working from home. Thanks.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Culbertson- Patty was saying. You know, I don't know if you want to put it all together or separate service and City Hall. You know, I'm for it, you know, especially for the service department. You know, they were out there. Hazard pay, I think, is what they call it prior. Do you think these guys are, you know, bust their tail, out there every day.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, to place an ordinance on the table for supplemental pay for the full-time service department and city hall employees who qualify.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Are we going to separate them?

Council Member, Ms. Bedinghaus- I would keep them together.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I would separate them.

Thomas Lynch, Harvey Court- If there is any question at all as to whether or not we should receive this, I mean, everyone who had covid, they are blowing their nose into tissues and where do you think that tissue is going? In the trash and the garbage truck. I was a garbageman during covid. I'd like to invite you to the top of Rumpke Mountain with me anytime you want to.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- There is no doubt in my mind that you guys don't deserve it. You do deserve it. You were out amongst the virus and others were working from home. That is different to me.

Motion passes 6-1.

Safety, Mr. Brickweg- No report.

Service, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Bob Culbertson- CIC is scheduled for November 28th in Council Chambers.

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

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- The next St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting is on Monday, November 20th at 7:00 PM. The program will be held in the upper level of the municipal building with the presentation on Cincinnati radio history given by Mike Martini.

Business and Industry, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Is there anyone wishing to address council this evening?

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Several years ago I had occasion to ask council if they would consider adding to their consumers procedures a censure process as well as a process for tactfully removing members who were in some way incapacitated and shouldn't be voting. There may be cause to reconsider that request going forward, and I request that you do so.

Benjamin Fraley, 4511 Park Place- I actually have questions about Ordinance #37. I know the discussion will be having the next council meeting, but I guess we'll be able to get more layman's understanding of what exactly this Alloy Corporation is going to be doing for the village of Sanford. And any other sort of business proposals they might bring or any sort of like return on interest and just more general information? That is a significant amount of money and I would like to see a bit more.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, On the second page under the exhibit, as far as basically details that are general responsibilities and what they're actually doing for us, I mean, we can provide additional detail, but I mean, this is exactly what they're doing for us day-to-day. They're pretty much constant communication. What they have done as far as in attracting new business and helping facilitate any other incentives that can help attract new business to the village itself, anything they're also the liaison with Hamilton County for all of that basically they have also been assisting us. In dealing with retention as well. Since we do not have an employee hired by the

village to assist us with this, I do believe that retaining them is beneficial to the village. This is an entire group working for us.

Benjamin Fraley, 4511 Park Place- Because I'm ignorant, would retention of businesses and just attraction of new businesses, has that been a historical issue for the village itself or is this just something that we're just trying to kind of bolster our tax revenue, I guess? And just also again, I understand the importance of business, but. Seems a bit, um, how do I say it? self-evident that businesses want to come to a village or city? And again, I'm just kind of struggling to see the exact explicit merit of having.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So as far as I guess to actually add to the value of coming to Saint Bernard, they are also able to be the facilitator. So, for example. If there were any business that were trying to expand and if they were trying to work with Hamilton County on an Enterprise Zone agreement so that you know there would be some deferring taxes, they would property taxes, they're the ones that would be handling all that, they literally make it worthwhile to come here. For all the incentives to support small business. They're the ones that are able to help make the difference open.

Benjamin Fraley, 4511 Park Place- Yeah, I would if it's possible for someone to come from Alloy, I think that would be beneficial for everybody. And that's all. Thank you.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- It is well worth the money we pay them. I believe it is \$30,000.00 a year but paid monthly, correct?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Yes, that is correct. I am looking at it here and it is a monthly stipend. We can evaluate them at any time.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I am sorry I miss understood earlier. If you could have someone here from Alloy to help explain that.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- You can also explain the demolition grant we got just because of Alloy.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Yes, so Alloy did assist us with that, even though that was part of CIC, but if it wasn't for Alloy, I mean they're basically constantly looking out for available funds. So, I mean they are as far as I'm concerned huge asset. So, there are things that we, without their assistance, we wouldn't find out about.

Motion made by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Ms. Bedinghaus, to move next council meeting to November 29th,2023. Motion passe 7-0.

Next Council Meeting will be held November 29th, 2023, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Council Inauguration will be held December 1st, 2023, at 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Ray Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Bob Culbertson, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.