

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 6, 2009**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, August 6, 2009 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Curtis Walden – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Mrs. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Meier and Mr. Zix.

Mrs. Brickweg made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Ms. Hausfeld seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – The Mayor’s Monthly Court Report Receipts for June 2009: Mayor’s Court fines were \$4,038.00, and costs of \$416.00. Parking fines of \$549.00. Mayor’s Court Computerization of \$156.00 and Clerk of Court Computerization was \$520.00. Bond Forfeiture of \$50.00. Total to the City was \$5,729.00. State fees: Victims of Crime \$540.00 and General Revenue \$915.00. Indigent Driver’s Alcohol Treatment Fund of \$60.00, Indigent Defense Support Fund of \$200.00 and the Drug Law Enforcement Fund of \$140.00. Total to State was \$1,855.00. Total Disbursements were \$7,584.00. \$166.50 being held in account for the Indigent Alcohol Treatment Fund until further notice from the State.

Tomorrow, Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> is the last concert in the park. “Dangerous Jim and the Slims” will be playing from 7 – 10 pm. Admission to the pool is free, so bring your friends and family and enjoy an evening of fun and relaxation.

The first meeting was held this week for the Vine Street Streetscapes Committee. I want to thank everyone that was able to attend and I am very impressed with the suggestions, comments and questions that were discussed. The Committee developed a 4 phase approach to address Vine Street; 1) Roger Bacon to Church Street 2) Church to Washington 3) Washington to Oak Street and 4) Roger Bacon to Mitchell. I strongly believe we are making great strides and moving this community in the right direction. The committee members include; Jenifer Vatter of JMA, Al Kanters, Gerry Wiedmann, Phil Stegman, Peggy Brickweg, Kevin Meier, Andrea Queale of Farmer’s Insurance Group, George Stegeman of Dairy Queen, Gabe Sanders (resident) and myself. The committee will be meeting again on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm in the lower level conference room.

Next Tuesday a Public Hearing for the Bertus Street Park improvement will be held in the main level of the Municipal Building from 6-8pm. I invite all residents to attend and see the initial proposal for the area. We welcome your questions and comments and I look forward to the meeting being well attended.

Also, the August Dept. Head Meeting was held this week and I will be working with each dept. to create a task force to address specific areas of concern in the community. Each dept. would identify and bring to my attention any situation in

the community that is causing alarm before it would have a chance to escalate. St. Bernard is a quiet, close family oriented community and I plan to do everything I can to keep it that way.

The Cincinnati Museum Center is continuing its *Free Friday's* program. August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup> are the final dates for this year. *Free Friday's* allows the public go visit all three museums at the Museum Center from 4 pm to 8 pm free of charge.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The July Auditor's report for the cash balances in our various funds and the report for the expenditures from those funds are prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report was also distributed to Council and the Treasurer.

Expenditures for the month of July: \$ 1,423,842.31

Expenditures for the year thru July 31<sup>st</sup>: \$ 9,037,903.77

Before council tonight is Resolution No. 14, 2009 and Ordinance Nos. 32 & 33, 2009.

Resolution No. 14 provides for payments of invoices for legal services. First to Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford, LLC for a Civil Service Commission hearing in the amount of \$5,579.05 and second to Millikin and Fitton Law Firm for the C-9 Trust Fund for \$3,642. The services were incurred prior to the Auditor's certification that sufficient appropriations were available.

Ordinance No. 32, 2009 establishes a new line item in the Master Plan Fund entitled Vine St. Streetscape Project. This Ordinance also provides additional appropriations: \$10,000 to Phone Service, \$30,000 to Firemen Overtime, \$225,754.28 to Streets & Sewers Projects, and \$35,000 to the Vine St. Streetscape Project. The Ordinance also provides for appropriation adjustments: \$1,197.39 to Fire Dept. Furniture & Fixtures line item from Fire Dept. Bldg. Maintenance line item \$2,000 from Fire Dept. Tuition & Training to its Wellness Program and \$2,000 from the Recreation Dept. Umpires line item to the Soccer line item.

Ordinance No. 33, 2009 provides for an appropriation adjustment of \$24,000 to Tax Dept. Temporary Employees line item from the Deputy Tax Commissioner line item.

All items were discussed at the COW and additional details can be found in that report.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – Absent.

TREASURER, Mr. Sipe –

Receipts for the month of July \$ 682,267.16

Receipts for the year through July 31<sup>st</sup> \$ 6,815,964.26

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Chatman – (read by Mayor Burkhardt) Rodney apologizes for his absence.

Please support the Dog Days of St. Bernard event on Saturday Aug. 15 from 10 am to 2:00 pm. You don't have to be a dog owner to enjoy the event but if you own a dog, please bring him or her along and join us for a parade led by Schroeder, the St. Bernard mascot to kick off the event.

If you and your dog would like to participate in the parade, please meet at Vine Street Park Pool at 9:45 that morning. Dress the dogs up for the owner look-alike contest or Best in Show contests for prizes and trophies.

In addition there will be demonstrations by;

A Police K9 unit

A bed bug detection dog

Kuliga Dog Trainer Inc. with their obstacle course  
Circle Tail Inc, Dogs that assist people with special physical needs  
Specialty dog vendors  
SPCA mobile adoption AND

Councilperson Don Tobergte taking a bite from the police K9

REMINDER: Block Watch meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 here in Council Chambers. However our next meeting will feature an opportunity for everyone to interact with Detective Matheson and Cincinnati Homicide Detectives in solving a staged homicide. The program is called "Murder She Wrote".

Here's a chance to put your best CSI skills to work and help solve this murder, while learning and having fun at the same time.

Special thanks to everyone who assisted with the double fatality auto accident on Mitchell Ave. last month. Police, Fire and Service once again came together and worked in an exemplary fashion as the spotlight was cast upon us during this very unfortunate event. My personal condolences go out to the family and friends of both women who lost their lives in this accident.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – Tonight there are two Ordinances that I would like to have passed. Ordinance No. 30 is to enter into a contract with Adleta Construction for concrete work and the additional appropriation for \$225,754.28. So people know why this is an additional appropriation, Cincinnati Water Works gave the City the money to do the Rose Hill & Church Street Project and we the City will pay the contractor for the work. At the end of the year this will make our budget look like we are over spending but we are not.

Gerry and I will be meeting with the City of Cincinnati to talk about the Mitchell Ave. project on Tuesday. This job will be done in 2010. This will raise the budget for next year to around \$80,000 or \$120,000.00 depending on the match we go with if we get the SCIP Grant.

Duke Energy came back with the verdict on the Alpine Street poles. They will replace the one pole that fell and paint all the bad ones.

I'm sorry but I will not be here at the next COW meeting due to a family camp out. I will be on vacation only Thursday and Friday.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – Sorry I'm late. My family had a surprise celebration tonight. I didn't know we were going out to dinner.

I want to thank Greg Zix for the information he gave me concerning the census. It has been very helpful.

Also, I urge Council to pass Ordinance No. 33, 2009 this evening.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – No report.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – During the month of July, officers were involved in 1081 calls for service. Of those calls, officers responded to 36 accident reports and took 67 offense reports. Of those offenses, 25 have been cleared. Officers responded to 137 suspicious activity runs. Officers made 118 misdemeanor arrests along with 8 arrests for a felony. Officers responded to 41 parking complaints and issued 10 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 64 traffic citations and 82 warnings for traffic violations. Officers responded to 15 Domestic Disputes. Officers responded to 15 theft reports including 4 reports of thefts from vehicles and one vehicle theft.

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – The Service Dept. report for July 2009 is as follows: There were 28 trucks and 15 dumpsters placed at residences along with 168 special pickups. 211 tons of garbage made its way to the landfill. There was 16 tons of recycling material, 8 tons of cardboard, 7260 pounds of scrap metal, along with 25 appliances. The City received \$430.80 for recycling in June.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – The next meeting of the Public Improvements Committee will be on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 in Council Chambers.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – As part of my report tonight I want to give a plug about a service a local restaurant is doing. A lot of people may know but I did not know. My grandmother turned 99 years old last Monday and all she wanted was Skyline for her birthday so we actually had catering from the local Skyline which was very reasonable, Todd did a terrific job, I want to thank him, my grandma was thrilled to death and I just never realized that they do catering and he pretty much came, did it all and took it away and it was perfect so if anybody is looking for that, I'd like to recommend that.

I'd also like to report that I attended the First Suburbs meeting and I will prepare a more detailed report later but the two mail items that were discussed was the new type of recycle bins. You might have read about them with all the controversy with the City of Cincinnati. But Montgomery is doing a program right now and we went into detail about that and what other municipalities wanted to get these larger bins.

Kim Fender was there also from the library explaining to everybody that the library is going to be going out for a levy to support the library. She actually said and I'm still not sure and she said that we would get together and meet but she said we're still on to build a new library and I find that very hard to believe but she said that she had proof where they sent it to the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati and she's going to gather all the information for me so when I get that I told Bill I would give it to him. I even told her I didn't believe we were going to get it but she wants to prove me wrong. I will report back when I get that information. Finally, the last two weeks I have been getting a lot of phone calls about, I guess people were out walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them or letting their dogs run not on leashes. A few residents, one on Baker, one over on Moeller have asked me to just remind people that you have to keep your dogs on leashes and you have to clean up after them.

Mr. Peck – I'll just add to that. I've looked it up, it is a Nuisance Ordinance on that. Your dog is considered a nuisance if you don't clean it up.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – I have the report for the month of July and the year to date for the Dial-A-Ride passenger numbers. For July the numbers were 2,349 and year to date 14,942. For medical transports for the month of July were 29 and total to date 179.

Mrs. Brickweg – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE July 30, 2009**

#### **NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:**

1. Approved the minutes of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting.
2. Jennifer Vatter from JMA explained the Vine Streetscape Committee. This committee will start the process for the redevelopment of Vine Street. They will first, define what area on Vine Street to be included for the streetscape. They will next develop recommendations such as landscape, sidewalks, parking, benches, underground utilities, etc. The final stage will be to layout a funding plan for the proposed projects. When all of this is complete the committee will present their report to council. These three stages should be complete by the end of this year. The following people will be on the committee:

Gabe Sanders – Citizen  
Andrea Quall – State Farm (business owner)  
George Stegman – Dairy Queen (business owner)  
Phil Stegman – Service Director  
Al Kanters – Economic Developer  
Gerry Weidman – Building and Development  
Bill Burkhardt – Mayor  
Peggy Brickweg – Council  
Kevin Meier – Council

Jennifer then explained that JMA will facilitate the meetings and bring in professionals, such as landscape architects to work with. JMA will charge \$25,000.00 for this but that amount will then be deducted from the engineering costs. Council agreed to spend \$10,000.00 to do a traffic study on the intersection of Vine and Washington to see various ideas on how to incorporate this intersection into the new streetscape. Council voted 6-0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting to create a new line and put \$35,000.00 in the line item.

3. Fire Chief Scherpenberg informed council that his department had run out of overtime and that the amount of overtime that Walt reported was in the line items on July 2<sup>nd</sup> was not correct because he forgot to take into account the amount of comp time liability that was included in line item. He reported that because the line item was empty the department had to run below the six men minimum. Steve stated that he provided council with a written report on June 25<sup>th</sup> explaining the situation and it was discussed at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting. He again informed council that the main reason the department has used all the overtime allowed in the budget is because he had a fire fighter out for six months due to an injury he suffered at a house fire last September. Steve stated he needs to know what council's wishes are regarding manning levels. After a long discussion regarding workman's comp, sick days, Kelly Days, layoffs, contract negotiations council voted Council voted 6-0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting to put \$30,000.00 in the overtime line item which more than likely gets them to the end of the year.
4. The Fire Department Union Local 450 requested to be on the agenda to discuss manning levels at the fire house. Union President, Dave Strotman read the following letter which was previously provided to council and the administration.

July 28, 2009

St. Bernard City Council

St. Bernard firefighters Local 450 would like to express our concern over the direction the city has taken in regards to staffing our department and the tone and tenor of the discussions on council floor in regards to funding our department.

As everyone should be aware, we had a fireman off on Workers Compensation for the first 6 months of this year. Because firefighting is an inherently dangerous job, it was stated the Chief should have budgeted for these types of circumstances. The chief's budget request was arbitrarily cut for this fiscal year without due regard for the very same circumstances he is supposed to budget against.

The Chief gave an accurate representation of the funding needed to maintain our minimum staffing levels and the reasons why we are in need of additional dollars. The city officials, who admitted they have not read the very report they requested from our chief concerning overtime usage, continue to opine and question the whys and wherefores of the overtime expenditures.

The fact of the matter is this department was cut by three firefighters, one per shift, and has been operating with less staffing for four years. The city made a decision to save dollars through layoffs. This decision was made knowing full well our workload had not been reduced. Today we are forced to cover the City Of St. Bernard with only 5 personnel to respond to emergency situations. This is inherently unsafe not only to our members, but to the citizens and industry which expect to be receiving services from a professional and staffed fire dept. Due to our lack of staffing, we were unable to fulfill our automatic/mutual aid agreements with other Hamilton Co. communities. These same communities we are depending upon when our city is in time of need. When we are staffed to our minimum of 6 personnel, we do respond and fulfill our obligation, but without funding, our station then sits without a fire crew to meet our communities emergencies.

It is an unfortunate fact people in our business get injured on the job and are often exposed to all types of sickness and disease from the very people we strive to help. It's a shame, for seemingly political aim, people overlook this fact. You are making decisions on funding this department in such a way as to put firefighters, citizens and industry at risk.

We refuse to accept that getting injured or sick should in any way endanger the remaining firefighters from safely performing their duties for the City of St. Bernard Fire dept. in whatever we are called upon to do.

Sincerely,

David Strotman

President St. Bernard firefighters Local 450

Dave then spoke to council stating he wanted to speak from his heart. Dave said that he is extremely hurt and upset at the way some on council and the administration speak about the Fire Department. He stated that he takes the harsh words to heart. He explained that having public officials state that he is sleeping on the job, deeply offends him. He loves his job and has never complained about what he does. He stated that the department gave up items in their new contract to receive the additional Kelly Day which brings fire fighters weekly hours to 49 from 52.9 hours a week. Dave also expressed the huge importance it is to have two paramedics on duty at all times. If the department only had one then they could not provide life saving actions such as IV, paddles, etc. He stated that if someone is having a heart attack or stroke every minute counts and if they don't have the man power it could cause a life or death situation.

Dave also asked some council members how they expect the Chief to be right on target when reporting on possible overtime when the previous administration was off 40% on their projections which caused the layoffs. He asked how anyone could be off by almost 4 million dollars. Dave spoke about officials saying people were abusing sick days. Dave stated that if they have proof anyone is doing that they should be fired!

Bob Schrenk spoke to council and stated that in his 31 years as a fire fighter the last 5 years he has seen stuff he never thought would happen in St. Bernard. He stated that the City is currently trying to do more jobs with fewer men which makes it unsafe for the citizens, businesses and the fire fighters. He suggested that council needs to look at the manning levels in other cities and that 7 men compared to 6 does make a huge difference.

Mike Haarmann spoke to council and stated that having a 3 men engine company is very unsafe and because they only had a three man engine company on Wednesday it caused the City to not be able to participate with mutual manning. The mutual aid agreement states an engine company must consist of the minimum of four. Mike also stated that when council is considering the funding and how many fire fighters they want to fund for they need to remember that St. Bernard is 1.1 mile block, with a major interstate, major rail road, industries, businesses and residents.

Cindi asked Mike what his thoughts were on hiring part time volunteers to replace full time fire fighters that would be retiring. Cindi stated they use a lot of part time employees in her line of work. Mike stated that St. Bernard would actually be moving backwards compared to all the fire departments. Fire departments using part time volunteer employees are striving to go to all full time employees for many reasons. He stated that the Fire Chief prepared a report which he gave to council which outlined that it cost more to hire, train, and provide gear for part time fire fighters. He also stated that part time fire fights would most likely leave the minute they are offered a full time job somewhere else and take with them the training the City paid for.

Dave informed council that President Obama created the Safer Grants Act which is to help local governments hire additional employees to increase manning levels. Dave stated he thinks St. Bernard would be a great candidate for the grants because of the laid off employees. He stated that this money will pay for the employee's salary and it decreases with each year and that with other fire fighters retiring in the future this could help with the manning issues now. Patty requested that the manning levels and grant ideas be placed in the Safety Committee to review.

## **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:**

### **Mayor, Bill Burkhardt:**

1. Bill announced that the Vine Streetscape Committee will be meeting Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
2. Bill announced that he will hold a Public Meeting, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to present and discuss plans for Bertus Street Park.
3. Bill asked council for a resolution naming the members of the VEBA Trust Committee. The members representing the Police Department are Bob Heller and Mike Simo, representing the Fire Department are Carl Deutch and Bob Schrenk, and representing the Service Department are Dave Fozzulus and Jerry Shipp. Council voted 6-0 to place a resolution on the table for the next council meeting.
4. Bill announced that Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> will be last adult swim night at the pool from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. DJ Helton will be providing the music and there will be an end of the year grill out for the ball leagues.

Don Tobergte asked Bill if Civil Service will be giving a Fire Department test since the list is expired. Bill will get with Civil Service to start the process going.

### **Auditor, Walt St. Clair:**

1. Walt asked council for an ordinance to authorize and direct the auditor to provide additional appropriations and to adjust certain appropriations of the following:

#### Additional:

1. \$10,000.00 to phone services – the reason for this is because the City had two services up at the same time while changing the systems and because the 2009 budget was already \$5000.00 less than what was required.
2. \$225,754.28 to Streets & Sewers Projects – this is money that the City received from the Water Works to pay for the contractor for the work on the Rosehill and Church St. project.
3. \$30,000 to the Fire Dept. overtime line item
4. \$35,000 to a new line item in the Master Plan for Vine Streetscape

#### Adjustments:

1. \$1,197.39 from the Fire Dept. Building Maintenance to their Furniture and Fixtures for new carpet.
2. \$2000.00 from the Fire Dept. Training and Tuition to the Wellness Program to pay for additional medicals and SCBA fittings.
3. \$2000.00 from the Recreation Dept. umpires to soccer

Council voted 6-0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.

2. Walt asked council for a "Then and Now" resolution to pay \$3,642.00 to Millikin & Fitton Law Firm for their work on the C-9 Trust Fund and \$5579.05 to Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford for their work on the Civil Service Hearing. Council voted 6-0 to place a resolution on the table for the next council meeting.

### **Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus:**

1. Kate informed council that she received documentation from The Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding new permit (D3A – to extend issued permit privileges from 1 am to 2:30 am) for Vanzandt, Inc. dba Bull Pen located at 4529 Vine St. Other bars in the City currently are permitted to stay open until 2:30 AM. Rodney and Police Chief Moeller stated they did not have a problem with this. Council voted 6 -0 to extend the closing time to 2:30 AM.
2. Kate asked council for an ordinance to update the City's codified ordinances. Council voted 6-0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.

**Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:**

1. Rodney asked anyone that is interested in working on an Employee Appreciation Banquet to contact him.
2. Rodney announced that the City's "Dog Days of Summer" event will take place, Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pavilion. There will be a dog parade/walk/run starting at 9:00 AM. During the event there will be vendors and demonstrations such as Police Canine work, dog training, etc.
3. Rodney reminded everyone that the Block Watch Program meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. At the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting they will have a "Murder She Wrote" program, where a "pretend" murder will take place and a "real" Homicide Detective will show how he solves the crime.
4. Rodney is working on a future "Night Out" for St. Bernard to show how the City is actively working to fight crime.

**Service Director, Phil Stegman:** Phil was absent so Bill read his report.

1. Phil asked for an ordinance to enter into a contract with Adleta Construction for the repair of certain sidewalks at the cost of \$14,582.00. Adleta's bid came in much lower than the others because they are currently working in the City so the manpower and equipment is currently here. Council voted 6-0 to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting.
2. Phil informed the residents that sidewalks will be painted on Ross Ave. and that one set of the white lines will be removed.

**Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser:** Ed provided council with a current earned income report. He also asked council to allow him to use \$24,000.00 from the deputy tax commissioner line item to pay for part time staffing. He currently is using one part time employee to work on document imaging, scanning tax information into the new software.

Kevin stated that the City needs to come to resolution regarding the possibility of hiring a deputy tax commissioner. Kate stated she has the information she needs and she will meet with Civil Service to discuss it and report to council at the next COW. Cindi stated she is not in favor of hiring any new employees for the Tax Department and they should be able to operate with two full time employees. Ed explained that he needs additional personnel in order to get everything done and that it is the Tax Department that brings in most of the revenue that the City operates with. Council voted 5-1 (Cindi – no) to place \$24,000.00 in an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting

**Treasurer, Jamie Sipe:** Jamie reported that he and Walt St. Clair attended a conference last week regarding Federal Stimulus money. They learned what information will be required from the City regarding obtaining stimulus money.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck:** Mike reported that his committee is reviewing information regarding eviction and all house clean out to possibly prepare a future ordinance. He

also provided his legal knowledge to assist Rodney with the Albert Street problems. Rodney will e-mail Mike regarding what is happening.

**Public Improvements, Kevin Meier:** Kevin reported that his committee will be meeting Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM (before the council meeting) to discuss ways to improve the housing stock.

**Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg:** Peggy had requested that Robert Evans, the City's Health Inspector and Kate Bedinghaus attend the meeting to discuss an ongoing problem at the Alpine Heights Condos. Peggy stated that she sent council and the administration e-mails regarding the tenant that had been cited by the City and that there was a huge lack of follow up which was causing the Condo Association into looking to hire an attorney. Peggy felt it is the City's responsible to fix the problem and that is why she brought it to council. Robert provided the following time line of what had been done.

A complaint came into his office on December 22, 2008 and he inspected the unit and placed three orders on the owners for unsanitary living conditions. They were ordered to hire a plumber to repair a toilet leaking and not working. They were issued to orders to clean up the unit and discard the stuff piled high and making walking access very difficult. Mr. Evans made an inspection on Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> and found the plumbing repaired but the other orders not completed. He then met with Dr. Singer and the owners on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and the owners were given two days to clean it up and when inspected that was not done. Robert then contacted the City's Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus to proceed with legal action. Robert informed council that nothing has been done. Again Peggy stated her disappointment in this matter not being handled in a timely manner and that it needs to be resolved ASAP! Robert will provide Kate with the case file and she will look into legal actions. Residents of the condos spoke and informed council that the problem is getting much worse, with stacks of stuff on the balcony, bugs and a strong stench. Peggy asked Robert to go visit tomorrow, he said he would. Fire Chief Scherpenberg said the Fire Inspector will also visit the unit in case there is a fire hazard.

**Safety, Patty Hausfeld:** no report

**Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus:** no report

**Service, Don Tobergte:** no report

**Finance, Greg Zix:** absent

**Audience Participation:** An audience member stated that the City will have to look at the location of some home and businesses in regards to the streetscape plans.

**Ordinances and Resolutions for the next council meeting:**

**Ordinances:**

1. Additional and adjustment appropriations and new line item for Vine Streetscape
2. \$24,000 adjustment with deputy tax commissioner line item
3. Update Codified Ordinances
4. Sidewalk Repair

**Resolutions:**

1. Then and Now for legal fees
2. Veba Trust Committee

Next Council Meeting: August 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30 P.M.

Next C.O.W. Meeting: August 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Brickweg,  
President of Council Pro-Tem

**COMMUNICATIONS**

June 26, 2009

Dear Mayor Burkhardt,

In last Thursday night's storm we had some limbs down in our yard. We just want you to know how much we appreciated the Service Dept. guys help in disposing of the limbs.

Once again we can say, St. Bernard is a great place to live!

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schlosser  
307 McClelland Ave.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to receive and file the communication and give a copy to the Service Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

Dear Mr. Mittendorf,

As long time residents, Betsy and I sometimes forget about all the service provided by the City of St. Bernard. It is true that many cities provide the same services the City of St. Bernard offers, what is very special and makes St. Bernard shine are employees such as yourself.

On Saturday, July 18, 2009 you delivered a truck to our address. We were amazed to be able to receive the truck on a Saturday, which typically is everyone's day off. You followed up on Monday July 20, 2009 to clear trees that were over hanging the street and our house. In addition, you performed many extra little things that you were not required to do. Though the service provided was very special we have to say the extra effort you provided made us feel very appreciated.

St. Bernard is such a wonderful place to live. We wanted to express our gratitude to the City for the services and we wanted to thank you for providing them. St. Bernard is such a hidden gem in the Mill Creek Valley but it will not remain that way because of your efforts.

Thank You,

William and Elizabeth Blom  
217 Washington Ave.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to receive and file the communication and give a copy to the Service Dept. and Mr. Mittendorf. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte  
Teacher, American Government  
St. Bernard-Elmwood Place High School

Mr. Tobergte,

Thank you for presenting to my American Government classes. The students enjoyed the experience. Many of students were unfamiliar with the local political process. After your presentation, many of the students had gained a better understanding of the organization, structure and the function of St. Bernard's City Council, and the local political process.

Thank You,

Mr. Wilson

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to receive and file the communication and give a copy to Mr. Tobergte. Motion passed 7-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Peck to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

The second reading of Resolution No. 13, 2009.

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY", SECTION 2.03 ENTITLED "COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF OFFICE" OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD CHARTER, REQUESTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 ELECTION, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to let Resolution No. 13, 2009 as amended take its regular course. Motion passed 7-0.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – I was out the past two weeks getting my petition signed and I just wanted to report back that a lot of people had commented that in Ward II and I'll be honest, I didn't even bring this up that they would like to, they didn't tell me whether they were in favor of it or not but they did think that we, they asked why anybody would not let them go out to the ballot and vote on something. Basically that is what they are saying, not that they're for or against it but they want to have the right to be able to vote so they asked me to please express that tonight so everybody on Council can hear that and that came from quite a few homes in Ward II.

The motion to let Resolution No. 13, 2009 take its regular course passed 6-1. Mr. Zix voted no.

RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2009. A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF TWO INVOICES COVERED BY "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATIONS OF PURCHASE ORDERS EXCEEDING \$3,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 14, 2009.

## **REMARKS**

Mr. Tobergte – Since I have a business relationship with some of these people involved with these law firms I don't think it's ethical for me to be voting on this so I will be abstaining from voting.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Peck to adopt Resolution No. 14, 2009 as read. Motion passed 6-0-1. Mr. Tobergte abstained.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2009. AUTHORIZING AND APPOINTING BOB HELLER, MIKE SIMOS, CARL DEUTCH, BOB SHRENK, DAVE FOSSALUSA AND JERRY SHIPP AS TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES, BENEFICIARIES ASSOCIATION AND ADOPTION SAME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 15, 2009.

## **REMARKS**

Mr. Tobergte – This may be stupid but in section one it lists Carl Deutch and Bob Schrenk. They got active and retired. They're flipped flopped in the order. Does that matter? The way it reads, Carl Deutch is active and Bob Schrenk is the retired member of the Fire Union. The same thing is for the whole Ordinance and I don't know if that matters or not.

Mr. Burkhardt – I don't think they're stipulating which one is active and which one is retired. They're just saying that you have an active and retired from each dept. and then they name the names but you're right it probably reads like it's opposite but I would think that you could amend it I would think and swap it. I think it's a generalization though.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Walden do you think we need to amend it or in your opinion is it OK or.....

Mr. Walden – I would agree with the Mayor in terms of the fact that I think that it is a generalization. I don't think it is specifying which one is retired and which one is active. I don't myself see the need to amend it but that is certainly Council's decisions.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Resolution No. 15, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – In case anyone in the audience was wondering, the Council rules provide for input from the audience on Ordinances and those Ordinances will be coming up but it does not provide for input on Resolutions so that is why you were not invited to speak on the Resolutions but you will be invited to speak on the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE NO. 30, 2009. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA**

**CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REPAIR OF CERTAIN SIDEWALKS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 30, 2009. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 30, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 31, 2009. 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  
CODE TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 31, 2009.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so the residents know, this is just a regular Ordinance that we receive every so often just updating the codified ordinances and this basically is related with the traffic code about bicycles, guards and speed limits and some general offenses of criminal trespassing.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Peck to adopt Ordinance No. 31, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 32, 2009. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH A NEW LINE ITEM TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
APPROPRIATIONS AND TO ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 32, 2009.

**REMARKS**

Ms. Hausfeld – I was here last week at the COW and the question I'm going to raise is from a citizen who was at that meeting and these citizens were also at the last CIC meeting. The \$475,000 that we put in for the Vine St. Streetscape Project, which I do believe it needs to be done, they came down to my job afterwards and asked me why would Council be budgeting for this when at the last CIC meeting (I'll read their writing) why is Council paying for something that is a CIC project or on Al Kanters objective. Apparently, I missed the last CIC meeting because that was when my mom had surgery, but apparently there was lengthy discussion in this as far as the Streetscape being in his committee and he was working on it. I just think anybody can answer this, I know Peggy touched on it briefly the other day but I didn't know if Bill or Gerry, somebody that was at the last CIC meeting could answer that.

Mr. Burkhardt – At the last CIC meeting Al reported that the Mayor is taking over the Streetscape. It is no longer in the CIC. That’s what he reported on that it is now in my hands and I’m running the Streetscape.

Ms. Hausfeld – I will let those residents know.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to touch on the same line item that Patty was touching on just to explain it a little better. The \$35,000 to the Streetscape Project, what that is \$10,000 of that is Council agreed to use that to do a traffic study of the intersection of Washington and Vine down by Chili Time and the pool. One of the suggestions was to close off Washington at that point and maybe make it a community gathering area or something. Basically just to study the area because it doesn’t seem to flow as well as it should and to work on that. The other \$25,000 will be going to JMA who will be running the Streetscape meeting but that money will then be turned over and used against engineering fees when the project continues. I just wanted to explain that’s where the money is going to.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 32, 2009 as read. Motion passed 7-0

**ORDINANCE NO. 33, 2009. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 33, 2009.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Tonight I will not be voting for this Ordinance. At first I was reluctant to support the temporary help when it was first asked for. Then I considered the learning curve that some people may need when any new position comes into effect so for the last year I have supported that temporary help especially during the tax season. I have also supported the purchase of software programs and technical equipment in order to gain quality and efficiency in the Tax Dept. and I will continue to fund that dept. for the reasonable technology needed. This is a direction that many citizens have communicated to me that they would like to see the money spent for the technology but not for the additional personnel.

Mr. Zix – I will be voting for this. I don’t see why we don’t have the Deputy Tax Commissioner in place already, number one. We’re just dragging our feet on this. Last year we pulled in more tax revenue than we ever have. Year to date so far we’ve spent \$13,000 on temporary employees compared to last year to date we spent \$22,000. Last year in total we spent \$40,000 so I think by giving this \$24,000 to temporary employees is probably the wrong thing. I think we should make the Deputy Tax Commissioner a position. But if we’re not going to do that, I think that if they’re bringing in the income into the City we need to give him the personnel to get it done.

Ms. Hausfeld – Greg, just to let you know that that was brought up last week at the COW and I said that I wasn't in favor of doing both but it was my understanding, and we're waiting on Kate for a couple of things with Civil Service and that I was told last week that we could not have a Deputy Tax Commissioner person put in place for this year. We are still working on that apparently, Kate is, with the Civil Service Board. Correct me if I'm wrong anybody who was here last week.

Mr. Zix – Patty, I realize that but I don't see why we've taken so long on this. I think that the position should be there and if we're not going to be there we should at least fund it and continue with that \$10 or \$11 million dollars coming in.

Mrs. Brickweg – Ed I don't know if you can but maybe let the rest of us know what you're using this money for so we know how it's being spent.

Mr. Geiser – There's a lot of things I'd like to say about this Ordinance and why we could use the money. First of all let me say that I don't plan on spending it all. This is not an additional appropriation, it's simply a transfer. Let me make that clear. To address the first issue, Mrs. Bedinghaus you mentioned this at COW that you were opposed to part time people but then you also stated that you wanted part time people for the Fire Dept. I don't understand why one is good but not the other. The technical equipment that you gave the office was that you bought us was a scanner. The scanner is to permit us to scan and digitize all the documents in the office. Well it doesn't operate itself, in fact, it created more work. Now, up until May of this year the scanner has been sitting there collecting dust because we didn't have the personnel to do it. I was in on Saturdays to learn how to do it and play around with it and start to get it organized and try to get things going. What happened was I was introduced to a young girl who is from Eastern Europe, from Slovakia, and I'll just say her first name is Mikala because I can't get her last name. She came to this country to do a year internship and the job that she had with a downtown accounting firm went belly up because the company went under and she was searching diligently for a job because if she didn't find a job she had to leave the country and she really wanted to spend some time here and do a little traveling. I met her, she's living here in St. Bernard. She lost her car she lost her apartment and she'll be living here with someone in St. Bernard. I mentioned to her, I said, if you would like to learn how to scan, now this girl has got a college education, she's got a Masters Degree in tax. I said come down to the office. Let me show you the scanner otherwise it's just going to sit there. She came down. I said if you can do it I'll consider putting you on for more hours. Well within two hours she was teaching me how to use that scanner. I was very impressed. So far, she started the last week of June and she's been working six to seven hours a day, not every day, but she's already document imaged over 11,000 documents. We started with January of this year and she's already by date up to the end of May. If you see it, and since most of you don't see how the tax office works, it's pretty impressive. When you open the drawers now in the cabinets, everything is, and I showed Council just last week, it's scanned. Now eventually it will help us to search for documents on line and we will be able to take those documents and eventually through the record commission dispose of them because we have them scanned. As we go through this process, now the other thing I liked about this is, this is temporary. She's only going to be here until January and then she's going back to Slovakia. If she worked every day from now until the end of the year it would be around \$9,400 and that's not going to happen. Her mom's coming in to town in Sept. and they're going to travel a little bit. But while she is here she is doing an outstanding job and most of the people in City Hall have met her. She's

a very nice young girl. So I presented this to Council and said this is a great opportunity to get this thing working. I looked at maybe a high school student or college student but let's get it up and running. This is a great opportunity. And I said Council would probably move over \$10,000 over from the Deputy Tax Commissioner to keep this running. We won't use it all and I don't plan on using it all. But this is a great opportunity. In addition to that money, every couple of months I've been asking for some money to keep the work going. I could go on for an hour telling you all the problems in the office, what I inherited, the best thing I can tell you to do for those who haven't is to read my annual report. It lays everything out. It goes into great detail what the office was like when I stepped in and where we've gone and where we're heading and what we've done. I don't want to rehash all that because you can read it. It is nineteen pages long. It's a fact that if you look to the history of that tax office for the last eight years, there was a Tax Commissioner, a Clerk and a part time, which was Bonnie Mittendorf, which was basically full time. She was here fifteen hundred hours a year. In addition, they also had, on occasion, temporary help, in addition to that. They both brought in temporary help at various times of the year. And the job wasn't done. I hate to say it but the job wasn't done. As my Clerk Elaine said, this is the first time she doesn't have boxes and documents stacked all over the office. Remember, this office brings in the money. If this office fails, the City fails. We've so many different things. Just for example, we all heard about the reconciliations over the years were just thrown into a box. I think I told you back in 2005 there were two W-2s entered and one account reconciled. The reconciliation forms come in, they're supposed to be in by February 28<sup>th</sup>, what the reconciliation forms are throughout the year companies withhold money out of their employee's paychecks and send in a lump sum check. We're not going to know who that's from until the end of the year when the reconciliation forms come in when they send us the W-2s and they tell us how much they've sent in. We enter it into this system and if they don't match up, then they either owe us money or they've overpaid or it's correct. Most of the time they're correct. In one of the reports, this is one of the reports that I found from years ago. The reconciliation is a major step in controlling employee's withholding tax. A major step. Last year alone, by going through the reconciliation we recovered over \$65,000. For years those were just thrown into a box. This year in April I brought in Kate Anello, for part time help. She works up at St. Clement. She worked 2 to 3 hours in the afternoon. She worked Feb., Mar., and April helping us put those W-2s into the system. Again in 2005 we put in two. This year we put in 8638 W-2s, 560 accounts. The work is getting done for the first time. I could go on for an hour, I don't want to bore you but things are getting done. We have two ladies back there, Jana Cromer and Shannon Helmer who do outstanding work. I can't tell you how experienced they are to come in and rely on them. Shannon gave me a note yesterday or a couple of days ago and said, Ed I put in this tax return, it's a business, they're operating in this town, which is fine, they're operating in this town but they're not withholding. These girls take pride in their work, extreme pride in their work, they're proud to be here, they're proud to work and as Greg said, last year we spent over \$40,000. This year Bonnie was not brought back. That \$19,000 that went to her was stopped. Greg said, his numbers were a little, I keep track on a daily basis of what we spend, and we've only spent \$14,000 so far. I probably won't use all the \$14,000 but I'd like to have it there to budget. I'd like to get all this stuff put in. I'd like to get this system and all the work we've got, the back log of work, get done. When we're putting in business tax returns and when they claim a credit for a year loss and we don't have it in the system it makes it very difficult to complete the audit of that return. Out of that \$14,000 that we spent, \$2,000 of that is what Mikala has earned

being here pretty much 7 hours a day doing the document imaging. Compared to last year we spent \$40,000, this year we only spent around \$12,000. I'm very fiscally conscious and conservative and try to stop the money. We're not working as many Saturdays as we did around tax season. Here's a perfect example, I'm going to hold up here (visual aid) these are what's left of tax year 2001 documents that were not put in the system. The other morning I came in and this was on my desk. This is 2001. They had completed this in a couple days. They got through this. It's pretty incredible to put in this much information in a couple of days. They came in one night. Both of them tackled it. It's just outstanding work. That's where we are, how you decide on whether we go with a full time Commissioner or part time, I'd like to get the work done and we are processing, we are continuing to get the work done. There's many more things I could go through. We're doing the landlord-tenant, one more thing that is becoming a big issue for those of you who were at the meeting that Rodney had with the residents about landlord-tenants. When I took the office there were like 20 or 30 landlord-tenants listed in our tax software. Most of them were incorrect. We now have 340. We are bringing the system up to date. It's a lot of work and like Walt said unless you walk a mile in your shoes you'll never understand how much work, where we've been and where we're coming.

Mrs. Brickweg – I will be voting for this. Just a couple of comments, I will say I actually just went through some training classes on software and our firm, we have a scanner and our firm is looking into doing it but that seems to be the way that everybody is going. Scanning these documents in there and where I would send the information back to them but you could discard it then so I think that's a great way to go. To me, it's a no brainer, I already said I support the Deputy Tax Commissioner, I mean we're talking back in 2005 we had a Tax Commissioner who was 40% off on her projections, we laid people off, I mean, come on, we finally have a Tax Dept. that is running, up and running, doing a good job, actually doing more, trying to fix what the past Tax Commissioner did not do so I am 100% in favor of this and the Deputy Tax Commissioner if we can get that on for next year.

Mr. Tobergte – I've got two problems with this. One, we did not advertise the job again. Eddie hired a new person, friend of a friend of a friend, which I said back in June of last year on the Police Dept. dispatcher. I said I would not vote for anybody when the job had not been advertised. Two, when walking through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, it was a hot topic up there. Ed Geiser is always in favor of giving himself more money while everybody else is saying don't give me any more money so I'll be voting no on this Ordinance.

Mr. Meier – First of all I just want to make sure that everybody understands that this is not an additional appropriation. This is merely a transfer. We already have this much, \$24,000 budgeted for the Deputy Tax Commissioner. If we hadn't been dragging our feet we would have had that position filled this year, we'd have somebody in there. It's not an additional appropriation, it's merely a transfer. It's within the same dept. I not sure what all the discussion is about. Instead of him spending the \$24,000 on the Deputy Tax Commissioner that we should have had resolved months ago and hired, we're going to spend it on the temporary employees that are doing the job that's not being done because we don't have the Deputy Tax commissioner. It's real simple. We're not spending any additional money. We're just changing where it's being spent. That's it. The only reason this comes up is because it has to do with employees. If this didn't have to do with

employees, if this \$24,000 that was being transferred for any other reason other than employees we wouldn't have spent the last 30 minutes talking about this. Let's go ahead and get on with it and get it moved.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I realize that it is a transfer but if you recall back when we did the budget, I wasn't in favor of the Deputy Tax Commissioner at that time and so the transfer of money is irrelevant to me because I wasn't for that anyway so I know it is being transferred out of that line item but that was part of the piece that I was not in favor of.

Mr. Gieser – Mr. Tobergte, just to respond to your comments. I'm not asking for the money for me. You made it sound like it's for me. If you look at this, as Greg said, we've only spent \$14,000 this year. We may come in even less than if Bonnie was still here and she was the only one working. I'm not going that out wildish with money here. We not spending that much more than we would have if the staff had been there like it normally would have. As far as the people that I brought in, again Kate worked here last summer. These are people who, I really believe I have to have people that I trust. These are your tax records, people I know who are going to come in here who are not going to talk about those records. These are people that I trust and I think that is so important when you run an office you have to be able to trust the people that you have working there, because without the trust you have nothing. These are people I can trust. If I had advertised I probably would have had 500 people respond and I had to get the work moving. Its not like it's a large staff of people who are working back there. These are the same people that have been here, Shannon, Jana, Sharon, Kate and now Mikala. It's not a big staff, they only work a few hours. Kate only worked those couple of months and she hasn't been back. They're not there everyday. It's very temporary for those. Now Jana and Shannon they're the ones that come in evenings and have been working on the Saturdays. This isn't a big staff. We're not talking about a lot more money that we've already spent and was appropriated in the past. But again, I have to be able to build a trust with people otherwise you can really lose confidence in the Tax Dept.

The motion to suspend did not pass. 5-2 Mrs. Bedinghaus and Mr. Tobergte voted no.

Mr. Walden – Six votes are needed to pass the suspension of the second and third reading so Ordinance No. 33, 2009 will take its regular course.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to say one thing and I've said it before and I guess I just don't understand, I mean, I just don't understand the rules and maybe somebody can explain them to me better but now Ed is going to, his hands are going to be tied for I guess six weeks. If you're against an Ordinance, vote against the Ordinance, but we have employees to pay, once again, and because we do not have enough votes to even suspend the second and third reading it puts the whole thing on hold again basically what happened with the Fire Dept. and they ended up just having to run with a five man crew because of that. I'm not telling anybody how to vote on an actual Ordinance but in order to be able to run a City and pay our employees we need to think a little bit harder on how we vote on our Ordinances.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Hausfeld – I actually forgot to do this in my Safety Committee but I talked to the members of my Safety Committee and the president of the Fire Union and we're going to set up a meeting for this coming Wed. at 7:00pm here in the Council Chambers. We're going to discuss some of the things that they were bringing up last week at the COW. See where we want to go and if there's anything that we can do for the Fire. Dept.

Mr. Tobergte – I'd also like to invite everybody to the Dog Days celebration Sat., Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the K-9 crew will protect me so I won't be the murder victim at the "Murder She Wrote" event at the next Block Watch meeting although I'm sure Eddie wouldn't mind it right now.

Ms. Hausfeld – Phil, the Streetscape meeting you said was on 9/1? Is that open to everybody? I had a couple of people asking me. What time did you say that was?

Mr. Stegman – 6:00pm.

Ms. Hausfeld – The other thing was when you were talking about the "Murder She Wrote" you didn't give a date on that and I know you said the regular meetings are the third Tuesday for the Block Watch but I thought this was a different day. It's the same one? OK thank you.

Mr. Tobergte – That's August 18<sup>th</sup> the Block Watch meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Lee Wright, 209 Harvey Ct. – I don't understand about the Fire Dept., when is that? Then you have the thing where you know the Park thing. When is that? When is the Block Watch, "Murder She Wrote"?

Mr. Walden – I think the question was the dates of the various committee meetings.

Mrs. Brickweg – Kevin Meier's meeting for Public Improvements is Aug. 20, at 6:30 before the Council Meeting. That would be in two weeks. Two weeks from tonight. The meeting on the Parks would be next Tuesday at 6:00 and then the Block Watch is Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> on a Tues. Next Tuesday is the Bertus St. Park Meeting in the Municipal Bldg. and then in two weeks on Tuesday is the "Murder She Wrote" for the Block Watch.

Mr. St. Clair – At the last COW there was quite a bit of discussion with the Fire Dept. The main issue I perceived was the manpower availability issue. In my opinion the actual Kelly days that the Fire Dept. received in 2009 does contribute to that decreasing manpower availability. That being said, its water over the dam, let's move on. I understand Patty's got it in her Committee, that's great, and the City is just going to have to deal with it.

Mr. Stegman – I already had my report after I found out that a couple of months ago we got the final walk through of the roof. Everything was good. We didn't

have any leaks. The ceiling started Monday and we do have new ceiling tiles put up in the Municipal Bldg. There are a few touch ups but that did get completed today. I just wanted to give an update to Council that did get done also.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just before we adjourn or even think about adjourning I just wanted to alert the public again. I've said it in my Committee quite a few times over the last quite a few months. I urge each and every resident to just keep their eyes and ears opened. The City has had quite a few break-ins or thefts in cars or just different things like that and I want to urge the people of St. Bernard to get involved. Know, even if you think it's the most minute thing, to call the police for, I urge you to call the police and let them know what you hear or what you see. It's only going to help them and it's going to help us as a community to keep our community the safe tight knit community that it always has been. I know there has been a storage place broken into twice now. I just urge each and every resident to keep their eyes and ears open and to alert the police dept. if they see anything or hear anything that's going on. 242-2727, just give them a call and they will investigate it. If it's nothing, that's great, but if it's something you might actually stop something in the makings and that would be even better. So that's just my two bits.

Mr. Zix – Can I add to that also, don't be afraid to call. First of all, Chief Moeller has always said, you don't have to give your name. Don't be worried about, I heard something that people feel like they will be looked down on for that and that's the last thing we want. If anybody feels uncomfortable, call your Council person or any of the Administration. We'll be glad to call if you don't feel comfortable calling the police. We'll be glad to call, I think each and every person up here would be glad to call and any of the Administration. Call for anything like Patty said. Everything helps, an extra set of eyes always helps.

Mrs. Brickweg – The next COW meeting will be next Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.