

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
November 21st, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on November 21st, 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.

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

Mr. Estep introduced Mr. Derek Fisher, owner of DF Designs, a new jeweler in St. Bernard.

DF Designs, Mr. Fischer- Hello St. Bernard and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all tonight. My name is Derek Fisher and I'm a jeweler. I am extremely proud to announce that DF Designs Jewelry and Repair is open for business. I was born and raised in Cincinnati OH and I grew up by LaSalle high school and graduated from there in 2018. I was exposed to the jewelry trade in September of 2020 when I was instantly enamored with the idea of being able to create works of art with precious metals and gemstones and since then I have taken courses at New Approach School for Jewelers in Nashville TN. I've worked diligently to hone my craft over the past four years. I do everything from basic repairs to hand making jewelry from scratch. This includes chain repair, ring resizing, prong repair, cleaning and polishing, soldering, welding watch battery replacement, loose stone tightening, gemstone replacement, bridal jewelry, antique jewelry restoration and custom jewelry. Anything you can dream; I can bring to life. Opening my own store has been a dream come true and I'm so appreciative of the warm welcome the great people of Saint Bernard have given me. Through honesty and transparency, I promise to provide high quality craftsmanship and expertise to all my customers. While I have this stage, I would like to thank my parents Dan and Eileen Fisher for none of this would be possible without them DF designs is located at 4711 Vine Street with a municipal parking lot right next door, I'm open 11:00 to 7:00 Monday through Friday and I look forward to serving Saint Bernard's jewelry needs for hopefully years to come. Any questions? Thank you for having me!

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. As a reminder, the Village Christmas Celebration, Light Up St. Bernard will be Saturday, December 7th from 5 to 9pm which will consist of the holiday fresh markets starting at 5pm on Washington Ave., the tree lighting ceremony at City Hall at 6pm with the Delta Kings, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, make sure you bring your own camera. You can also ride on the trollies and participate in the PAC's

will light for food contest, petting zoo, cookies and hot chocolate and coffee in the main hall with the Queen City High Railer Trains in the Teen Center and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be riding around that morning, handing out treats to all the kids. The Will Light For Food Contest benefits the St. Clemont Food Pantry and the participating homes will be judges that day from 6 to 8:30pm. Spectators are asked to place canned goods in the bins outside their favorite decorated home. I encourage you make your way around town on foot but those who wish the village will have trolleys available to take you around to see the lights. The Light Up Saint Bernard kits will be available for pick up on the following dates and times: Monday December 2nd and Wednesday December 4th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM in the recreation office and on Monday December 2nd through Friday December 6th in City Hall during normal business hours from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Those who are willing to help set up for Light Up Saint Bernard are welcome to meet us on Saturday December 7th at the recreation office at 1:00 PM. We will be placing luminaries on Vine Street for the event. Any questions or if you're able to help, it would be appreciated. You can reach me directly at 513-543-3780. Again, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be travelling around the village on Saturday the 7th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will have the Santa Tracker ready for you so you'll be able to track Santa and Mrs. Claus. Please go to either the recreation Facebook page or the Village website or Facebook page where the link will be available Saturday morning at 9:45 AM. Congratulations goes to Sergeant Robert Bass from the Saint Bernard Police Department on his recent promotion. We'll also be having a formal swearing in ceremony for all members of the police and fire department that have not had the opportunity to have it done in the presence of council and the community. This will be done on December 19th council meeting at approximately 7:30pm, There'll be a reception immediately following the council meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend. The CIC had a presentation from Civitas Development Group this week for the Saint Bernard Square redevelopment project. Updated architecture and plans were presented and momentum is building on this project. Stay tuned for further information. The CIC is moving their December meeting to Tuesday the 17th at 6:00 PM in council chambers. Also, if there's anyone that is interested in the position of his Treasurer, please contact me directly before the end of November. Lastly, a reminder that on Tuesday November 26th at 2:00 PM I will be proclaiming it Roger Bacon girls' volleyball day in the Village of Saint Bernard. Thank you that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Absent.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you, you have before you tonight 3 ordinances for consideration that I prepared. Ordinance 30 2024, which is adopting a new chapter to title 3- chapter 1340 which involves the registration of vacant properties. I did make the change circulated through here this week that you requested at section 1340.99 verifying that any penalty is rendered as an addition to having to also make the payment that's required or the repairs that are required. The other ordinance you have before you with an attached exhibit A is Ordinance 31 2024, which is changes to the chapter 1335 the property maintenance code. There were a number of changes throughout but the majority of them deal with the short-term rental property issues. I also made the change that was requested and discussed at the last COW meeting. Then you also have before you Ordinance 35 2024, which would be authorizing the solid waste collection fee for next. That concludes my report thank you.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Thank you Mr. President. I've had several people reach out since I announced my resignation last week and just wanted to assure everyone that myself and my family are fine. The situation is caused by family circumstances that changed earlier this year with the passing of my father-in-law, I will forever be grateful for the trust and confidence the residents have placed in me and in their treasurer now for these last 11 years. It's been an honor serve in this role and I will be taking many wonderful memories with me of my hometown and everyone here. That's all I have this evening thank you.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- Thank you, I wanted to address a couple of pieces of legislation that were before council tonight. First with regard to Resolution 8 2024, just for information this is a standard resolution at the village passes annually. It's a requirement for the application received of Ohio Public Works Commission grant funds. The village applies for these funds for various projects and the final decision with regard to this grant program is due to be announced on December 6th. If we are awarded grant funding, we'll need to file a copy of this resolution with OWC before the end of the year which is why I'm asking that this be put on the table tonight. Next with regards to Ordinance 35 2024, just some background, this is a renewal of the residential trash fee that's currently in place and it's billed and collected monthly by Greater Cincinnati Water Works pursuant to a contract between the village and Greater Cincinnati Water Works. This ordinance was not an increase in the residential trash collection rate. It remains at \$15.00 a month pursuant to this legislation. I would note that while the fees are not increasing pursuant to this legislation, the fees that we pay to Rumpke for the disposal of waste in the landfill are increasing. They'll increase approximately 4% in calendar year 2025 from \$38 per ton to \$39.50 per ton, so basically \$1.50 increase per ton. That concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- October 2024 end of month receipts:

Tax collections for October 2024: \$979,399.

October 2024 is down -0.86 % or \$8,488 from October 2023.

Refunds for October: -\$26,836.42

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$341.58.

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$11,369.48.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President. As announced last week, the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at 6PM in the Lower Level of City Hall to discuss the 2025 budget. The December Community Connect has been rescheduled for Tuesday, December 10th in the Lower Level of City Hall from 6-7PM. As always, all who live or work in the Village are encouraged to attend. It was brought to my attention that our St. Bernard Elmwood Place school district ranked last place in the county for youth voter registration at just over 16% of 18-year-olds per research conducted by the Civics Center. I would like to thank School Board Member Becky Blevins and the rest of our St. Bernard Elmwood Place School Board for welcoming me to speak at their meeting earlier this week about how we can improve this number. Their support - of which I am very appreciative - pushes this initiative a critical step closer to leading the county in youth voter registration. I also had the chance to connect with a representative from the Energy Alliance to discuss our options moving forward towards energy aggregation. Energy Alliance acts as a consultant throughout the energy supplier bidding process

and assists Council in arranging the needed ballot measure to launch the program. Our conversation answered all of my questions including: ● Does energy aggregation save our residents and business owners money on their utility bills? Yes, they've seen this success in various communities of similar sizes to our Village in Southwest Ohio. ● Is there a monetary cost to the Village to onboard an energy aggregation program? No, the reduced per Kilowatt cost supplements the minimal fee charged by the Energy Alliance. ● Will our administration be responsible for the upkeep of the list of participants? No, that is a service provided by Energy Alliance at no cost to the Village. Given that this is a minimal-effort, high-reward initiative for our administration and residents alike, I'm excited to continue this pursuit in the New Year. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. For the month of October 2024, \$25,576.84 was the waste collection fees was remitted to the village for the month of October 2024. The service department completed the following: 38 dump trucks placed at residence 22 dumpsters placed at residence 302 special pickups for residents 175.2 tons of garbage taken to the Rumpke landfill 24.1 tons of recycling materials were recycled 6 car batteries recycled and 4,119 lbs. of scrap metal and 199 lbs. of aluminum cans recycled. The service department would like to share the following updates with residents: trash collection for the week of Thanksgiving will be regular trash collection on Monday and Tuesday, recycling collection for the entire village will take place on Wednesday, please plan accordingly. There will be no trash or recycling collection on Thursday or Friday. Leaf collection will be extended until December 20th to accommodate residents' whose trees have not yet dropped all their leaves. Additionally, the old deteriorated Saint Bernard Board of Education sign at the bottom of Chalet Drive was removed promptly by the service department after it was reported. Lastly, I'd like to personally remind everyone if you see something in a village that needs attention, please don't hesitate and wait to report it to the service department. They cannot address the issue unless they know about it. You can contact either Safety Service Director Tim Werdmann at 513-242-7770 or the service department at 513-242-0086. You're helping keeping our community in great shape which is always appreciated. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting but I would like to report on a few things. First, I'd like to say how interesting the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society program was this month. The subject was the founding of the in the history of the Emmanuel Church of Christ. How earlier their building was on Clay Street and moved to the present location about 100 years ago. The program also covered the founding and growth of the St. Clement Church in our community. It's amazing how much history we have in our community. As always, I would like to encourage everyone to attend these interesting and well researched programs. These programs usually are held in the main hall that municipal building at 7:00 PM on the third Monday of the month. I would also like to encourage all senior citizens of Saint Bernard to attend the Saint Bernard senior citizens meeting every Wednesday. The meeting starts around 11:00am and usually ends at around 4:00 PM. You can stay as long as you like and come and go as you please. Come for the fellowship, the stories, the snacks and of course the bingo. All Saint Bernard seniors are welcome. Lastly, I was reminded that our Public Library will have a club for senior citizens starting Saturday December 14th 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The club will feature snacks, a chance for

fellowship and all seniors encouraged to attend. Thank you, Mr. president, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. I have the police and the fire department report for October. Starting with the fire department report for October 2024. Fire incidents: structure fire six other fires one vehicle fires one auto accidents 7 hazmat incidents 3 service calls 1 fire alarm 6 Co alarms 3 EMS assists 16 for a total of 44 incidents. The mutual aid given: Elmwood Place 9 Norwood 2 Deer Park 2. Mutual aid received: one from Cincinnati. EMS incidents: transports 54 non transports 55 for a total of 99 incidents. EMS mutual aid given: Norwood 3 Elmwood 4 Cincinnati 1 and no mutual aid received. Hydrant flow testing and inspections were completed. Fire department also assisted with senior's annual grill out. All units toward BAS plant participated in active shooter training with the PD and at P&G. Hamilton County USAR is conducting structural collapse and shoring training at the old First State Bank and Skyline building in the square Thursday and Friday. That completes the fire report. The police report I have the police activity for the month of October: 563 total contacts involving 763 calls for service there were an additional 427 other services details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for services included: 39 total criminal offences resulting in 85 criminal arrests 68 traffic citations as well as 97 traffic warnings. All of these traffic contacts 30 were for speeding violations there were four arrests for OVI also. They responded to 21 accidents two of which included injuries. They also responded to 21 requests for mutual aid. If you are interested in proudly showing your support for your Police Department yard signs are available for pick up at the safety center. Just call 513-242-2727 if you are interested and they will have them ready for you in the lobby. That concludes my report.

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

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- No report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- Just a reminder, our annual Christmas for needy children will be December 12th at the St. Bernard Eagles. It is from 6:30 to 11:00pm. It is \$20.00 for admission which includes bringing a new unwrapped toy for a child. That will get you beer and food all night. If you cannot attend but would like to drop off a toy, please drop them off at our house at 120 Delamr Ave. Also, I'd like to thank John Ungruhe and we appreciate it you have been here all those years. That concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. Minutes for the last meeting were submitted Wednesday the 20th and I have no communications this evening.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to place Resolutions 7 & 8 2024, and Ordinance 35 2024, on the table for this evening. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR RETAIL ELECTRICITY WITH A COMPETITIVE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER THROUGH THE CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICITY CONSORTIUM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Resolution 6 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OF OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Resolution 7 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 8 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Resolution 8 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 30 2024

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING TITLE 3 CHAPTER 1340 RESIGNATION OF VACANT RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SAINT BERNARD, ST. BERNARD, OHIO.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to allow Ordinance 30 2024 to go regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 31 2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1335, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF SAINT BERNARD, OHIO.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to allow Ordinance 31 2024 to go regular course. Motion passes 7-0

ORDINANCE NO. 33, 2024
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN
ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL
OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 33 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 33 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 34, 2024
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
APPORPRIA TIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 34 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 34 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 35 2024
AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 35 2024.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I would prefer this ordinance to go regular course and have at least 2 readings in. I understand this needs to be passed before the calendar year but given the level of public interest of a similar ordinance had at the beginning of the year, I think we owe it to folks to do a first reading tonight and a second reading in December and suspend the third reading in December.

President o Council, Mr. Asbach- Are there any other remarks? If not, that will require Mr. Schildmeyer and Mr. Estep to rescind their motion to suspend the 2nd and 3rd readings.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Is there any downside from a timing stand point for us?

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- I have been informed that we need to have this passed by the end of the year so as long as it passes in December, we should be fine. I think doing the process Mr. Moreton suggested is appropriate.

Mr. Schildmeyer elected to rescind his motion to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 35 2024.

Mr. Estep elected to rescind his motion to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 35 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to allow Ordinance 35 2024 to go regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to move the December 26th Council meeting to December 19th at 7:00pm. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business? If not, does anyone in the audience wish to address council?

No audience participation.

Next Committee of the Whole will be held Thursday, December 12th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adjourn. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.