

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2006**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, March 2, 2005.

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

Mr. Walden – I would like to welcome everyone to Girl Scout night tonight for our meeting and first off we will have Mrs. Kathman call the roll.

Roll call showed that all members were present; Mrs. Howell, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix.

Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Asbach seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I would like to personally welcome Troop 6447 to tonight's Council Meeting. There are a number of positive things to be said about the Girl Scouts. Not only do they have the best cookies in town but the Girl Scouts is an organization dedicated solely to girls. This organization connects girls with committed adult volunteers and helps them develop lasting qualities that will help shape their leadership skills and bolster strong values in building a positive image for the future. Troop 6447 meets at First Immanuel Church on Fridays between 6:30 and 8:00. I would like to take a minute to recognize their Scout Leader, Nicole Spivey, and thank her for her services to the community and for her role in shaping the character of our young people. We just want to thank Nicole especially. Moving on with the rest of the report, I don't want to commit too much time to the recent failure of the School Levy during Council, I don't believe it belongs in here anyway, but when I read statements in the press that are not based on fact, it goes so far as to undermine the goals we have all worked to achieve, I feel I must respond.

Recently, a citizens opinion was printed locally alluding to the fact that they could not support the School Levy because the Administration failed to quote, unquote, keep promises. This is a false and inaccurate statement. The Administration, employees and citizens have worked together to institute cost saving measures and when and where we could, service positions were restored. Each of us has a unique perception, however, we should avoid allowing bitterness to chip away the character of our Community or the best interest of our schools.

Last night the introductory message was sent to the Community Alert System called Call Command. During the first day, after the message, five residents asked to be removed from the list of three out of 100%. And we received several calls from residents saying they liked and appreciated getting the message. I will keep Council advised as information becomes available and I would appreciate any feedback from citizens as to how they see this program as a way of keeping citizens in the loop.

I have signed a contract with Hamilton County Health District for services that will compliment as well as complete the legal requirements for St.

Bernard's Health Dept. This allows us to keep our local Health Dept. as well. Under the direction of Dr. Singer, HCHD, we will provide the coordination and communication for communicable diseases and immunization. Between our nurse, Mrs. Schmidt and HCHD I am confident that the health needs of the Community will be met within the budget. I have arranged a meeting with the Cincinnati Public Library, Gerry Wiedmann and Joe Kempe and myself for March 14<sup>th</sup> with Kim Fender to discuss the development of the library property. I will provide you with additional information after our meeting.

Mr. Walden – Just a note, there is one change from our printed materials, the Girl Scout Troop No. is actually 6440 and if anyone would like to become a Girl Scout that is watching out there, they can call Nicole Spivey, the Troop Leader at 699-0809 to become a member.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – I would also like to welcome the Girl Scouts here this evening, it is nice to see you all up there.

The February Auditor's report is prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report and the report showing year-to-date revenue and expenses by fund are derived from the Auditors report, and they are given to Council and the Administration.

Payroll for the month of February	\$ 362,741.47
Payroll year to date:	850,634.40

Other expenditures for the month of February	\$ 303,256.71
Other expenditures as of February 28 <sup>th</sup>	474,693.49

Total expenditures through the end of February	\$1,325,327.89
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Before Council tonight are Ordinance numbers 8, 9, and 10, 2006. Ordinance number 8 provides an additional appropriation as discussed at the COW. Ordinance numbers 9 and 10 give the pay rates for certain non-contractual full and part-time employees.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – Our attorney Mr. Huss met with Judge Spiegel and the attorney for the retired employees on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> for a settlement conference. A new conference has been set up for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. I would ask if it's possible to meet with the Finance committee sometime in the near future to discuss some details regarding this upcoming conference.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – I have the City receipts report for the month of February, 2006.

Receipts for the month of February	\$ 698,912.48
Receipts for the year through February 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 1,913,807.54

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the St. Bernard Fire Dept. monthly report for February. We had 72 Life Squad runs

- 14 Fire runs
  - 1 Motor Vehicle Accident
  - 3 Service calls
  - 1 Fire Alarm Inspection

## 1 Safety Evaluation

A reminder from the Fire Dept., with the warm weather approaching, there is a significant increase in outdoor activity, especially with the children. Parents are reminded to stress the importance of wearing a helmet to their children when riding their bicycles, scooters, and etc. The Fire Dept. would like to remind all automobile drivers to be extra aware of children playing. When backing out of a driveway, and checking for oncoming traffic, be sure to check the sidewalk as well. Pedestrians and children who ride their bikes and such on the sidewalk are more frequent in the warm weather.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – No report.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – I would like to introduce tonight, Councilwoman Eliza, she lives on Linden St. She has just started Girl Scouting and is working on her Girl Scout Badge. We both like peanut butter patty cookies, we have a lot in common. She goes to Elmwood Elementary, she's in the sixth grade and enjoys math, she also enjoys dance and reading. She enjoys playing mat ball, which is a similar game played like kickball. I am very proud to present Miss Eliza, and my seat in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. Read by Eliza Smith, The Finance Committee would like to recommend the passage of Ordinances 9 and 10, 2006. These Ordinances would increase compensation by 3% of certain full time and part time employees of the City for the year 2006.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – Representing the Safety Committee tonight is Councilwoman Breanna. Breanna's mom is Jennifer and her dad is Rodney. She has five brothers and one sister. She likes to read. She attends Elmwood Place Elementary and she is eleven years old. Here is Breanna. Read by Breanna Hines. As spring approaches, the school dance season is just around the corner. Parents should remember these rules if you host a party.

\*You cannot give alcohol to your children's friends under 21 under any circumstances.

\*You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – Tonight we have Council person Autumn. She is in the Fourth Grade at College Hill. She has a brother and enjoys playing jump rope and playing. She is a Junior Girl Scout and she is presenting the report for the Service Committee tonight.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> the home ownership bus will be coming to St. Bernard.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – Representing the Public Improvements Committee tonight is Mariah. Mariah is a fourth grader at Struble Elementary. She lives with her dad Kevin, sister Ronnie and brother Tyler and she likes to cheerlead. She will be giving the Public Improvements report.

Read by Mariah Sower. The Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss the abatements that Mr. Meier talked about a couple of meetings ago. I would also like to report that the City web site had 829 hits in the month of February.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Howell – Tonight I would like to introduce Abygail. Abygail lives with her family in Elmwood. She is eleven years old and is in Scout Troop No. 6440. She likes to take her dog for a walk, swim and she also taps, ballet, and jazz dances. I give you tonight, Abygail.

Read by Abygail McDonald. I have no report for tonight but I would like to set up a meeting for Laws, Contracts and Claims committee to meet on Wed. March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Council meeting room.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Wilson – Tonight representing the Business and Industry Committee is Jameica. She has been a Girl Scout for a year and a half with Troop 6440. She lives in Colerain township with her parents, Ron and Nicole. She enjoys dancing and skating. She is on the school track team and wants to become a cheerleader. Jameica will now give the report.

Read by Jameica Woodell-Gaines. The Business and Industry Committee met and discussed the St. Bernard Showcase. We also discussed ways to improve our business district.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to introduce Councilwoman Myra. She attends Mt. Airy Elementary and is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Her favorite subject is Math. She's running track and will be the Captain of the volleyball team. Her parents are Myra and Tom. She has two brothers and two sisters and is a junior scout. Representing Highways and Transportation, here is Myra.

Read by Myra Oliver. At the last First Suburbs meeting the guest speaker was Steve Johns from Citizens for Civic Renewal. He explained how the First Suburbs could hold more power with the OKI and the new road projects they are working on. Between all the counties, Hamilton County holds the most votes at 19. The problem is that the representatives do not show up for the meetings and the other counties such as Warren, Butler and Clermont show up and vote on projects. Steve showed us the attendee list for the last few years and it appeared our city and many others has not attended any meetings. He explained that is why most new road systems are in their counties. If the representatives from Hamilton County attend together they would hold enough voting power to get the new road construction money spent here. I am working with Steve as the new representative of St. Bernard with OKI to see what I can do and what meetings I should attend.

Mr. Burkhardt – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

**Committee of the Whole**  
**Feb. 23, 2006**

1. Council approved the minutes of the Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, 7-0.

2. Council went into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and purchase of property.
3. Peggy gave everyone a packed of information for Clean-Up St. Bernard Day in April and will discuss this further at the next COW meeting.
4. Mayor, John Estep, no report.
5. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
  - A. Council voted 7-0 to put an Ord. on the table for an additional appropriation, to put \$9,438.62 into 2K8. This is the money for the St. Bernard School that the City handles.
  - B. Walt will work on a new Ord. for the major equipment line item Council wants to add to the budget.
6. Director of law, Edward Geiser, no report.
7. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, no report.
8. Service Director, Joe Kempe
  - A. Joe informed Council that he is getting quotes for a new garbage packer and for street repairs. He also thanked DeBra Kempel for their work with the insurance company to get the money back for the work on the Police stations' air conditioning unit and also thanked Mr. Kathman for suggesting he check into the insurance for that unit. Out of \$18,127.20 the City only had to pay the \$1,000.00 deductible.
9. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.
10. Laws, Contracts, & Claims, Patty Howell, no report.
11. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach
  - A. Steve will be working with Kevin on the tax abatement for home improvement in the City.
12. Business & Industry, Glenn Wilson, no report.
13. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.
14. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg
  - A. Peggy informed Council that she is working on getting more information from OKI on grants for the City and is still getting information on City Mangers. Peggy is also having a town (Ward) meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Centennial Hall for anyone who wants to attend.
15. Service, Kevin Meier
  - A. Kevin is looking into the 5/3 Bank E-Bus for the St. Bernard Showcase and will get with the Service Director on its power requirements.
16. Finance, Greg Zix
  - A. After some discussion on the Finance Committee's 3% raises recommendation, (the vote was 2-1 with Mr. Wilson voting no). for non-contractual employees, Council voted 4-3 to put the Ordinance on the table

for the next meeting, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Burkhardt, and Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bill Burkhardt  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

Mr. Walden – We are going to do things just a little out of order tonight and move to Special Resolution No. 2, 2006 at this time and I understand one of our Scouts is going to read Special Resolution No. 2, 2006 for us this evening.

Read by Myra Oliver.

Special Resolution No. 2, 2006

DECLARING THE OUTDOOR CODE OF ST. BERNARD.  
DESIGNATING ALL GIRL SCOUTS IN THE COMMUNITY  
HONORARY PARK POLICEWOMEN; AND ASKING ALL OF THE  
YOUNG LADIES AND YOUNG MEN OF ST. BERNARD TO HONOR  
THIS CODE.

**WHEREAS**, the Girl Scout Program encourages Community betterment as well as individual member improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, a Girl Scout is a special citizen who knows her duty to her fellow women and will face opposition to do what she knows is right, and

**WHEREAS**, St. Bernard youth is interested in a better St. Bernard of the future, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS VOTING:

**Section 1.** I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods and roadways.

**Section 2.** I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

**Section 3.** I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

**Section 4.** I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands and wildlife; and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportmanlike methods in all my out door activities.

**Section 5.** I will observe bicycle safety rules and obey all traffic laws when operating my bicycle or walking through the streets of St. Bernard.

Mr. Walden – Members of Council, you have heard the first reading of Resolution No. 2, 2006. What is your pleasure?

Motion by Mr. Asbach (Mariah Sower), seconded by Mr. Meier (Autumn Beverly) to suspend with the second and third reading of Special Resolution No. 2, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach (Mairah Sower), seconded by Mrs. Howell (Abygail McDonald) to adopt Special Resolution No. 2, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – At this time we would like to thank all our Girl Scouts for helping us tonight and we will take a brief to let them return to their seats.

Mr. Walden – The March 2, 2006 Council meeting is back in session.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

February 10, 2006

John Estep City of St. Bernard  
110 Washington Avenue  
St. Bernard, Oh 45217

Kim Dye-Clark  
4312 Sullivan Avenue  
St. Bernard, OH 45217

Dear Mayor Estep,

I have two request to make that would make our City Departments more environmentally and fiscally responsible. First, can the gym/Dial-A-Ride office please begin to recycle? With our City already providing recycling to our citizens, it is very disappointing to see the amount of plastic bottles and paper that are thrown into the trash in the gym/Dial-A-Ride office. Second, can the Dial-A-Ride drivers please turn their vehicles off when they are coming into the gym/Dial-A-Ride office? I can understand the desire to keep the vehicle running in the winter for heat, but I have been there and seen that the driver was there for 10-15 minutes and the vehicle ran all this time. This is a very poor use of the fossil fuel for the vehicle, not to mention the environmental ramifications of the vehicle exhaust in the air.

Finally, I am enclosing a flyer for a group that I have been running in the greater Cincinnati area for 15 months. Currently there are 3,367 Freecycle groups and over 1,966,231 members in the US and around the world. In the central Cincinnati area the group has over 4,600 members and over 1,500 posts per month. The reason I bring this group to your attention is that it is an excellent way to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills, thus perhaps reducing the amount of money that the City is paying for trash disposal. Far too often, there are perfectly usable items sitting at the curb to be disposed of. What Freecycle does is connects people with usable items to people who might have a need for the item. I invite you to evaluate the group on [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) – click on US central -groups, Ohio and the Cincinnati (inside city limits) to view the types of things that are being saved

from landfills. If after viewing this information, you find it to be a worthy cause – I would love to help get the word out to the City of St. Bernard. If we could put a blurb in the Council minutes, a flyer to go out with any information that the City would be distributing or a link on the Cities' website, I would be most willing to help in any way I can. I can be reached at 484-6810 to discuss this.

Mayor Estep, thank you for looking at ways for the City of St. Bernard to be more environmentally and fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,

Kim Dye-Clark

Attached is the Freecycle Spring Cleaning Flyer. I will make copies and put it at the City's secretary's office.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to receive and file the communication and possible putting that flyer on the City's web site.  
Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor John Estep  
City of St. Bernard, Ohio

Dear Mr. Estep,

First I want to compliment you and your co-workers for working so hard to keep our City solvent. We have all had to tighten our belts, but it has been worth it.

Five and one half years ago I sold my home and purchased a Condo at Alpine Terrace. I do not drive, so the convenience offered by St. Bernard helped me make my decision. I am well aware of the cuts that had to be made, but the loss of the Medical Bus has cost me the most – loss of independence. If the subject ever comes up about reinstating any services, my vote would be for the Medical Bus – if only for two or three days a week. Of course, the fare would have to increase.

Thank you for your time and keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Jean M. Wissel  
4901 Chalet Dr. #4  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Howell to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

January 24, 2006

Mayor John Estep and City council  
110 Washington Ave.  
St. Bernard, OH 45217

Dear Mayor Estep and Council

On November 21, 2005, the Board of Education enacted a resolution to approve the Compensation Agreement (A Tax Increment Financing Agreement) between the City of St. Bernard, Ohio and the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District regarding the property located at 5226 Vine Street (NuMaid Property).

The agreement was signed by the School Board on December 5, 2005 and given to Mr. Wiemann.

We would like it to be known that the school district has in no way impeded the progress toward the development of the NuMaid Property.

Sincerely,

Mike Mays, Treasurer

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to read this evenings' Ordinances by title only.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2006, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 8, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adopt Ordinance No. 8, 2006 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2006, FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FOR THE YEAR 2006 COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to make a motion to amend Ordinance No. 9, 2006, and I would like a chance to explain how I would like it amended if that's appropriate.

Mr. Walden – That's fine.

Mrs. Brickweg - I would like to make a motion to amend Ordinance No. 9, 2006 by removing employees that are not appointed. These employees would include the Fire and Police Chiefs and the Code Assistance Officer. I would like to give them a 5% raise and the HIP Inspector and the Police Clerk with a 3% raise. By amending the ordinance it would remove the appointed positions from the same ordinance with civil service and regularly hired personnel.

I would also like to make the recommendation that the non-contractual employees start paying part of their health care insurance. I have heard it stated over and over that the entire health care committee needs to be in agreement on this. But that is not true, the Fire Department has been paying doctor co-pays, increased emergency room and prescription co-pays, since their last contract took into effect. It seems every time this idea gets mentioned it gets pushed aside. I think now that we are discussing pay raises the two need to go hand in hand just like they do with the other departments. I did want to discuss these ideas at the last COW meeting but due to Mr. Zix and Mr. Asbach calling for point order and stating this was neither the time nor place to discuss this, I was not permitted to. I would like to know when elected Council members are permitted to speak on issues. When the Finance Committee met they did not allow non-committee members to speak until after they had decided on their recommendations. I also thought the COW meetings were a place where the citizens and Council could speak freely with each other on City issues. Because of their actions I had to wait for this meeting and had to make a motion to express my idea.

Mr. Walden – We have a motion to amend Ordinance No. 9, 2006, is there a second.

Mrs. Howell – I will second that.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Howell to amend Ordinance No. 9, 2006.

Mr. Burkhardt – Also, in Ordinance 9, there seems to be a duplication between 9 and 10 on some of the people. Section 4, I believe has the crossing guard, laborers, grass cutters, I believe the crossing guards, laborers, grass cutters are on 10 also.

Mr. St. Clair – If I could explain that real quick. Ordinance 10 refers to employees that would be hired by the City after Jan. 1, 2005. Those were pay scales that were put in effect last year for new employees. You can see that they are less than what you see in Ordinance No. 9. Ordinance No. 9 would pertain to people that had been hired prior to Jan. 1, 2005. In other words, we would have perhaps some life guards or grass cutters that might be in their second or third year and therefore the older rate. So that is why that there is a duplication of job titles in those two ordinances.

Mr. Zix – I will be voting against the amendment because I firmly believe first of all, that a 3% increase is a fair increase in compensation across the board, because the City is still in financial constraints. To what Mrs. Brickweg said about not speaking, I did call “point of order” last week, and the reason I called “point of order” was because I had a motion on the floor. Robert’s Rules say that we are speaking to the motion not the many other things scattered off. Last week, Ordinance 9, and Ordinance 10 were recommend by the Finance Committee and voted upon by this Council to bring this forward in this manner. To come out with such way out changes to it should have been done last week and I won’t be voting for the amendment.

Mr. Wilson – Walt, can you clarify a little bit more on what you were talking about on the pay scale on the part time employees that were on Ordinance No. 9 and also on Ordinance 10. I understand most about what you were saying, but are you basically saying that if someone was employed prior to this Ordinance, 1/1/05, they would receive this pay that is on Ordinance No. 9?

Mr. St. Clair – That’s correct. In the second WHEREAS of Ordinance No. 10, it says WHEREAS this new pay structure is to be effective for those employees whose first date of service with the City is on or after 1/1/2005. Last year they set up a new pay scale and that was the effective date of the new pay rates and it was done that was because you had people that were used to making the higher rate and you just can’t lower them, so it was just kind of grandfathered in, those employees, especially summer help, and well even police dispatchers and crossing guards and those part time people, kept them at their same rate, they didn’t want to lower them to a new pay scale. That was the idea between the two ordinances.

Mr. Wilson – OK, thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would just like to answer Mr. Zix. I did try to discuss those, maybe in the future we could discuss things during the Finance Committee report and then call a motion, but you made the recommendations and you made a motion, there was not even time to discuss it. So it’s kind of hard to discuss things when you don’t let people speak at the Committee meetings till after you’ve made decisions and then you make a recommendation, you make a motion, there is not even time to discuss it, so it was a little difficult to be able to discuss it and as a Council person I am allowed to make a motion on what I think is a good thing for the City and that’s what I’m doing.

Mr. Burkhardt – At this time, could I ask Peggy to redo her motion, just for clarity.

Mrs. Brickweg – The motion I made was to amend Ordinance No. 9, 2006. What I wanted to do is take out the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, the Code Assistance Officer and give them a 5% raise. The HIP Inspector and the Police Clerk with a 3% raise, because when you look at the other employees that are full time not part time, they are all appointed. That is what I was trying to do. I’m trying to do the best way to get politics out of raises, like I stated before, I’d rather give raises on merit and get them out of ordinance form altogether but that doesn’t seem to be happening, so I thought maybe this was a start and that is what I was motioning to do. Do you have any other questions?

Mr. Burkhardt – I guess the motion to do all that, to me would be better if we scrapped this Ordinance 9 and went back to the table and tried to separate out the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and Code Assistance Officer in a separate Ordinance. To me it would be just a little more clear and straight forward, otherwise, we’re going to be picking this thing apart here.

Mr. Zix – I would like to say, yes, the Finance Committee is for the Finance Committee discussion only, that’s why we have committees, to make

recommendation, we come back to Council with that recommendation and that is how those run at the end of those meetings, we do have questions and answers but usually our decision is made before the questions and answers, before we come back to Council with our recommendation. And yes, Mrs. Brickweg is right on that. No. 2, as far as getting a chance to speak, if the motion is on the floor, if it passes, she can bring another motion up, she is very welcome to do that at any time. As far as increases, I think a fair increase is 3% across the board. I thank these employees, I commend them for the last two years of not getting increases, but our City was in financial constraints and it is still in financial constraints and I think to give 3% across the board is a very thing. I think some of these appointed officials, we are very, very lucky to have them here, I didn't have a chance to appoint any of them so I'm have no favor to them, but I think we are lucky to have some very good employees here in the City.

Mr. Asbach – I would also like to see the motion and the second withdrawn. I agree with Mr. Burkhardt, with all the problems, if you amend it and take them out of there, I don't know how you would differentiate between who gets 3% and who gets 5% because unless I'm missing it I can't find those figures anywhere, so bottom line is I think the motion needs to be withdrawn and we start over.

Mr. Walden – Any further remarks on the motion to amend?

Mrs. Brickweg – I am in approval of that and I would like to put it on the agenda of the COW to discuss it so we can get the opinions of all Council people.

Mrs. Howell – I also would like to go ahead and withdraw, but the one thing I do want to ask Mr. Zix is, when you have these meetings, I understand we have committees so that you guys can discuss it and come back to Council. But if we can't discuss it in length at the COW or Council or even at the Finance Committee meetings, that's the only way that we can get our point across and I just asked for some leeway that our input, our thoughts are important too and it effects the City as much as yours does and when you have these meetings, I would actually like to be able to talk before you make the recommendation or before you end the meeting, just so that we can give you our input too.

Mr. Walden – Am I correct in understanding the motion to amend and the second has been withdrawn.

Mr. Zix – My reasoning for that is that when we come back to COW with our recommendation and then we can discuss it at length. Council doesn't have to agree to the recommendation by no means. That is just the recommendation of the Finance Committee and at any point a motion can fail, and another motion can come up on the table and that's why we do it, just to get our recommendation of the three people.

Mrs. Brickweg – I will recommend this again, Greg, maybe it would be better at the COW to have the discussion before you do the motion, so then we don't have to go back and forth with motions, we can actually have a discussion which is what the COW meetings were set up for.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to table Ordinance No. 9, 2006. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Zix voting no.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2006, FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES FO THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FOR THE YEAR 2006 WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE WITH THE CITY IS AFTER 1/1/2005, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 10, 2006.

Mrs. Brickweg – I will be voting no on this Ordinance. As I stated at the COW, the majority of the feedback I have received from the citizens, is, most of it is no future raises after voting in the tax increase. I did hear quite a few say they would like some of the dept. heads, especially the Fire and Police Chiefs to get a raise since the amount of work they took on after the layoffs, but since I feel these are new employees and it is a part time job I'm not comfortable this year giving raises after passing a tax levy, so I'll be voting no on this Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson – I'll be voting for this, if you look at the numbers where these part time employees were at one time, it was higher than what basically what the third 52 weeks comes into play. So we've dropped that pay scale down a little bit and they have to earn that increase pay over the course of that three year period. I'll be voting yes.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2006 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Asbach – I would just like to remind everyone about the Town Meeting scheduled for March 23, at 7:00p.m. next door on the Main Level and secondly, I received a call from someone, and Mr. Estep you'll have to help me because I don't know the official term of the recording part of the this program, I was asked how much that is costing the City to do that.

Mr. Estep – Right now we're getting it free.

Mr. Asbach – Thank you, that will be music to their ears.

Mr. Meier – I would like to give a quick update on some of the activities of the CIC, I didn't want to bring this up in the Service Dept. report while the Girl Scouts were here. A quick update, the developer's real estate broker has recently sent out a marketing brochure highlighting the site to 5,000 different prospects. Currently the developer is in discussion with two different prospects. The two combined would be using a total of about 90,000 sq. ft. The school compensation agreement and the internal school resolution has been adopted by the St. Bernard/Elmwood Place School District. The Master of Service Payment Agreement and the Ground Lease

Agreements have been going back and forth between the developer and the City several times. They are close to being wrapped up. Several issues on each of these still have to be resolved. Also the PUD enabling statute has been approved by Council and a PUD concept plan will be submitted once a tenant is identified and also that once that approved tenant is identified, the process of receiving a Council approval and ordinances for other agreements mentioned will also take place. One of the things to understand with that is that we're talking about a 30 year ground lease agreement and we don't actually want to sign those agreements until the developer has a tenant put into place. If we were to sign those agreements and the time clock would start ticking, and if took them, say worse scenario, up to a year to find somebody, then we would actually only benefit from that point forward to maybe 29 years worth of payments, rather than the 30. That is the reason for holding off on getting those things past until the first tenant is identified and ready to go into place.

Also in the CIC meeting, back in Dec. and previous Council voted to put the Vine St. development into the CIC, we did have some discussion on this issue and basically the feeling of the CIC, in order to develop Vine St. the way it ought to be developed, we need to have three things, 1. We need to have the vision of what we want Vine St. to be. 2. We have to have a plan to put into place in order to achieve that vision. 3. We have to execute that plan in order to accomplish our goals. What the CIC would like to do is, they would like to investigate the various different options for developing that vision, those options would include the proposal by Dr. Romanos. We will also investigate options from Downtown Ohio, to see what they could bring to the table, there will also be researches by private developers to see what they can bring to the table. We want to get all those together, the CIC will make recommendations and bring those back to Council for discussion. That is the update as of this week.

Mrs. Brickweg – I have something under Old Business but I also have a question for Mr. Meier. Out of curiosity, I know a certain number of Council members need to be on the CIC and I'm not sure if that, have they voted on who's going to be the representatives or anything?

Mr. Meier – That was brought up in the meeting the other day and there was an election and Mr. Kathman was elected to fill the vacant spot. I did not bring that up because I wasn't aware if Jennifer or Gerry had spoken to everybody after that but that is where we stand right now. Mr. Bollmer, who had been the Treasurer, had resigned from his position and there were a couple of candidates that were nominated and Mr. Kathman will be stepping into that spot as the current Treasurer. He has already demonstrated some financial expertise in saving the City some money with the issue with the compressors. I think he will be a great addition to the CIC.

Mrs. Brickweg – Some have asked, what is Clean Up St. Bernard Day and how do we get involved? Clean up St. Bernard Day will be on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00a.m. until noon. Our clean up day is in association with the Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup TM . It is the nation's largest community improvement program, built on a foundation of individual responsibility and civic pride. In 2003, the program mobilized over 2 million volunteers in 14,000+ communities from coast to coast in a total of over 30,000 "hands on" cleanup, beautification and community

improvement projects in their communities targeting areas of greatest need and getting the job done! Great American Cleanup™ activities improve the quality of life in each participating community. Shirley Phillip's from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful spoke at the last Council meeting informing us of what resources her organization could offer St. Bernard such as supplies, equipment and ideas. They also offer mini grants, usually up to \$500.00 for special projects, such as litter prevention, recycling projects, and any kind of beautification project. In the fall they have Make a Difference Day and they offer free daffodils and day lilies for any beautification projects.

I will be having my Town/Ward meeting on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> in Centennial Hall at 7:00p.m. where I hope to get volunteers and ideas of projects we can work on. I will also have a sign up sheet at the City's Town meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to volunteer or have project ideas or questions please call me at 242-5183 or e-mail me at [pbrickweg@yahoo.com](mailto:pbrickweg@yahoo.com).

The best way to make this event a success for our City is with volunteers. Everyone is welcome and I encourage groups from our City such as the boy and girl Scouts, schools, churches, business, sports teams, elected and appointed officials, City employees, etc. to come out and help Clean Up St. Bernard!

Mr. Zix – Tonight we passed Ordinance No. 8, 2006, it is additional appropriation. I just wanted to explain a little bit, it is the OCJS School District Grant Fund and that Fund is given to us by the State and those dollars come into the City and they need a vehicle to disburse those dollars so they use our budget. There is no additional cost to the City.

Mr. Meier – While the Girl Scouts were here I had my Girl Scout announce that the Home Ownership Mobile was coming to St. Bernard on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Just a little of explanation on that, this is something that Fifth Third has sponsored and they are going to be in this area during the month of April. On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, they will be here from the hours of 12:00 until 6:00p.m. It is a full service facility so any individuals that currently do not own their home or would like some information about doing that, they can go through the whole process of education, application, whatever they need. It will be a step as far as to promote the image of the City. I've asked that, we were able to get some media coverage also. My understanding is that we will have a live radio feed during the same time, so again that will be another, a little opportunity for us to get the message of St. Bernard being a good place to live, getting it out to the rest of the County.

Mr. Geiser – Could you tell us where the Van is going to be?

Mr. Meier – Right now we are trying to get the information as far as to what the electrical requirements are, whether it is 220 or 110. We've got a couple of different ideas, we would like to have it some place where it is pretty visible. As soon as I get the requirements for the power, it does have a generator, we could use that if we needed to, it does have a wireless internet connections and it has about 8 terminals that can be used, but ideally it would be better if we could hook into a power system rather than use the generator.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Brickweg – I would just like to elaborate on inviting everybody to my Town/Ward meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Centennial Hall at 7:00p.m. Some of the ideas that have been asked to be on the agenda are:

1. Starting a Citizens' Advisory Group.
2. The hiring of a City Manager
3. Closing off the streets that run into Mitchell and Ross, for example, Greenlee, Kemper, Sullivan, Tower, etc.
4. Vine Street Revitalization.
5. Clean Up St. Bernard Day.
6. Senior Housing
7. Getting library property back and using it.

This is the first of many meetings and everyone is invited. I'm hoping to get the input of citizens and volunteers to help with these projects.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. St. Clair – Mrs. Brickweg, in your remarks on amending that Ordinance, you talked about the Health Benefits Committee and a change in plans and that it had to be unanimous and that was not true. Did you actually say, could you repeat what you said because I wasn't quite, I didn't quite catch it?

Mrs. Brickweg – No, Mr. St. Clair, what I said is that many times when it was being discussed, some said it did have unanimous, some said it didn't and it seemed like it always got dropped. I don't know what the confusion is because I know it doesn't have to be unanimous because the Fire Dept. did it. But after that usually gets said or something like that gets said at a meeting then it's just totally dropped. A few people have asked me if we're trying to look for ways to save money and that was one thing that was said, some of the employees paying part of their benefits, why has that not even been considered, I agree with you that it doesn't have to be unanimous but I guess the question is, why hasn't anything been done then?

Mr. St. Clair – OK, if I could update Council on that a little bit. The Health Benefits Committee has not met for a couple of months now but we are scheduled to meet this month, the third Wednesday, anyway, the idea of a Health Benefit Plan covering all full time employees of the City required a unanimous vote of the participants. In other words, the Police Dept, the Fire Dept., the Service Dept., City Hall and the Administration. That is the unanimous requirement was a change of plan that would affect everybody. Now there were in our discussions about those plans, actually two options came up, one from the Service Dept., and one from the Fire Dept. Because of the budget situation, the Fire Dept. actually stepped forward and did commit to a change in their plan, which would require a co-pay and they accepted that. Other individual groups within the City could have made changes as well and I think the Service actually had a change proposed but there thought was to wait until after the levy and once the levy passed it did get dropped, I agree. The Committee is getting back together, we're going to be talking about some possible health benefit changes so that hasn't been

dropped, it's just been on the back burner for a while, but it will start up again.

Mrs. Brickweg – My question is, I understand that the Service Dept., the Police Dept. that they are under contract, so is this not something that could be discussed right now with the City Hall or the non-contractual employees, That is my question, is this something that can be discussed with them? Just basically when you go into contract negotiations, you are negotiating pay raises, you're negotiating benefits, you're negotiating a big package, well the non-contractual employees, needless to say, do not have a contract but if we're supposed to be considering a raise, basically negotiating a raise, wouldn't it be the time where we could look into where they could also start paying part of the health care coverage to save the City money.

Mr. St. Clair – Actually, the City Hall employees are represented on the Health Benefits Committee and they were going to go along with the Service Dept. and their offer at that time, but as I said that kind of got but on the back burner. You're right, as a separate group, they could have a plan as well.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess what I'm asking is to get it off the back burner and possibly discuss it.

Mr. St. Clair – Right, as I said, we're starting back up with our meetings.

Mrs. Brickweg – It would probably help me personally with pay raises if they would be considering it now.

Mr. Zix – The benefits are tied to another ordinance, correct, for the non-contractual employees?

Mr. St. Clair – Correct. I believe they are tied by ordinance to the Service Dept. contract.

Mr. Zix – Right. But by ordinance we'd have to pass another ordinance, Mrs. Brickweg, to change them.

Mrs. Howell – I just have one question for Walt, on that meeting, is that open for everybody to come or is that strictly the Health Care Committee?

Mr. St. Clair – Well the representatives are from, they are usually the Union Reps from each of the Depts. Representing City Hall is Mr. Wiedmann and representing the Administration is Mr. Kempe and myself, but otherwise, it's Mr. Baur and Mr. Meyer and sometimes Mr. Schrenk from the Fire Dept., Mr. Roll and Mr. Hausfeld are going to take over from the Police Dept. and Service is Mr. Wiedmann and Mr. Lengerich and Mr. Fossaluzza was in on that as well. Those are all the members, now we don't have a whole lot of room down there in the conference room, we could move it to another site but if somebody else would want to come to it that's fine, it's an open meeting. We don't, I guess we could publicize it but it's not a decision making, it's not a legislative, decision making body.

Mrs. Howell – I was just asking to get a better handle on somethings, I'd like to come and get better equipped with what you guys are discussing. That's the only reason I asked.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did realize that it is in ordinance form and once again I have a problem with benefits and pay and all that being in ordinance form. That's why I thought it would possibly be nice if they could just discuss it instead of an ordinance where Council is voting to say this is the way it is and that's the way it's going to go, like I said, it would be a good time to talk about it now, with the pay raises because I'm not, I'll be honest, I'm very uncomfortable that as a Council person, I can tell various people basically what their raise is going to be when I really don't know how hard they are working because I'm not there during the day. The same thing with some of the benefits. So I was just hoping maybe instead of Council just taking it and ruling on an ordinance that it could actually be discussed and that's why I brought that up.

Mr. Zix. – Just last week, Council asked the Finance Committee to take that into their Committee and we have that in there now and we will start working on it after we get through the pay increases.

Mr. Asbach – With all the talk of raises I just remembered that I will not be at next week's COW so I just wanted to state my opinion to everybody that I'm still in favor of the 3% across the board. Whether it's right or wrong I don't want to start pitting different depts. against different depts. That was my reasoning, when someone stood up at COW and said that they felt that they deserved a 5% raise when we were talking separating the 5% for the three Civil Service people and 3% for everybody else. I just wanted to state that since I won't be here, that I am still in favor of the 3% across the board.

Mrs. Howell – I also stated last week that I won't be here next week at the COW so I'll reiterate that I am in favor of 5% for the Chiefs and the Code Assistance Officer and 3% for everybody else. I also have one comment for Mr. Zix. You said that they put that in you're Committee, I've got City Hall benefits in my Committee with all that stuff on there. So we both don't need to have it. This has been in there, I just wanted to let you know.

Mr. Zix – It was my understanding it was steps and contracts, non-contractual benefits and where ever it goes, that's fine with me, if you want to hold on to it, that's fine.

Mrs. Howell – I just wanted to let you know.

Mr. Zix – Yes, that's fine.

Mrs. Howell – You can have it, I'll give you all the paperwork tonight.

Mr. Zix – Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just one thing to consider and part of my discussion with a City Manager form of government, is a City Manager would hire, fire, give raises based on merit, and take it out of Council's hands. This would be a person that works at City Hall all day long, watches the people, knows what

they do, and it takes it out of the political hands and then we won't be sitting up here deciding and like it was just said, you know pitting different depts. against other depts., you would have merit raises, which I think is a good thing to have and it would personally take it out of my hand and I would think a City Manager that is watching the day to day would have a much better outlook of what that person deserves as a raise, so it's just something to consider when we are thinking about raises and thinking about ways to improve the situation on how we give them.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30p.m.

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