

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
February 22nd, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on February 22nd, 2024, in Council Chambers.

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

A Moment of Silence was given in honor retired Service Department employees, Mr. Joe Dornbusch and Mr. Bill Helton. Also, in honor of Bethany Haarman, Daughter of retired Firefighter, Mr. Mike Haarman.

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

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to dispense with the reading of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Hi, good evening. This last month has been filled with impactful losses in our community. Bill Helton, current Service Department employee passed away February 9th, retired Service Department employee Joe Dornbush passed away February 12th, and Bethany Haarman, daughter of retired Fire Captain Mike Haarman and current swim instructor Denise Haarman, passed away February 17th. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We will be giving Bill Helton's his final ride home on Saturday, March 9th. The route will be published in the upcoming March newsletter and the Village on the Village Facebook page will be leaving the Service Department at around 3:15 to process around the Village. Bill's Celebration of Life will then follow from 4:00 to 10:00 PM at the Saint Bernard Eagles. The posting for the safety Service Director went out in several professional job boards this last week. We have contracted with Strategic Agora Advisors which Mike Henningkamp is the President, to lead the search for the candidates. He is the former Springfield Township Administrator. Is very familiar with Saint Bernard and well connected both locally and nationally, so I feel very comfortable having him at the wheel of this project. I would also like to congratulate Josh Coletta on his recent appointment as a Firefighter EMT for the Saint Bernard Fire Department. And just as a reminder, mowing bids for the CIC are due on Monday, February 26th by 5:00 PM here at City Hall and the next CIC meeting will be held Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Before I start my normal report, I'd like to add on to the mayor's report. We would like to hang orange ribbons on the poles around the village in honor of Bill, so they will be there for his parade, so we'll be ordering orange ribbons and my goal is to put them out

the week of March 4th, so they're out in time. My cell phone number is 513-325-4065 for anybody that would like to help hang them.

Section 1. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the following \$8,500.00

FROM GENERAL FUND

01-5-A-19 General Fund Transfer Out \$8,500.00

TO CASH ACCOUNTS:

13-1000 Criminal Act Forfeiture Cash Account \$8,500.00

Section 2. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to provide additional appropriations to the following:

01-2-K-6 Insurance \$42,500.00

01-7-A-2 Paramedic and Training \$80,000.00

01-7-A-2A Tuition and Training \$20,000.00

01-58-9 Community Events \$35,000.00

For the insurance line item, I asked council, and to what was discussed at the committee of the whole, I sent an email explaining what happened with that line item, I know the Fire Chief also sent out an e-mail explaining the paramedic and training tuition, so if you have any question, I'd be happy to answer. If not, I'd like this ordinance placed on the table tonight.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- There are several ordinances before you this evening. Production Ordinance #3, which authorizes the solid waste collection fee for residential accounts. Ordinance #4, and you have before you and A version and a B version. That's the ordinance that amends section 123.01 of the codified ordinances, because of the recent change in Ohio law. The A version, which I had presented at the Committee of the Whole was required by the new section of the revised code and posting just on social media like the Village website and Facebook, but we had discussion and we talked about leaving not having all five locations here in town, but keeping the location of Safety Center and of course here posting outside of City Hall, which is version B. Which is what I am assuming you will want to go with. I wanted to present both versions to you since I did not get specific directions. I would recommend B because there are people who do not rely on a digital world. This would still give them access to things.

Auditor, Mr. Brickweg- Can I share some input? Heidi asked me, since she couldn't be here, and I think, honestly, she has a really good idea. She's like go with just the Internet, but she will put them at the other two places and that way if something happens and she doesn't get to one in time, we're still following the law. So why set us up, for everybody watching our every move, that if she does kind of missed one by accident, and she has no plan on doing that but if we pass what the law is, which is online, then we're covered. But she said she will still plan on placing them at the other two places. This will save us from getting sued and we are still following Ohio law.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- That is a very valid point. We can continue with that was an unofficial practice. The version of Section 731.21 does not require. It says the minimum, I mean it just basically puts a threshold and the threshold is we could post newspapers, we could post it on the website they have set up, or we can do it this way by putting it on our village website and our social media account. Whichever one is your preference, but after hearing Heidi's point, maybe I would recommend going with version A. Last one is Ordinance # 5, which has to do with the change to section 145.01 of the codified ordinances, removing the residency requirement for the Safety Service Director position. The previous ordinance required the Safety Service Director to move into town within 6 months of hire if they are not already a resident. To remove this is now consistent with the law. I also cleaned up the language to make it more gender neutral. I would recommend its passage as well.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe-I received the statement from Star Ohio. The Village's balance at the end of January totaled \$11,378,409.83. Copies will be in Council's mailboxes.

Safety Service Director, Mr. Paul- I've made a few updates and changes to help with cyber insurance. We now have cloud service for all off site storage, storage of our backups, separate hard drives, which will contain backups and will be stored in our vault. Kemper Ave. to Church St. will undergo resurfacing beginning April of 2024. This project should take a week, weather permitting. You will be notified of the parking situation and construction in the coming weeks. At the committee of the whole meeting, we should discuss Microsoft Office and pricing. Our account will expire in June. I will try to have all the facts and figures by that meeting. To My Community: Nothing like talking to a teenager, or an adult for that matter, and getting hit with an "I don't care." You get the feeling that you walked into a closed plate glass door. You end up thinking, how can you not care? Don't give up, caring. It is an important part of our system and our way of life. Share it with solutions, no matter what the problem is. Sharing is caring and that creates harmony, peace and love.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- 2023 St. Bernard tax returns are due April 15, 2024. Our credit card machine has been down for over a week now. We do have an alternative system in place and can process your credit card payments. There are many people in St. Bernard who received an assessment for their 2022 taxes. Those assessments will become final on March 28, 2024, and will be sent to the OAG for collection. You will not be able to have your 2022 TAX return reassessed after March 27, 2024. Please do not ignore the assessment letter. Please contact me or Sharon at the tax office regarding any tax questions you may have. Do not rely on information on social media, as most of it is incorrect. The Supreme Court of Ohio issued its ruling in the case of Schaad v. Alder, an impactful case out of Cincinnati that was challenging the emergency authority granted by the Legislature allowing municipalities to temporarily collect municipal income taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic (in 2020) from people working from home but living outside the municipality. In a 5-2 decision, the Supreme Court found the state had a legitimate interest in ensuring that municipal revenues remained stable during the pandemic when employees were ordered to work from home, and it was therefore constitutional. So, in lemans terms, I do not think the village is going to have to refund all this tax requests.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Absent.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- I'd like to start off by expressing my condolences to the families of Bill Helton, who was a current service department employee and a good friend of mine, and Joe Dornbush, who was retired service department employee, both of whom have recently passed away and ask everyone to keep them and their families in your prayers. For the month of January 2024, the service department reported the following 15 dump trucks placed at residences, 17 dumpsters placed at residences, 275 special pickups at residences, 150.07 tons of garbage taken to the landfill, 25.82 tons of recycling material collected, and 7,940 lbs. of scrap metal collected. The Service Department is also extending the application deadline for seasonal summer employment. If you have any questions, please reach out to either City Hall at 513-242-7770 or the Service Department at 513-242-0086. I would also like to announce the coming events being held in the village. A Clean Up Saint Bernard Day on Sunday April 28th, and a community shred day on May 18th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. More information about each event will come out in the weeks leading up to them. With that being said, the Service Committee will be meeting Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers to have a general discussion on upcoming events and grants. I encourage all those interested to attend.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- This month we didn't have a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to report what I learned while attending the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting Monday, February 19th. The County Recorder Speaker Bureau gave a presentation of some services they provide, and one of them was about someone stealing the title to their house. I was pleased to hear the recorder's office offers a free program to protect yourself from this happening. You can go online and register to receive a notification if there is any activity on your title. I did that today and it took about two minutes. Also, the office can record the DD Form 214 discharge for veterans and if they ever need a copy of this form, they said they can give it to a veteran in minutes, not the weeks that the VA might take. They also talked about deeds that you can transfer automatically upon your death. Said it could save thousands of dollars in probate costs. And you just need to call them for details. The county recorders phone number is area code 513-946-4600.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Tonight I do not have a report, but I would like to offer my condolences to the Haarman family, the Dornbusch family and the Helton family.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- On February 13th we had a laws, contracts and claims meeting. On the agenda were short- and long-term rental programs, front yard gardens/trees and weeds ordinance, golf cart community research and attendance policy for council members. All of those were discussed in detail, and the minutes will be coming out shortly. It's about an hour and a half long meeting that was really well attended. The laws, contracts and claims committee is working on language that we will then bring to the next meeting and debate and allow citizens to come and discuss. The next meeting is set for March 19th at 7:00 PM and Council chambers.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- The village is in need of lifeguards for the upcoming summer season at the Aquatic Center. The pay starts at \$12.50 an hour and increases \$1.00 every season that you cover, and the village will reimburse you for your certification class if interested. Please contact the Recreation department at Recreation@cityofsaintbernard.org. The Saint Bernard Garden Club is hosting a free seed starting event on Saturday, March 16th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in

Centennial Hall. Soil, seeds, and pots will be provided. Please mark your calendars for a great chance to learn. The best techniques for starting seeds for Your gardening If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for the class, please contact Ken Price at Kennethprice915@yahoo.com.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I would like to send my condolences to the Dornbusch, Helton and Haarman families. I'd like to add Tim and Mary Sherock who lost daughter suddenly last week in a car wreck. I also attended the meeting headed by Mr. Schildmeyer, which, like he said, very well attended. I learned a few things and I have a little input on how we could make some changes for the better.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Minutes were submitted February 21st and I have no communications this evening.

ORDINANCE 3 2024

AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 3 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Greg Lair, 111 Albert Street- Just kind of curious how are you guys going to reimburse the fees you have charged so far? I was charged twice already before his ordinance was passed.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- There is no revision for it. This is something that we have been doing and continuing for 6 years now.

Greg Lair, 111 Albert Street- But it was not passed for 2024 yet. It should have been done in December.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- The initial agreement that was signed years ago was passed in March. So, since we're still in February, we're still within that time frame. It was March of 2018.

Greg Lair, 111 Albert Street- Each of the ordinances are dated for that year. It does not have a March-to-March date on it.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- It is a year continual renewal. We would have to give notice that we are discontinuing it by the renewal anniversary date each year. We may pass it at a different time, but we pass it every year to renew, which is March.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 3 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Before we read Ordinance 4 2024, what is council's pleasure on version A or B?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I mean, maybe more of a confirmation than anything. So, ordinance #4 A is still compliant with the Ohio Revised Code, correct, Valerie? Does either of these change what we are doing now?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Yes, because of the change in the law. We were previously posting in the 5 locations. The law now states we only need to post using social media. They are allowing three ways to do it. One was the way we were doing it with the public bulletins. Another is newspapers and the last is social media via village website and Facebook page. This is compliant with the new revised Ohio law.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Do you need our recommendations?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I need direction to go with A or B?

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to proceed with Ordinance 4 2024 version A. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 04, 2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 123.01(b) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 4 2024 version A. Motion passes 7-0.

Greg Lair, 111 Abert Street- I really just have a suggestion. If you are going to go with this, the current website isn't really great in terms of allowing people to subscribe to that news blog which has all the posts of the notices in it, and I might suggest that we have, I don't know, his best nature integrated solutions add that functionality so that residents can actually subscribe to get an e-mail notification. Especially for those that don't use social media. I found out that within the past year, from January to July, we only had 200 visitors that actually came back to the website more than once. That was from Google analytics. That is not a very big population. Might be good to make it available and we can publicize it in the newsletter.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Tommy, who would that fall under so we can look into that?

Safety Service Director, Mr. Paul- I believe it would be the management team for the website. We can look into it and see if it is feasible and worth it. The amount of people that are using it is out of our control. This may not be the solution. People just might not be looking.

Greg Lair, 111 Abert Street- If they could subscribe to it they could get an email sent to them when there is something new posted. That alleviates them having to come to the website to see it. It is fairly easy to implement. I have done it on other sites.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 4 2024 version A. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 5, 2024

AMENDING SECTION 145.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD REGARDING THE POSITION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 5 2024 version A. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Stuchell, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 5 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 6, 2024

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 6 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 6 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I would like to be put on the committee of the whole agenda to discuss the possibility of moving the employees that get paid monthly to the middle of the month instead of the first of the month. I am hoping that might help the absentee discussion that laws, contracts and claims is discussing right now.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Anyone is the audience wishing to address council this evening?

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave.- We lost Bill Helton who worked at the service department, I read it on Facebook.

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- Yes. The mayor spoke about that earlier. They will have a last ride for him and a Celebration of Life at the Eagles on March 9th from 4pm to 10pm.

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- I had emailed all the council members and some members of the administration and e-mail about energy aggregation with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Energy aggregation allows the village to enter into an agreement with a specific supplier for energy, and often it is used to lower rates for residents as well as lock in a supplier that is environmentally sustainable. So, you could specify all solar power, for example. I had notified Mr. Edwards of this, and he asked me to bring it to the entire council so that you could decide which committee initially handles this. But I think that this will require the Public Improvements Committee and laws, contracts and claims to work with the administration. The reason for that is because the administration will have to register with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in order to be eligible for this program, and in addition, this will have to go on a ballot if you decide to move forward with it. I have some requests for the safety committee. I wanted to ask about resuming block watch programming, discussing current safety issues like car thefts and break-ins, discussing current and future budgeting needs for the departments, moving toward decriminalization of cannabis, and education programs surrounding safety issues and prevention. Working committees only work if they work.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Ms. Klungle if you want to give me a list of those, I will go over them. As far as Block Watch, I've already been discussing that with the mayor and he is

doing some things with the police chief, I believe. And as soon as we figure out what's going on with Black Watch, we will let the residents know. Thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Nicole, I was not in the email, which is fine, but is that what you're talking about is that when somebody comes and tries to sell us our gas and electric and we sign up with the provider?

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Totally different. No, do not do that with those people. Also, residents would have the option to opt out of the program.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, to excuse the absent member.
Motion passes 7-0.

Next Committee of the Whole will be held Thursday, March 14th at 7:00pm in council chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.