

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING

June 27th, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on June 27th, 2024, in Council Chambers.

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

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

Hamilton County Commissioner, Ms. Driehaus- Thank you for the opportunity to present to the council. I'm very grateful for that. Some of you were here when I was here last in 2017, when I was first elected to the County Commission. I did what I was calling my 49 in 49. So there are 49 jurisdictions in Hamilton County. I tried to go visit in 49 days. It did not work out. It was more like 49 weeks because come to find out, everybody meets at the same time. And so, I had to really juggle around a little bit. But the idea was to introduce myself, get to know other people, hang out a little bit and listen to the issues. I was just trying to start to create a partnership in a relationship amongst county officials and what we do and local elected officials throughout the county to get more familiar with what you do and more familiar with you as individuals. And so, at that time I didn't have a lot to report on the county because I was brand new. I'm happy to report now, though, that we have a structurally balanced budget at the county. I could not have said that in 2017. I can say it now. I'm delighted to report it. And the reason that matters is because when we are structurally balanced, we are able to recruit and retain employees at the county. Those are people like the deputies and the jail. It's the folks that work in the courthouse. It's the individuals that work for JFS and keep kids safely in their homes or remove those children if need be. It's the call takers at 911. I mean these are really important positions and I know your residents are counting on us to do a good job of it. And so, we took that seriously back when I got elected, which was a number of years ago now. And we have been able to do that, pay people a better salary, give them raises every year and create some policies like our parental leave policy that again has helped us recruit people into the organization. Happy to report that at that time I also gave you my Menu of Opportunity which I have given to you. Again, we have expanded the menu since I was here last. And so, it gives you an idea of some of the partnership opportunities between local jurisdictions in the county. You all are taking advantage of some of these already. It's interesting to go to all the communities throughout the county because all of them behave very differently. But these are the options that are available among some of them. And then my contact information along with my colleagues is on the back. So, if you ever need to contact me, please feel free. So just very quickly related to some of the work on the of the county. I'm happy to answer questions if you have them related to some of the big stuff like Convention Center and. The Bengals lease and you know, some of the fun stuff that we get to deal with in the county. But I really wanted to talk about the partnership piece because Saint Bernard and I don't know who writes the grants for your organization, but you have done a pretty nice job of accessing dollars that have been made available at the county level. And so I just wanted to list those out and kudos to you. The partnership only works when we're both

interacting with one another, right? So, in 21, 22 and 23, Saint Bernard received the Residential Recycling Incentive Program dollars and then you got one of the Community Revitalization Grants. So, this project or this program was started three years ago. Again, it was only because we had some increased revenue that we could not only stabilize the county workforce, but also do a little bit by way of economic development. So, we have set aside, it's about \$2.5 million. It fluctuates a little bit to catalyze projects in communities that are already underway. You're already thinking about it. You all know better than I do what are catalytic projects in Saint Bernard. And so, we made this grant available. It's hundreds of thousands of dollars. So, it's a substantial amount of money. It's a very competitive grant. And so, if you got one, you made a good case for the project that you got it for. And I'm happy to announce that you all had one in 2023. It was the demolition to allow for the new residential and commercial use or commercial space and that was \$339,000. So, all told you received \$376,000 from the county and you're partnering us with us in different ways fire hydrant maintenance and some other things. So, I didn't time it like this but. It so happens that a couple of days ago we had a meeting related to our next round of Community Revitalization Grants. It's an annual grant and you all are on the list. We had quite a few projects. We were way over subscribed for this grant round. This is only a recommendation that has not been voted on by the county commissioners. Going to be very clear, but you had a project that was recommended by staff for the Saint Bernard Square predevelopment cost for you asked for \$300,000, the recommendation was \$200,000. So, I mean better than nothing. It is really interesting because not many jurisdictions are getting these grants year after year, but you are one of them. So, I do want to thank you for the partnership, applaud what you're doing here in Saint Bernard. We are happy to be in partnership with you to catalyze some of the economic development projects that you have going on here. So that is really my message. Thank you for the partnership. And one other thing let me touch on because I think it'll be important to your organization. We are taking public safety very seriously as you may know at the county. And so, I don't know if any of you have been to the 911 Center. I mean these are really critical call takers that take those emergency calls when people are having their very bad day. If you have ever been to that facility, it's rather dark. The technology is not great, which isn't great for that kind of call center. There was no break room for these individuals who were taking very stressful calls and oftentimes needed to just step back for a minute and take a breath after they had received one of these calls, and then we've got our EMA or Emergency Management Agency, which I'm sure you're all familiar with, that is located in Price Hill and they're all growing their space. And so, we are renovating another space and putting EMA and the 911 call center together. There is a lot of synergy between these groups. And so, it's not a new build, it's just a renovation of a building, but it's bigger. The technology is better, and it really does dignify the work of the call takers. It's very hard to recruit these folks because it's a high stress job. And we heard from Andy Knapp, our Director, part of it was the facility. And so, we took that to heart and are putting them in a much lighter facility with a break room, a place to eat lunch, a place to decompress. And so, I think it will help us as we continue to try to recruit folks not only into the 911 call center but also, into the Emergency Management Agency. Something I'm really proud of and something I thought you might be interested in. So that is all I have. Thank you for the opportunity. Again, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have if they're easy enough, but I'm really grateful for the opportunity to speak to the group. Thank you.

Public Hearing for 2025 Budget begins.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- This is the public hearing for the 2025 Tax budget of the Village of Saint Bernard. This budget will be submitted to Hamilton County for review and action. The 2025 tax budget reflects the Villages General Fund which is the basic operation fund of the Village. The estimated revenue for 2025 is as following. For The Village's, earned income tax \$13 million, expected general fund receipts from property taxes \$1,000,100, for a total tax receipts of \$14,000,100. Estimated revenue from state and county from revenue sharing and certain taxes and permits \$221,200. Other expected revenue for the Village of Saint Bernard comes from charges for services for \$675,000, fines, local licenses and permits \$150,000. And miscellaneous revenues \$500,000 This brings an estimated general fund revenue for 2025 to \$15,646,200. The expenditure estimated for 2025 is as follows within each class of expenditures in the tax budget. Estimated cost or itemized for personnel, contractual services, supplies and materials and equipment or capital outlay. The classifications are as follows: Security of persons and properties which would be our police and fire departments, the budget will be \$5,844,550. For public health services, which is what we do through the county, it is \$6,400 Leisure time Activities, which is our Parks and Recreation, \$338,500. Basic utility services, which is our service department, \$1,640,850. Transportation, which is our Dial a Ride, senior transportation is \$37,000 and general government \$2,665,550. This brings with the transfer to the general fund from the other funds which for example are our streets fund, swimming pool, debt service, master plan and employee health plan is \$4,774,984 Total expected general fund expenditures for 2025 is \$15,307,834, which gives us a surplus of \$338,366. This will be submitted to the county tonight and then they will have a meeting and if and when they approve it, I will set up a resolution which is usually in September or October for council to vote on. Are there any questions?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- The only question I have is I know in the Finance Committee we've been talking about new equipment that we need. Is that part of that?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- No, this is for 2025 and it is just a projected budget. Basically, it is to get us thinking about the budget for 2025, next year. The council wants to see what we think we are going to project as our 2025 budget.

Public Hearing is concluded.

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

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President, I would first like to start by thanking Tom Paul for his service to the village as a Safety Service Director. Tom has been serving in this capacity and is in his ninth year serving the citizens of Saint Bernard. He was originally appointed by Mayor John Estep and continued during my tenure as mayor. Tom has been a loyal and dedicated part of my administration and I truly appreciate his dedication and friendship. He will be missed, but he has left a good foundation for Tim Wordman to assume the reins. As you have all seen, there is major work is being performed on Vine Street and Bertus. Full depth repairs

will continue through July 1st. Milling on Bertus will be done the week of July 8th and milling on Vine will be done the week of July 15th along with the paving on Bertus and then paving on Vine July 15th through 22nd. Curb repair on Bertus will also start immediately and then the final round of work on Vine will be the thermoplastic crosswalks and speed cushions near the St. Clement crosswalk will be installed. Upcoming work on other streets is being scheduled which could carry over into 2025. Thank you to everyone that showed up to our first concert of the season last Saturday. Tonyard rocked out in the pavilion. And they were great. We look forward to having them back in the future. Do not miss the upcoming Independence Day celebration of the village on July 6th at Vine Street Park. We will start the afternoon with open pickleball play from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and we'll then have open cornhole and fowling the remainder of the day and that is open to anyone who wishes to play. The Remains will be playing from 6:00pm to 9:45pm leading up to the much-anticipated fireworks. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President. I also wanted to thank Tommy for our nine years working together. I will miss our morning chats. As part of my report, the first thing I wanted to just, whoops, sorry to just announce you might be seeing something different in your paychecks starting in July. I do not know what the effect of this is going to be, but the state of Ohio has changed their tax tables. It might not be much, but some of my employees, if they see it a penny different, are going to ask why. So that's what I made the changes, and they won't be till the next paycheck, but it doesn't look like it's going to be a big thing. But I did want everybody to know that I also emailed out ordinance 18 2024 with some changes in it today to council. What this ordinance is for it is a transfer of funds \$700,000 from the General fund, with \$100,000 going to the Master Plan account and \$600,000 going to the Capital Improvement Cash account. It also has additional appropriations to the following General Fund 1-2-O-8C City Hall maintenance. And this is for \$10,000. It is for to clean out the air ducts, especially since the school was demolished there was a lot of stuff in the air. We want to get the ducts cleaned out 0-1-8-8-2 Safety Center for \$50,000. The majority of this is for mold restoration. As you have known in the past, we've had plenty of problems with the roof leaking down there and now we have mold. 0-5-M-P-9 streets and sewers for \$128,000. This is for a reimbursement grant which we received with the county. So, I have to go ahead and pay the for the road work and then the county reimburses me. So, it's just appropriating the money which will then go back into the general fund. Are there any questions? That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you. You have before you tonight Ordinance 19 2024 which came out of Laws, Contracts and Claims. It is the ordinance regarding council person attendance at meetings, salary reduction, vacation of office and declaring an emergency. I was asked at the last meeting at the Committee of the Whole, to have it go regular courses opposed to emergency. So that is the only change that you would have received. We also have before you ordinance 20 2024 also is coming out of Laws, Contracts and Claims amending Section 905.03 regarding weed and litter and it deals with noxious weeds and invasive species. One small change that I made, I had inadvertently forgotten to add the words and invasive species. If you look at 905.03 second sentence it says all prohibited noxious weeds and I added and invasive species shall be prohibited so that it's consistent with F2 where also named both of those. At the last Committee of the Whole, Mr. Schildmeyer reminded me that we discussed at the Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting the possibility for having a hearing from someone who

would normally keep their yard neat and tidy, but then may be unable to do so, would we still be charging them. It would not apply to our decision to remediate the situation if the owner does not do it. I have prepared changes to 905.05 in ordinance 21 2024 to address that issue. I did add under Section B Appeal of 905.05. That is now all new language of the proposed procedure we came up with. We had a brief discussion at Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting so I think this covers what I heard. Section C is now that old Section B. Section D Collection was the current Section C. The issue arose because we have a citizen who normally keeps his yard tidy but due to health concerns, he has been unable to continue the upkeep. That is what generated this discussion. The Village can go in and remediate, but at a lesser charge. Any questions?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I know in committee we talked about the appeal process going to the new Safety Service Director position. Are we still thinking that?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Well my concern was since the Safety Service Director is kind of the person who is in charge of this anyway and designating it, I'm not sure how much an appeal to that same person would really constitute an appeal. I made the appeal to Council, but I can go back and change it if you would like.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I am happy with the way you have it now.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- In Section 905.04, there is a triple negative, which makes this not forceable. Does that need to be fixed with this?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I can do that separately and have that back for you at the next Committee of the Whole. That would be easier than amending this one.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- So, 20 and 21 have no emergency clause then?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- It should be 19, 20 and 21. Because we want them to go regular course so the public would have an opportunity to discuss.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Thank you, Mr. President. This evening, we have our statement from STAR Ohio. The funds at the state level as of the end of May totaled \$12,291,382. And that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Ms. Paul- This is my last meeting so meeting those of you who know me realize that I'm not political. I did these assignments out of caring for the village is I have worked with Jonathan Stuchell these past years. I've realized that he truly cares for the village, not just as a whole, but as the individuals who make up this place of ours. He listens to everyone. He has proven his work. John, please don't feel uncomfortable because I truly feel this way. I leave you with a lot of construction going on, but to me that is a sign of improvements and that will continue. I am sure the time has come for me to step aside. I am in my 9th year here at City Hall. As you know council passed an ordinance for my replacement. I prolonged my leaving for this position until my replacement could be found. This person will start July the 1st 2024. I could not be more at ease with the person who has been chosen to further the village progress. My only wishful thought is that he will learn to care for the village and it's people with the utmost respect and sincerity. My last reminder for you is that 4th of July falls on a Thursday, which means that your trash pickup will be on Wednesday the 3rd of July. And now to My

Community: Over the years I would always address my community with heartfelt lessons, humor, and emotional outlooks. I leave you with the summation of these lessons. You must find laughter every day to grow well balanced. You must address four major aspects, intellectual, emotional, spiritual. And physical. You may not realize you are already doing this daily, but bringing a conscious effort to these aspects keeps depression at Bay. Yes, I am giggling myself. That physical can be tricky. Try lying down twice. OK, you must sit quietly and find peace. You certainly must declutter the mind. Be absolute that the pathway from heart to mind is unimpeded. There are a lot of things that are truly not overwhelmingly important, even under the most stressful situations. Search for humor. If nothing else, it will take your mind off the pressing issues. At last, I close with this. I have four years as a hospital corpsman in the Navy. As a firefighter paramedic in the village of Saint Bernard, I served 31 years and finally ending my career in public service with eight years, six months as Director of Public Safety and Service. This is all helping people. What have I learned? The happiest people are the ones who accept and do not judge, but rather live life. Simply said they just love. That concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent. Clerk of Council reading Tax report.

May 2024 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for May 2024: \$630,924.
- May 2024 is down -6.69% or \$45,268 from May 2023.
- Refunds for May: \$152,827.60
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$432.12.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$87,421.36.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President. The next Finance Committee Meeting has been scheduled for July 2nd at 6PM in Council Chambers. We will be discussing financing options for the much-needed Firetruck purchase as well as street improvement projects. I would also like to remind folks of July's Community Connect on July 11th from 5:30-6:30 in the Lower Level of City Hall. I encourage attendees to also stay for the Committee of the Whole Meeting to follow at 7PM. Additionally, I'm happy to share that I was invited by Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin to join him and other LGBTQIA+ leaders from around the state to discuss various strategies to uplift our LGBTQIA+ residents, such as resource guidance and Non-Discrimination Ordinances. It was a privilege to meet with these leaders and I'm excited for the positive impact these conversations will bring around the state. That concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President, I have the waste collection fees for the month of May 2024. \$25,356.68 was remitted to the village. The Service Department will be closed on Thursday, July 4th and observance of Independence Day. Trash collection for that week will be as followed: Trash collection for Monday and Tuesday will remain unchanged. Trash and

recycling collection for Thursday will be changed to Wednesday. Then trash and recycling collection for Friday will remain unchanged. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President, there was no need for a public improvement committee meeting this month, but I would like to say how enjoyable and informative the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grow program was this month. Kay Phillips presented a fascinating program on the old Railroad Ave. neighborhood. I've lived in Saint Bernard my whole life but had no idea the history of that area. Thank you, Kay, for your efforts preserving our rich history. The Ludlow Grove Meeting is every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the main hall of the Municipal Building. I urge everyone to attend. Also, our Public Library is inviting everyone to attend a community plant swap at the library on Saturday, July 6th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Bring any plans, cuttings, plant tools, old pod seats, bulbs to swap with for something new. Also, our library wants to be a bigger resource to our community, any ideas for new programs that would benefit our citizens, please contact me or Kate Krause at the library. She is very helpful and has volunteered to speak at our council meeting to inform our citizens of every resource our library has available. And I would also like to thank Tommy Paul for his service to our community. Everybody loves Tommy and he has been a pleasure to be around the short time that I've been on council, so thank you, Mr. President. That concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have this Saint Bernard Fire Department report for the month of May 2024. Fire incidents, structure fire, seven other fires, 2 vehicle fires, 1 auto accident, 9 hazmat incidents, service calls 2 fire alarms 12, EMS assistance 15 for a total of 49. Fire mutual aid given Elmwood Place 3. Norwood 2. Lockland 1. Woodlawn 1, Mount Healthy 1 and Delhi 1. Mutual aid received from Norwood 1, Reading 1, Lockland 1 and Wyoming 1, EMS incidence transports 54, non-transports 47, for a total of 101. Mutual aid given Norwood 3, Green Township 1, mutual aid received Lockland 1. Also, all units completed the critical decision-making training, engineer operations and auto extradition training as well. And I too want to thank Tommy Paul for everything that he has done for the city and things that he has helped me with over the years and just being a friend. I really appreciate everything Tommy. Thank you.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- The next Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting has been set for the 24th of July at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. On the agenda will be short- and long-term rental programs. I appreciate everybody's work on the three that we have up right now. It took a while to get to this point. I would also like to just finish by thanking Tommy for what I didn't realize was 40 years basically of service. That is amazing. I have enjoyed the last four or five working with you, Tommy. I appreciate it. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Marketing, Mr. Ray Culbertson- Thanks Mr. President, please mark your calendars for the following village events. Wednesday, July 3rd will be adult night at the Aquatic Center. Saturday, July 20th there will be a concert in the Pavilion featuring Dangerous Jim and the Slims. Friday July 26th will be family night at the Aquatic Center. Well, the next We Thrive meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 9th at 7:00 PM in the main level of the Municipal Building. And like everyone else, I'd like to thank Tom Paul for all of his 40 plus years of service to the village. And I'd also like to thank Denise Driehaus for taking the time to come out and speak with us tonight. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- Thank you, Mr. President. No report for business and industry, but I did attend the luncheon today for a prosecutor, Melissa Powers. I was very impressed with some of the initiatives she's implemented and some of the hardships she's had to overcome. And again, thank you, Ms. Driehaus, for attending tonight. That concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you, Mr. President, minutes were submitted Tuesday the 25th, and I have no communications this evening.

Clerk of Council corrected the general fund account number on Ordinance 18 2024 to show as O-12-O-8C.

ORDINANCE NO. 18, 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 the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 18 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 18 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 19 2024

AMENDING SECTION 121.01 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING COUNCIL PERSON ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, SALARY REDUCTION, VACATION OF OFFICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to allow Ordinance 19 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 20 2024

AMENDING SECTION 905.03 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING WEED AND LITTER REMOVAL.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to allow Ordinance 20 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Wanted to thank the laws, contracts, and claims committee and council in general for putting this ordinance forward and not making me plow under my front yard. Thank you. I'm also wondering since this will go regular course, is this the ordinance with the triple negative?

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- No, that will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I think what we discussed will have to be an ordinance to fix the triple negative because it is not in either of these sections.

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Can it be amended after first reading?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- It is not actually in either of these ordinances. It will be a new ordinance amending section 905.04.

ORDINANCE 21 2024

AMENDING SECTION 905.05 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING WEED AND LITTER REMOVAL.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to allow Ordinance 21 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

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

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I have been getting a lot of concern from residents about the.... I guess the vagueness of our, uh, what is the word I'm looking for? In a sense, people are driving down the streets blaring music to the point where it's shaking windows, a noise ordinance. That's what I'm trying to say. I was wondering if it would be best just to go through law director or if we should assign it to the laws, contracts and claims committee to investigate. But I think we could use something to address this.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- We actually have a loud noise ordinance, and it is posted on some of the poles. So, it would be a question of enforcement.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- There's a bit of vagueness to it because it details certain times of day, so I think it would be worth investigating, making it a bit more specific.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I would be happy to add it to the agenda for the next laws, contracts and claims meeting. We will add the triple negative to the agenda also for section 905.04.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I added that to the agenda for next committee of the whole meeting.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- This evening we have Mr. Tim Wordman in attendance, who is the new Safety and Service Director. So, you have a face with the name. We look forward to having him here.

Next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Thursday, July 11th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

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

Meeting is adjourned.