

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 14th, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on November 14th, 2024, in Council Chambers.

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

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- A thank you to all the veterans who have served and who continue to serve our country. Congratulations to the Roger Bacon's girls volleyball team on their state championship and good luck to Saint Bernard's football team who plays I believe tomorrow night up north so good luck to them.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the written minutes of the October 24th council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

A presentation was given by Mr. Larry Philips regarding America 250 Ohio in 2026.

Historical Society Member, Larry Philips- I'm really here to just kind of be a conduit to share with you what I learned at the meeting for America 250 Ohio. Many of you may have already known that this activity was going on. Unfortunately for us and the Historical Society that was really the first heads up that we had about this. Evidently the Ohio legislature, under the prompting of the federal government, has commissioned an activity called America 250 Ohio and it's really to celebrate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the birth of our country. So, they have put together a program under which communities, towns, villages, townships, any kind of a municipal activity can gain a designation as an America 250 community. They are putting a little bit of skin in the game and that they are going to have the opportunity to file for grants. I think the \$5,000 is the top amount but one of the stipulations to file for the grant is the community has got to file and be approved by the end of this year. What I would like to do is just encourage this body to take advantage of this because I think from my perspective and from the view of the Historical Society, this is a great activity over the next two years to really help sell Saint Bernard as a village and promote all the activities that you have going on anyway. It will provide a really a big tent for various other organizations this isn't just for the Historical Society I'm here really to advocate for every civic organization and in the village as well as businesses. Everybody can participate in this. The other thing that I liked about it was once the you have secured the designation there's no strings attached. We can basically do whatever the team that is identified chooses to do. The state will provide certain kinds of help as you saw in the presentation. They have some guidelines that we can use or not use. They are encouraging us to think about these kinds of things. That us all I have today. I am here just asking you to evaluate the information and hopefully you will see it as a benefit to the community and to the 250th birthday of our country. Any questions?

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I think this is a really cool opportunity and I understand the urgency behind it too especially if we need to formally approve some sort of resolution to be registered. Am I understanding correctly that this was presented to the Historical Society by someone and then you're relaying the information that they shared?

Historical Society Member, Larry Philips- We had our typical meeting for the Historical Society and during the Sears Homes subject, we had a number of visitors from other historical societies. I became aware of this from a member of the Cheviot Historical Society. Cheviot had just gotten their proclamation signed. She informed me of the presentation given by the America 250 Ohio state representative, so I went to the presentation. So, I wanted to share with you what I learned.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- Ok thank you. I wanted to see if you had any contact information so we can reach out regarding the grants. I know sometimes there are hoops to jump through to get some grants, but I do see here there is a website listed so we can reach out to.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I was going to get with the City Clerk next week to at least register and get the first part done since this does have to be in by the end of the year. Also, registration for the grants needs to be completed by January 31st 2025. Next item on the agenda, moving the December council meeting to Thursday the 19th of December, if everyone is OK with that. We also have Ordinance 30 2024 and Ordinance 31 2024 to discuss.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- I had presented the ordinance and the attachment to each of the ordinances #30 and 31. I hope you've had a chance to look at them. Ordinance 30 deals with the adoption of a chapter dealing with registration of vacant residential, commercial and industrial buildings. The Tax Administrator has been dealing with a number of vacant properties with some being vacant for years. This ordinance would be a way to help make sure we have access to the buildings, for safety sake. Also, it may prompt the property owner to actually do something with the property so it won't lay fallow. Ordinance 31 deals with amending the property maintenance code and the short-term rentals like AirBnB types. We do have a handful of them. Again, this deals with the safety issues and it's a way to have access to the property for safety reasons. There is a registration process for that also. We have had an existing program in place for these, but it has fallen out of date in the last couple years. This ordinance is just updating it and adding the short-term rentals. I'd like to ask that these ordinances are put on the table for the next council meeting. I am also working on getting the trash ordinance to you. I should have that for the December COW meeting. Lastly, I am happy to contact the City of Cheviot to find out what they did for, by way of resolution, for the America 250 Ohio program. That concludes my report.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- We noticed in the new section of 1335.02 under section k- Motor Vehicles- number one, residential areas, I guess in the past you have not been allowed to park any commercial vehicles on the street on this one, it says you can park one on your property and/on the street. That might change our ordinance on commercial vehicles on the street.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- So just to simplify this, the new attachment given to us last meeting, is the one saying you can park a commercial vehicle on your property or the street. The

original attachment says commercial vehicles must be parked in a parking lot. They are conflicting.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- I understand some of the temporary residential short-term properties, let's just call them the Airbnb properties just for ease of discussion, I understand that a couple of them have been rented by for example when they've had construction crews coming into the town or they've had like Duke Energy crews coming into town to deal with some situations. Those people will come in and they'll have those kinds of vehicles in the area and because they're bringing the work vehicles here, the idea was that they could park one there and the rest of them would have to be on the municipal lot. If that's not clear enough, I can certainly make that change and I'll submit something to you this weekend or Monday. They can either be parked in the driveway or in a municipal parking lot, not on the street.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- We have a parking ordinance in effect already that states you cannot park a commercial vehicle on the street.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- So just to be clear, Valerie, we are going to take the parking on the street out, correct?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Yes, I will make that correction.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I am looking at Chapter 1340.05 under Registration Fees, and the registration fees and the penalties for not paying them make sense to me, but then I get to section B and it says the 1st annual fee shall be paid at the time of the vacant property is registered. If the fee is not paid the owner shall be subject to the application penalties in 1340.99. I then skip to that and it says that it's \$100, I would be hesitant to approve this if the fee for not doing it is less than the fee for registering.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- That \$100 fee would be in addition to the registration fee. I can certainly clarify that also.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Ordinance 30 2024 and Ordinance 31 2024 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 33 2024 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President, I would like to start by giving a huge congratulations to St. Bernard's own Roger Bacon Spartans Girls Volleyball team for winning the OHSAA Division 4 State Title with a straight set victory over Alliance Marlington. Head Coach Alyssa Flading, Class of 2005 became the first Roger Bacon alum to win a state championship as a player in 2004 and a coach in 2024. Way to go! On Tuesday, November 26th at 2 pm, I will be proclaiming it Roger Bacon Girls Volleyball Day in the Village of St. Bernard.

Congratulations to the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Titans Football team for making it to the OHSAA Division 6 playoffs as they are moving on to the 3rd round against Coldwater on Friday. These young men were named to the 2024 Southwest Ohio All-District Team: Offensive Player of the Year — Demico Harris. 1st Team: Demico Harris, Damien Dawson, Aaron Turner, James Hall, and Jah'mir Neal. 2nd Team: Lucas Cannady and Mason Stone. Division 6 Coach of the Year goes to Head Coach Kyle Hogan. Also, a congratulations goes out the St. Bernard Girls Kickers Soccer Team for being the SAY East Cincinnati Champions. Way to go girls! Mark your calendars for the Village of St. Bernard Holiday Celebration which includes the Will Light for Food Contest and Light Up St. Bernard on Saturday, December 7th from 5 to 9 pm right here at the municipal complex. The Will Light for Food Contest directly benefits the St. Clement Food Pantry. Participating homes will be officially judged on Saturday, December 7th from 6 to 8:30 pm. Spectators are asked to place canned goods in the bins outside of their favorite decorated home. It is strongly encouraged that you make your way around on foot but for those who wish, the village will have trollies available to take you around to see the lights but they will not be stopping to allow you to drop canned goods. First place will be awarded to the home with the most canned goods at 8:30 pm. If you wish to enter your home in the contest an email with your name, address, and phone number must be received by November 20th. The email address is for questions, please call Iris Wainscott at 513-375-3208. Saturday, December 7th starts with Santa and Mrs. Claus spreading their cheer around the village from 10 am to 1 pm or whenever we finish. Make sure to use the Santa Tracker so you can see where Santa and Mrs. Claus are. Please go to either the village or Recreation Dept. Facebook page or the village website where the link will be available Saturday morning at 9:45a. We will be following the route below, so please share the link when it goes live with your friends and family so that you can be ready when Santa and Mrs. Claus pull up to your house. Listen for the siren, as we will be making plenty of noise so that you can hear us coming! If by chance we miss you, please advance to another location or call Mayor Stuchell at 513.543.3780 and we will circle back to you. Holiday Fresh Market starting at 5p on Washington Ave. Tree-lighting ceremony at City Hall at 6p with the Delta Kings, Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus (to get your picture taken, bring your own camera). Ride the trolleys and participate in the Village PAC Will Light for Food Contest. The Petting Zoo, Cookies and hot chocolate in the main hall and the Queen City Hi-Railer train display. Light Up St. Bernard kits will be available for pickup on the following dates/times: Monday, December 2, and Wednesday, December 4, from 5 to 8p in the Recreation Office and Monday, December 2, through Friday, December 6, at City Hall during normal business hours, 9a-5pm. Also, the CIC's next meeting has been moved to Tuesday November 19th at 6:00 PM here in council chambers. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Before I start my report, I would like to thank everyone for reaching out and the condolences and prayers at the unexpected death of my father. My family really appreciate it and thank you to the mayor for really helping us out during this difficult time. I wanted to announce that we received \$10,507.53 in an opioid settlement and it will be coming in two different checks. I'm assuming they're just going to be coming in slowly because there's

many different settlements. We also received extra property tax this year. There was a surplus so we received an extra 10% for a total of \$10,653.26. I am currently working on the year end appropriations and I will have those for the committee of the whole in December. I would like to have an ordinance placed on the table for the next council meeting. I will not be here at the next meeting, so if you have questions, please ask me tonight. The ordinance will be requesting a transfer of \$350,000.00 from general fund transfer out with \$50,000.00 going into the C-9 Trust Fund account and \$300,000.00 going into the general bond cash account. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place the appropriation ordinance to transfer funds on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- report given previously.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- This evening I have the statement for the Star Ohio account. The balance at the end of October for our total investments were \$11,552,759.27. Copies have been provided to council. Also, just so everyone is aware, I did provide notice to the Board of Elections and the mayor that I will be resigning my position as treasurer. My last meeting will be on the December 12th meeting. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- I have spent some time reviewing recurring bills and one of our significant expenditures here in the village is electricity for our village facilities. One option that I found for reducing the utility expenditures to take part in the Center for Local Government Electric Purchasing Consortium. For those of you that are not familiar with this, we are a member of this organization it's a group consisting of member communities in the Greater Cincinnati region that share resources and information to improve community service. As mentioned, one of the services they provide is an electric purchasing consortium, I have asked for an analysis of the Village's electric bills and results of that analysis indicate that the village could save approximately \$20,000 annually by purchasing our electricity through the consortium. I'm going to be asking that council consider a resolution at the next meeting authorizing me to enter into an agreement with the center for local governance broker to purchase power through the regiment. That concludes me report.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place a resolution on the table for Center for Local Government Electric Purchasing Consortium for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent, no report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- The November Finance Committee Meeting has been canceled. Instead, The December Finance Committee Meeting has been moved up to Tuesday, December 3rd at 6PM in the Lower Level of City Hall to discuss the 2025 Budget. Thank you to those who

attended November's Community Connect at Five Star Mediterranean. We had a great discussion about our Community Improvement Corporation, the amazing work from our economic development partner, Alloy Development, and other ways to support local small businesses. Lastly, I want to thank Chad Shaffer from Duke Energy for meeting with me to discuss Duke's boundaries of involvement regarding energy aggregation. My next steps include identifying an intermediary to aid in identifying optimal energy suppliers and coordinating the possibility of energy aggregation with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, otherwise known as PUCO. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department has the following updates for Village residents:

Park Restroom Winterization: Winterization of park restrooms is underway, with all restrooms closing by the end of this week, except those within the pavilion.

Vine Street Temporary Closure: Vine Street will be closed between Railroad Avenue and Spring Grove Avenue in both directions due to the delivery and installation of HVAC equipment at P&G. The scheduled closure dates and times are as follows: Saturday, November 23rd: 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM and Monday, November 25th to Wednesday, November 27th: 7:00 AM (Monday) to 9:00 PM (Wednesday). Detour signs will be posted on Railroad Avenue, Beech Street, and Spring Grove Avenue to assist drivers with alternate routes. If inclement weather occurs, the closure will be rescheduled for Saturday, November 29th and Sunday, November 30th. That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- No report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- At this time there are no agenda items for the laws contract and claims meeting. We haven't set the next meeting. We'll set the next meeting if any items come up. That concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- The next Historical Society program will be on Monday November 18th at 7:00 PM. This program will be a history of Emmanuel Church of Christ and take place at the church, which is located at 210 Jefferson Ave. Help the society by becoming a member and enjoying the programs they present. Annual memberships to the Historical Society are as follows \$25 for a family \$15.00 for an adult \$10.00 for seniors \$50.00 for businesses and \$500.00 for a lifetime membership. I would like to congratulate the Roger Bacon girls' volleyball team and the St. Bernard boys' football team on the season and the championship. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I recently visited the new jewelry store DF Designs located at 4711 Vine Street. I met with the owner, Derek Fisher. I was impressed with what they're doing over there. I told him about our council meetings and I invited him to attend the next one so I guess at this time I'd like to ask Mr. president to put him on the agenda for next Thursday I believe it's 7:00 PM if that's OK. That concludes my report.

No audience participation.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I do you intend to have, before Mr. Ungruhe's final meeting, to have an individual selected to fill that role. So, if there is anyone that's interested, we've already actually received one resume for an interested party, but please feel free to contact me also and the administrative team will review the applicants and we will be making an appointment to fill the position of treasurer. So, if anyone has any questions or concerns, I know that I forwarded this to Mr. Werdmann and Valerie to review but again the ORC does allow for the mayor to fill that position.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Who is in charge of the signs coming in and out of the village? I know we have had some new state championships and I have been saying the signs are decrepit, especially the sign at Tennessee and Ross. This the way into our city and they look cruddy. Do we do something about that? I have asked several times previously and I have not seen anything done. Or is this something the schools provide to us?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I did take care of the one sign that you asked us to take care of. The Welcome to St. Bernard sign has been replaced. That's the one you were complaining about. We took care of those.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- It is a St. Bernard school sign.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So, the Roger Bacon signs are going to be redone. We are also adding the new state champion signs. So, the old signs will be redone and the new sign will be added. We are getting the schools to do the others. The churches have also been able to get some of theirs done also.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- I know what sign you are talking about because I have noticed it as well. My thought was it needs to be switched out also. I will figure out who's responsible for updating those signs and replacing those. I agree, it is not a very good-looking sign.

Next Council Meeting will be held Thursday, November 21st at 7:00pm in Council Chambers due to Thanksgiving the following week

On the table will be Ordinances 31, 33, and 34 along with one Resolution.

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

Meeting is adjourned.