

I                                    **ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 21, 2005**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, April 21, 2005 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 six members were present. Mr. Stegman was absent.

Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Council agreed 6-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. John Estep – The levy forum went well last week. We've got a lot of positive feed back. We're going to meet April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m. at Fischer Pl. down there by Klosterman's. We'll have an abbreviated parade at 6:00 through the City and it will conclude at the pavilion around 6:30 for food and refreshments. The signs should be in, see Chris Sauer, he'll have a sign for your yard.

Also we've discussed, lately, the garbage put out on the street on the wrong days after the wrong times, depending on where you live. I got with Joe Kempe and Dave Fosssaluzza and they have prepared a nice flyer that is going to be distributed in the near future, maybe with the help of the Boy Scouts, it just basically explains the days the garbage and recycling pick up. The times that it shouldn't be put out before, the Ordinance, I believe it's tied to, and also the consequences. It also lists, I believe, the number of the garage, if you have a special pick up that you are interested in.

The other thing, maybe we should discuss this in COW, is the Fourth of July. I was wondering what Council's pleasure is on funding the fire works? In years past, it's sort of declined at the park, it's around \$10,000.00. I don't know if you're interested in appropriating \$10,000.00, if not, I think we should discuss that and see what our plans are. I would like to do this with everybody involved, so we might want to talk about that at COW a little bit more.

AUDITOR, Mr. Walter ST. Clair – The month of March reports for the City's investments and for the balances in our various bank accounts have been given to each Council Member and certain members of the Administration.

Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 17, 2005. This Ordinance adjusts two line items in the Police Department appropriations to cover the expenses of the resignation of one or our Police officers.

TREASURER, Mr. Tim Bollmer – No Report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Beth Luken – I would like to inform Council that we have received a resignation notice from Officer Doddy. He has accepted a position with the Warren County Sheriff's Department. His last day with St. Bernard is April 28<sup>th</sup>. I would like to express my thanks to Officer Doddy

for his service to the City of St. Bernard and I wish him well in his new position.

Mr. Geiser informed me a few weeks ago that he had given some members of Council information on residency. I had asked at that time to get a copy of that information and have yet to receive a copy. Does anyone on Council have a copy with them this evening that I might get a Copy?

Mr. Burkhardt – I'm still waiting on all that information. We haven't received it yet. I guess as soon as we get it, we'll get a copy to you.

Ms. Luken – I was led to believe that you had already gotten a copy, but you haven't?

Council members – No we haven't received anything yet.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Joe Kempe – I would like to reread what I read a couple of weeks ago about the hazardous waste materials.

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District will be offering a program for Hamilton County residents to drop off HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS FOR FREE. Household hazardous waste products are used in cleaning, lawn and garden care, automobile maintenance and home improvement projects and include paints, oil, acids, cleaning supplies, and fertilizers.

The dates for drop off will be from May 3 - September 30, 2005.

The location is 4650 Spring Grove Ave., (which is right across the street from Frisch's).

Days and times are:

Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Residents must show proof of Hamilton County residency when dropping of materials.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Sheri Williams – I would just like to thank Elaine Schmitt and Bonnie Middendorf in the Tax Dept. for all their hard work. They worked numerous extra hours at night and on the weekends. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Phil Stegman – No report. Absent

SAFETY, Mr. Bill Burkhardt – No report.

SERVICE, Mr. Glenn Wilson – No report, but I just wanted to remind everybody to get out and vote for the levy and the one tenth of on percent income tax.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Mike Schildmeyer – I would like to report on the Public Hearing scheduled

The Planning Commission of the City of St. Bernard, Ohio will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 110 Washington Avenue, St. Bernard, Ohio 45217.

This Hearing pertains to the addition of a new Chapter 1165 to the City Zoning Ordinance to be titled "PUD Planned Unit Development District Overlay: The purpose of a planned unit development district overlay is to permit development or redevelopment of land within the City with greater flexibility than permitted in established zoning districts.

The reason for the Hearing: Application for a change of regulations as governed by Article 1129.01 and 1129.02 of the City Zoning Ordinance. It is the wishes of both the Hearing Examiner and the Planning Commission to keep the entire citizenry completely informed as to the proposed changes in regulations of the City Zoning Ordinance.

Anyone interested in additional information prior to the hearing may contact the Hearing Examiner at City Hall, 110 Washington Avenue, St. Bernard, Ohio 45217 or call 242-7770. That would be Gerry Wiedmann Hearing Examiner's office.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Barb Kalb – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee met last night to finalize changes in the garbage ordinance. I'd like to discuss that at the COW next week. In addition, I spoke with Jeff Harris, the owner of St. Bernard Square, concerning his March 3<sup>rd</sup> letter which offered to help share some of the expenses of maintaining the parking lot down at the Square in exchange for an extension on the easement. We clarified what he meant by some of the content of his letter and I explained to him what my ideas were and I will be following up on that with him and with the Committee at a later date. In addition, last night we began working on changes to the animal ordinance to address some issues with cats and dogs roaming the City. We will meet again next Thurs. night April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Conference Room to continue this discussion.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mrs. Peggy Brickweg – The Business Chamber met on Monday and we discussed the City's current financial situation, the layoffs, the levy and the City's lack of trying to raise revenues by bringing in new businesses. It seems many are just as frustrated as me with the lack of vision in our City when it comes to raising revenue through new businesses. It seems, all we hear is cut, cut, cut and no idea of bringing in new business to help raise the revenues. That concerns the businesses that are here right now.

We also discussed the idea of businesses "adopting" planters throughout the City. Apparently the City has "sign ordinances" that would prevent businesses from displaying their names on the planters. I would like to put this idea on the agenda for the next COW meeting. I would like to review the ordinance and discuss if there is anyway we could make changes so the businesses could display their name. As discussed at the meeting, many larger businesses would need to get approval and the first question they may be asked from the upper level is "What is in it for us?" By being able to display their company name it would make it much easier to get approval. It is also a great idea to display the names for advertising and to show the residents and the people visiting our City what local business is doing to help make St. Bernard look better. I would also like to discuss the possibility of the City possibly purchasing small plaques for the planters that could be re-used every year. Since the City is saving money and time on purchasing and maintaining the planters I was hoping the City could afford this. Another possibility discussed at the meeting was citizens and/or

businesses taking care of flowers in the parks. I know I wanted to plant flowers last year in the park in my neighborhood but the large cement planter had been removed from the park. Hopefully we can work out all the details at the next COW meeting and add beautiful flowers through out our City.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mr. Greg Zix – No report.

Mr. Burkhardt – The Committee of the Whole Report has been submitted to the Clerk.

### **Committee of the Whole**

April 14, 2005

1. Council approved the minutes of the Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, 7-0.
2. Pat Christie of SEP 21<sup>st</sup> Century brought Council up to date on the program and what they offer.
3. Mr. Zix informed Council on the costs of the Dial-a-ride and how the usage has dropped since the changes have been made in the hours of operation.
4. After a short discussion, Council will revisit the problems at the Greenlee Ave. property after the upcoming court date for the owner.
5. Mr. Wilson will report back to Council after more information is gathered on cell phones and the amount of LAN lines that the city has in use.
6. Mayor, John Estep, no report.
7. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
  - A Council agreed 7-0 for an Ord. to transfer funds to the police comp. time line item.
8. Law Director, Ed Geiser, absent
9. Safety Director, Beth Luken, absent.
10. Service Director, Joe Kempe
  - A. Joe is looking into the costs for street repairs around the City and will report back to Council.
11. Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg
  - A. Peggy reported that the Chamber of Commerce meeting is Mon. at 6:00 p.m.
12. Public Improvements, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.
13. Service, Glenn Wilson, no report.
14. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.
15. Finance, Phil Stegman
  - A. Phil had some questions on a couple PO's for car repairs.
16. Laws, Contracts, & Claims, Barb Kalb
  - A. Reported that the committee will meet next Wed., April 20, 2005, at 7:00 p.m.
17. Highways & Transportation, Greg Zix
  - A. Greg asked to be on the next COW agenda to discuss the budget tracking tool.
  - B. After a short discussion Council agreed 6-1 with Mr. Stegman abstaining, to return the deposit on the Ross Ave. lot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Burkhardt  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

## COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Mayor Estep and St. Bernard Council,

I am writing you this letter in regards of the times that the residents may work out at the conditioning center. At this time, we are paying a ten dollar fee to work-out at the gym. Myself as well as numerous others who pay a monthly fee to attend the gym, would like the operational hours to be available for women and men at all times. The residents who attend the gym on a regular basis believe they should be able to work-out anytime now that there is a monthly fee. I have spoke to a great deal of gym members and they have no problem paying the ten dollars per month. At this time there is not one gym that has a men's and women's day in this area. I have had positive feedback for the day's to be mixed at all times from both women and men. The members who attend only think its fair due to the fact that we are now paying a fee. I hope the Council members and the Mayor of the City of St. Bernard will take this letter into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Kenneth Cole

There are also a number of signatures that accompany this letter.

Mr. Wilson – Right now, its not coed? Is that what I'm hearing?

Mr. Kempe – It is coed at times, but not fully coed. Not totally coed for every hour.

Mr. Wilson – Didn't it used to be?

Mr. Kempe – No.

Mr. Wilson – It never switched over totally?

Mr. Kempe – No, it did not.

Mr. Wilson – What are your thoughts on that?

Mr. Kempe – Personally, it makes no difference to me. I think if that's what, I'm not even sure that majority would be the right word, but if more of the majority want that, I don't have a problem with it personally. I know there are a few people that go down there in the morning, mostly women, they like that time to themselves, you're not going to keep everybody happy, I guess, but, from my standpoint I don't have a problem changing it to coed.

Mrs. Brickweg – Could we put that on the COW and maybe make a sign and put it on the bulletin board down at the fitness center and they can come if they want to discuss it with us next week before we make any changes?

Mr. Wilson – Do you think that's a decision that we need to make, or pass it on to the Recreation Dept. or the heads of the Recreation Dept. so they can discuss that and handle that?

Mr. Kempe – It's really not under the Recreation Dept. anymore, its mostly, since we combined it with the Transportation, its actually under my budget. If you want me to make the decision, I'll do that, but it doesn't hurt to get some input from Council or whoever. I certainly have no objections to, I'd be happy to put up some kind of notice down at the fitness center saying that we're going to discuss this at the COW next week and we'll go from there.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Zix to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 6-0.

The next communication is from the Board of Elections.

City of St. Bernard  
M. Sue Kathman, Clerk  
110 Washington Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45217

Dear Ms. Kathman:

Enclosed please find copies of two (2) legal advertisements for the proposed issues in the City of St. Bernard, Hamilton County, Ohio, for the Special Election to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2005.

These notices will appear in the Cincinnati Enquirer four (4) times, namely, Monday, April 11, 18, 25 and Monday, May 2, 2005.

Sincerely,

John M. Williams  
Director

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 6-0.

## **ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to read this evenings' Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 17, 2005 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 17, 2005. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adopt Ordinance No. 17, 2005 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Zix – After the First Quarter spending trends, we are under our projected income, WHICH IS GOOD, but we must follow every line item. I

submitted the budget tracking tool for the First Quarter to all Council, Administration and Dept. Heads with a request from those Dept. Heads that are overspent, to come to the next COW meeting and explain to Council their work plan to get their spending in proper alignment. I have received hard copy reports from the Fire Chief, Service Director and the City Nurse. I will copy these for each Council person so they can review them and be prepared with questions.

Mr. Estep – I just want to respond to one of the comments by Business & Industry. I'm not on the Committee but sometimes you do things and you just, maybe you take for granted that's part of the job. I was sitting here thinking about some of the businesses that I have contacted to try and get them to move, especially with the library property up in the air. A few weeks ago I contacted Applebees and spoke with a guy in Lexington and Mr. Wiedmann sent him the specs on that property and parcel and daytime number of people in and out of our City. We spoke to at Friday's. They felt that the place that the put over in Roselawn would be better. I contacted them, been approached by Skyline, I met with Burkhardts, to talk about moving a hardware store down here. I've been to a bakery in Northside trying to get them to move up here. I met with Peggy, the rep from Curves several nights, we've contacted Home Depot, we have tried to get some businesses in here. Maybe that's a little bit higher than we're going to qualify for, but I'd rather start a little bit higher and then work our way down. We've toured the St. Bernard Soap Company to maintain good relationships down there. We toured the Smuckers Plant. We contacted another guy from a lumber yard. I have made a lot of calls that people don't know about that maybe go unnoticed. They didn't come to fruition but I haven't given up. I do try all the time to try and lure businesses in here. I'm not on the committee but there is a lot of effort that people don't know about.

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't hear some of those and they don't hear it so they think nothing is going on. I will tell them that at the next meeting but possibly if you can't attend the meeting, maybe write up a report and I can tell them what you've been working on and maybe that would help and thank you for the effort.

I would like to give my accountability and open item report. To make it easier to understand I will read the items by number. These are some of the items that the audience had addressed or that were discussed at the COW that I felt remained and people wanted an update.

1. The conditions of our City's streets was brought up by a concerned citizen. The Service Director is working on the amount it will cost to fix and maintain the streets. He will report back to Council when he gets the numbers together. The City currently has budgeted approximately \$10,000 for side walk repair and \$90,000 for street and curb repair. It was suggested that the City could use the Community Development Block Grant money, but I am not too sure that is possible after reading the criteria for the grant that Mr. Weidmann provided me. I would like to thank Mr. Weidmann for giving me that.
2. Council voted at the COW meeting to refund the money from the deposit put down on the Ross Ave. lot. I suggested possible selling the lot at a

smaller price to a home builder so we can get a home on the lot and another family living in St. Bernard. Mr. Weidmann said he would look into that. I also want to update that the property on Greenlee that Council has been discussing is currently being worked on. The City met with owner and is real close to signing an agreement that I am sure will make the neighbors very happy. I drove by today and they are cleaning out the house. If the agreement is not signed the City has a court date with the owner on April 26<sup>th</sup>, I plan on attending the hearing.

3. Council decided to wait for the new property maintenance codes to come out instead of changing our current ones. The goal is to have “more enforceable property laws” to ensure property is kept up in St. Bernard.

4. Residency was also discussed at the previous meeting by some members in the audience. One person asked that the City keep an open mind and meet with the employees to better understand their position. As to date I do not know if any meeting has been scheduled.

5. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Kempe are currently working on the cell phone bills to save the City money.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kalb – This evening I attended the quarterly ICRC meeting. At that meeting, Mr. Virgil Reed, the president of Time Warner gave a presentation about advances in technology that the cable system is using. ICRC reported that they have a new member which is the City of Fairfax and they are currently in negotiations with a couple of townships to join the ICRC. We were advised that there are grants available to provide video taping equipment to municipalities for their use. Safety departments, Police and Fire Departments can use them to make educational videos, Recreational Depts. can use them to tape events that they sponsor. In addition to that, we were advised that if there are any community events for the summer that we want televised that we contact them soon because their calendar is booking up. I do know that we have the Swim Team Championships coming up in July and I think there is a couple of concerts in the park, so if we want them televised we need to get them the dates before the truck gets booked on those.

My second item, the Mayor did mention that he and the Service Director have been putting together a flyer concerning the new rules about the garbage. I did speak with the Boy Scout Committee on Monday night and we have agreed that we will deliver those flyers door to door. We’re looking at doing it either May the 9<sup>th</sup> or May the 16<sup>th</sup>. I will let you know the date as soon as I know it.

I think all members of Council received in their mailbox and invitation from St. Clement Church who is hosting an hour of prayer for the City of St. Bernard on Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Its going to be an ecumenical service, all three of the Churches in the City are going to be participating and they would like this to be a joint event, open to all persons of St. Bernard and I invite everybody to that. I hope everybody attends, I think the City has been under a lot of stress lately and I think that might be a nice thing to attend.

Mrs. Luken – Barb, which Monday night?

Mrs. Kalb – Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7:00p.m. at St. Clement.

Mrs. Brickweg – I was contacted by Ron Miller, the Hamilton County Regional Planners Commission and he has asked if we could put a part on the COW, April 28<sup>th</sup> for the students from UC the that have been studying the First Suburbs Cities. They chose St. Bernard as their first City to really get into and try to figure out plans and they want to present their findings to us. They would rather not be on Cable TV because we are the first city that they are trying and they are not real sure how this presentation is going to go. So they would like to do that and they asked for April 28<sup>th</sup> and then Mr. Miller also asked to be added to our next Council Mtg. that he would like to present to the City, Hamilton County's 2030 Plan. From what I gather it's the goals that Hamilton County has going up to the year 2030. If he could be put on the beginning of the schedule for that Council Mtg., I would appreciate it.

## **AUDIENCE**

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave., - On the COW agenda Peggy just mentioned before, has any further thought been given to building or selling these pieces of property owned by the City that we are using for a lot of play parks and parking lots. If we want to do this and we want to raise revenue, we don't want to sit on it for a year and then think about it. The other thing I have and it probably should be directed to the Safety Director, in the newspaper, in the last months there is a lot of sad things about predators and molesting of young children, there is a lot of young mothers in St. Bernard and fathers too and I'm sure that they are looking over their shoulder who's living here and who's living there and my question to the Safety Director is, do we have a line in St. Bernard on any of these predators in our area, if there is, if the residents in the area where they are living are notified, I think there is a lot of stress on mothers now the more you read in the paper and see on the news, there is a lot of curiosity of strangers in town that you really don't know, and they're pointing fingers a little, what is this guy and what is that guy, do we really know in St. Bernard if we do or we don't have? It's gone so far as being on, I believe it's CNN TODAY, or the FOX TODAY, the group in Loveland, Ohio, which is close to us, actually put up a \$20,000 of their own money to persuade a predator to move out of their area and into somebody else's area. It seems kind of strange to me that one Community is going to pawn them off to somebody else and maybe we don't want to be part of the pawn shop.

Ms Luken – I'm not sure of the distance, but I do know that in the City of St. Bernard if a predator does move in to a certain distance from your home, you are notified via post card that they have moved into the neighborhood. I can follow up with the Police Chief to find out if the Police Dept. is notified of that information but I do know that homeowners do receive a post card is someone does move into the neighborhood.

Mrs. Brickweg – I will tell you that I did receive a postcard about a week or ten days ago that somebody did move into St. Bernard and I don't know it off the top of my head but there is a web site that you could go to and I did go to the web site and there were, I'll be honest, there were about 12 people listed and it had, you could look at the picture and their address. If I can, I still have the postcard, I'll look and I'll get it to you because I thought that

was very helpful for my children, I could show them a picture of the person so they would know what they look like. I do know there are a couple web sites out there and I will get that information to you.

Mr. Burkhardt – A resident had given me a postcard that they had received so I do know there is one on Beech St. in that area that just recently moved in.

Mrs. Kalb – The web site is the Hamilton County Sheriff web site, they have the link on it to the list of sexual predators and yes, while there are twelve that are listed in the 45217 zip code, if you look at the actual address in St. Bernard its six or seven, I forget, I counted them up this week.

Norm Miller– Do I understand you, we do have six or seven in town?

Mrs. Kalb – Yes, not that it's any concellation, Mr. Miller, but I did check some of the other neighborhoods just to see if we had a large concentration or not and I did, I checked Blue Ash, I checked Maderia, and I checked Indian Hill and while they didn't have six or seven, they had two, three and four. There are sexual predators living all around the County. Its not just here.

Chris Sauer, 131 Baker Ave. – As some of you know, I'm the Treasurer for the St. Bernard Citizens For the Levy Committee and at the last Council Meeting before the election, I would just like to take a few minutes and bring up a couple of things. First off, I would like to thank all the people that have helped out on the Committee and all the people who have committed their support financially and just coming to the meetings and helping out, passing out flyers, doing what they can to pass this important levy. I also would like to thank the citizens that came to the meeting we had on Tues., while although tremendously well attended, it was an excellent place and an excellent time to come and hear about what the levy is and why we need it and why it's important and why we all need to come together and pass it. A couple other items that I'd like to state in front of Council, there was mention months ago when this whole thing began about City time and City supplies used for a mailing, the City has been reimbursed for the full amount of that, supplies, time and everything, the Committee has paid for that. Additionally, the forum we had last Tues. is going to broadcast after the Council Mtgs. for every showing of the Council Mtgs. between now and the election. I encourage those watching at home to stay watching after the meeting and the public forum will be televised. Additionally, as the Mayor mentioned, if you are interested in signs and I don't know who you are and I don't have your name and address, please find me afterwards, I should be able to get you a sign tomorrow afternoon to put up in your yard and we also have a rally and a parade on April 30<sup>th</sup> as the Mayor mentioned, meeting at 5:30 followed with the parade, meeting at the pavilion afterwards at 6:30 with refreshments provided. I encourage everybody to come out, I personally am looking for tremendous support, I'd love to see this levy pass by a huge margin, I'd love to see this be a starting point, a beginning for the City to come together and really move us forward and I hope that's what this is and last, I got information today from Dusty Rhodes that I requested a while ago, other than the 2 mill roll back that came into effect this year, the City has not raised property taxes since 1982 when it went from 4.48 to 4.50

mills. Really this is a unique circumstance and it's an important circumstance, a time when we all need to come together for the good of the City and quickly to address a couple of other things, we are asking for a five mill levy, not only to address 2006 but its to address for the next five years. It's a seven mill levy for the next five years. Sorry, it's a seven mill levy but its not for 2006 alone, its for the next five years. Again on the other side of that it doesn't exist forever. If the City wants it again, if Council votes to put it on the ballot, the voters still need to decide. I encourage you to vote yes for the levy, vote yes for the City, I believe its important, and I believe it's a time we all need to come together.

Mrs. Brickweg – Chris, I just had one question, sorry, I've been receiving some phone calls and I did not have an answer for a lady this morning. She wanted to know did this start in June? She just wondered, when will it all, if it passes do they start calculating it the beginning of June? Do you know?

Mr. Sauer - Mr. Stegman gave me a copy and the way it is worded is this: For five years commencing in 2005 first due in calendar year 2005, first due in calendar 2006. So it is for this tax year, but you don't pay this years taxes till next year, so. As I read it.

Mrs. Brickweg – I also informed her that you have a web site and I did go on Hamilton County's and it was so easy how to look at what the 7 mills will cost with the calculator and I explained that to her, if anybody else wants to know, you go right to Dusty Rhodes web site, it says tax levy and it will tell you what the 7 mills will cost you on your tax bill. She found that very informative and she was thinking it was going to be a lot more money than it was.

Mr. Sauer – Right, we put together a two sheet thing that if you've never used the Auditor's web site to find out how much you pay for your property taxes, this goes through and shows you because as Peggy said, you can click on levy and it will tell you what it will cost your home, It's not this \$100,000. house, it's your house, and it's value and what it will cost you next year. So if you've never used it or you, and I believe copies of this are available, on the counter outside in the lobby.

Mrs. Brickweg – One more thing I realized when I talked to her that many people don't understand also is, I know we recently got a letter at our house saying that they are going to reevaluate our property and she was concerned when they reevaluated her property would that be effected by the mills. I explained to her, no, I explained to her what we had said here at the Council Meeting about the mills, the City already knows what they're going to get, because she was actually worried if she wanted to vote for the mills because if her property value went up way too much, so I explained to her, no, that's for future mills, so that's something else that the people should remember too and not panic about that.

Mr. Sauer – Right, and again on the Auditor's website you can see and it will show you what your full millage rate is and then below it it will say effective rate and that takes into consideration past mills that have been reduced due to increased property values. If your home is reassessed this

year and your property value goes up that does not change. This millage, the 7 mills.

Mr. Estep – Is the average value of a home somewhere around \$93,000 in St. Bernard.

Mr. Sauer - \$91,500 at the 2000 census.

Mr. Estep – So for this levy it should cost you under \$200.00?

Mr. Sauer – Slightly under \$200.00, yes.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – At past meetings, both COW and Council, a lot of time was spent discussing garbage bags. Was everything finalized, were they ordered? If so, how much and if they were ordered, are citizens ordering them getting them, how are they getting them?

Mr. Kempe – Yes, we passed the order to get the garbage bags, we did that and we have received them. The procedure still is to come to City Hall and then purchase the bags, we had to go up on the price because we paid more this time around than we did three years ago when they, or two years ago, whenever it was that we received bags. They will be going up to \$10. a case effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Angela Chatman – So are they currently on sale, right now, today to the citizens?

Mr. Kempe – Yes.

Angela Chatman – And have citizens done so, so far?

Mr. Kempe – Yes, we have people come down everyday for garbage bags.

Angela Chatman – And then, the next question I have is regarding on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> voting on the tax levy, on the levy, when will the tax increase go on? Is that May 3<sup>rd</sup> as well for the one tenth of a percent so are you going to hit both at the same time?

Mr. Kempe – Are you asking me?

Angela Chatman – I'm asking Council.

Mrs. Kalb – There is going to be two issues on the ballot on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Angela Chatman – So the levy and the tax increase is at the same time?

Mrs. Kalb – The levy and the tax increase will be the only two issues that St. Bernard residents vote for. There will be nothing else on the ballot, that is my understanding.

Angela Chatman – OK and regarding the Cincinnati Enquirer and the tax levy notices that were published, did a notice go in a second newspaper, do

you have to do it in two newspapers as you do with contracts, and if so, what newspaper was that in?

Mrs. Kathman – The letter I have here only says The Cincinnati Enquirer.

Angela Chatman – Right, did Council put it in another newspaper? Do you have to put it in two?

Mrs. Kathman – The Board of Elections put it in the paper, not Council.

Angela Chatman – And then my final question is to Council, and I'm not sure, are you all required to file a financial disclosure with the Ohio Board of Ethics? Do you do so on a yearly basis?

Council Members – Yes, every April 15.

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't think one of her questions was actually answered. Is the income tax a tenth of a point, when is that going to go into effect?

Mrs. Williams – July 1, 2005.

Butch Baur, 150 Delmar – This is just an observation, I had and I've kept it inside for a while but I decided its time to bring it out. When we made the decision to put Council meetings on Cable, it kind of took the place of our Council minutes and if people don't come down here for COW, they miss a lot. I know a lot of discussion about what an ordinance is actually going to be about or what its going to be for a Council meeting, is actually discussed at COW and they don't get the opportunity to have an idea of what is going to go on until they see it on Council meetings already passed. Just a thought, I know the issue of putting Council meetings on was a big deal and it was a hard battle to get through, but maybe its something to think about and I don't know if its even possible, but that we maybe start putting COW meeting on there as well, so that when something is discussed at COW its going to be voted on the next week, if somebody has a feeling or view or input on it they have the opportunity to come here and express it.

Mrs. Brickweg – This only helps a few people, Butch, but if anybody is on my email list, I email an updated COW and what happened each week so if anybody wants to get on that, that's about all I have right now, but it seems to help some people so they know what's going to be discussed. If I'm not mistaken, when we discussed Cable wasn't that a possibility to do the COW meetings?

Mrs. Kalb – The ICRC told me that they would do any meeting we wanted televised. If we want the COW meetings televised they can do that too.

Mrs. Brickweg – Can we put that on the agenda for the COW meeting, to discuss that?

Rodney Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – I have to consult my Palm Pilot, I was making notes here. The first one is to, Mr. Schildmeyer, I wanted to ask you a question in regards to the zoning issue that you were talking about,

will that be something that will address zoning throughout the entire City or expanding a certain area?

Mr. Schildmeyer – I'm going to defer to Mr. Wiedmann on that, I believe the zoning, the PUD program was put together for looking at the Nu-Maid property and that property down there. If Gerry can help me out on the entire area, we haven't gotten that far on the discussion yet.

Gerry Wiedmann, Planning and Development Director, - Hopefully to answer Rodney's question, the PUDs are Plan Unit Developments, a Plan Unit Development can be used as an overlay on any of our current zoning districts. The advantage to that is, it can put additional controls or landscaping issues and things like that so that we can police, say like down at Nu-Maid is a M-1, and M-1 you can put used car dealership, you can put a junk yard in there, anything like that goes in an M-1. With a PUD overlay we would, Planning Commission and Council would put up exactly what they wanted for that particular area, you would still have an M-1 base zoning, but the PUD would say you can only do this. It give the City more control on those areas.

Rodney Chatman – Thank you, consulting the Palm Pilot, item #2, Mayor Estep, when you were talking about the contacts you had with possible businesses coming into the City and you mentioned that you gave them documentation about how many people come into the City etc. Is that information that we all can have, how many people come into our City and stuff like that?

Mr. Estep – Yes, as a matter of fact, I didn't send it out, Rodney, I asked Gerry Wiedmann to get that together because that was one of the things that was requested by the guy at Applebees.

Mr. Wiedmann – According to all the regulations and studies that we've done through the years, now this might be off a little bit, but its always been our understanding through my department that we have a daytime population of approximately 18,000 to 20,000 versus our night time of 5,000.

Rodney Chatman – Sure you want to sit down? The next item is for Mr. Miller. The SBEP School District invited me last year, I went to a specialized school in Columbus, Ohio, I don't know, I think there is two officers in this county that received this particular training but its in Bob Stubbers Safe Escape and he's the gentleman that goes on to Oprah Winfrey and a lot of the talk show circuits, but it teaches children how to avoid abduction and kidnapping and things of that nature. The school district invited me to put that program on at the school at a PTA meeting. I did that last year. If some of you have children who I see their children in the DARE classrooms, I've incorporated that in light of recent news events, but just to let you know that if that is something that Council ever wanted to put forth in terms of information to the City that they wanted to have that type of instruction again, just give me a room and a place and I'll be glad to put that back on again. I think the children really loved the program, they learn a lot and more so I appreciate the comments that you're having. More so than identifying who these people are that are out there, there are so many that we

can identify and I kind of like the idea of educating the children and giving them strategies on how to avoid it and I'll be glad to do that. That was item #3. Item #4, Peggy touched on this, there was a lot of impassioned people who came to the microphone in the past and they submitted letters and communication to this body regarding residency. I really do think, and it was my intent when I brought it up the last time I spoke at this body that since its such a impassioned item and Council has agreed to address that issue, I really think it would be an outstanding idea to in an not adversarial way to either have a COW (tape change). So like I said, in a peaceful sitting down, non adversarial, non cameras rolling type of environment, I think it will work, both sides to get a chance to see how the other are feeling and get those views expressed. Since I did mention that, not to put you guys on the spot, but has that been talked about and in terms of putting that on a COW or having a special meeting so that we can entertain that subject?

Mr. Burkhardt – Rodney, I've asked Eddie for some information on it and he was looking for it and Mr. Hudson gave me some information tonight and as soon as I can get that information from Eddie I was going to get it to everybody on Council, we'll discuss it at COW at that time and we'll decide at that time what Council wants to do.

Rodney Chatman – OK, but you are at least considering?

Mr. Burkhardt – We are looking into all the information, and hopefully Eddie will get that to us soon.

Rodney Chatman – OK, I'm sorry about this, you're considering having us make a presentation or having that type of meeting or you're just looking at the information you have?

Mr. Burkhardt – What I would like to do is get the information that he has, talk to Council and then at that point open it to the public or have a special meeting if that's what the majority of Council would want.

Rodney Chatman – OK, my batteries on my Palm Pilot are going out, thank you.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Bill, I think too, when you get that information pass it on to Beth so Beth is in line with everything also.

Mrs. Brickweg – One question, what we're waiting from Mr. Geiser is, the definition of residency?

Mr. Burkhardt – I believe its going to be definitions along with whatever areas have. I told him to give me everything he could give me on it, so I'm hoping that that will be a lot of information that we'll be able to go through.

Pam Moeller, Heger Dr. - I just had a couple of questions, one of them was, just to refresh my memory because someone asked me and maybe Joe is the right person, Mr. Kempe is the right person for this. As part of the concessions for City Hall employees, when they were trying to save a job, was part of the money that was saved the fact that one employee did not take advantage of their health care that is offered to them?

Mr. Kempe – Yes, at City Hall.

Pam Moeller – That employee was allowed to not accept health care to save that money to save that job?

Mr. Kempe – Yes, that is correct, but he has, its Walt St. Clair, and he has insurance through another source.

Pam Moeller – OK and that benefit would be extended to all the other departments if they wanted to say that?

Mr. Kempe – As long as they have proof of insurance from another source, I don't see why not.

Pam Moeller – OK, then my next point was, the \$83,000, I think its \$82,000 grant that we have to spend before the end of the year, I did a little research of my own on a web site and I was under the impression from that web site that the money could also be used for Fire and Police protection. Does anyone know exactly what that grant can be used for?

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Wiedman, if you can help me, is that the information you gave me? OK. Pam, I read over it, I don't remember seeing anything, but like I said, I just read over it, but I'll be more than happy to get all copies for you and I'll read over it some more. I was amazed at the amount of things it could be used for because, is this the same grant that was being argued with the red van, by any chance? That is what threw a nice big flag up in my face because I remember years ago when they were discussing that red van it was very limited as to what it could be used for. I was amazed at all the items it can be used for.

Pam Moeller – I was just doing my own investigating.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll look at it again, I'm not sure and I'll let you know.

Mr. Wilson – Can I also get a copy of that thing?

Pam Moeller – I guess I would like to then address a question to Mr. Wiedmann, who I don't want to make him get up here again but does he know if that's covered, Police and Fire Services, under that Block Grant?

Mr. Wiedmann – We have never asked about Police and Fire Services, the \$84,000 that is still in there right now is earmarked to the Vine St. corridor. I understand that both the Police and Fire are in the Vine St. corridor but I don not know whether those specific needs for Police and Fire would meet the criteria for this being in the Vine St. corridor.

Pam Moeller – OK

Mrs. Brickweg – When you say, earmarked, does that mean it has to go to the Vine St. corridor?

Mr. Wiedmann – Yes.

Pam Moeller – Just one more last question since Peggy brought it up, I was just curious about the status of the red van, the one point that wasn't brought up that night was the fact that maybe there is some kind of statute of limitations on the van and the grant, you know, after two years, you know the City can out right sell it if its not working improperly, you know, if that avenue was investigated, I was just curious?

Mr. Kempe – To answer your first question, the van is still locked up, I guess for lack of a better term. We're still investigation on what we can use the van for and we have not come up with a plan yet.

Pam Moeller – OK, thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just have a couple more questions for Gerry, you can say yes or no, sorry, it's your job. Can we change the earmark and who earmarks it?

Mr. Wiedmann – All right, Peggy, bring that back again.

Mrs. Brickweg – My first question is, when you say it is earmarked, who earmarks that? How does that get earmarked?

Mr. Wiedmann – When we applied for the Grant, it was applied for, for the Vine St. corridor and what we did is, we expanded the Vine St. corridor because the Vine St. corridor and North Vine was an urban renewal area and urban renewal areas are part of the criteria within what you have there so therefore this particular money was earmarked for the Vine St. corridor.

Mrs. Brickweg – Thank you. It doesn't make a lot of sense after reading this but I'll read more and try to figure it out.

Mr. Wiedmann – Let me explain it, what doesn't make any sense to you?

Mrs. Brickweg – Why would we limit ourselves like that?

Mr. Wiedmann – Because at that particular time it was Council's and the Administration's idea that we would try and do some sort of façade program for Vine St. and that has not happened up to this point, that is what that money was earmarked for but we have the opportunity to use it for some other things there, that's what we are trying to determine.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess my next question is, we've had this grant, we're in the third year of it, is that what?

Mr. Wiedmann – Yes, but you earmark the year that you are going to propose to use it. It's a three year program, but if you want to use, say it's three, four and five and you want to use it in four, it can be used in four and carried over to five, if you want to earmark for five, you can just use it in five.

Mrs. Brickweg – I understand that part, but if we have to use it by the end of the year, is there a committee, is there somebody that's working on how we're going to use this, or is it going to come down to what happened last

time when it was like Nov. and Dec. and we were shuffling on how we were going to use it? It sound like somebody had some ideas but where are those ideas, who handles that?

Mr. Wiedmann – I can't answer that Peggy because it was directed to me that we were going to use it for the Vine St. corridor. If Council wants to change that and wants us to go back to the County, then fine we'd be happy to do that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I wasn't on Council then, so can this Council direct, I'm just asking who directed you? I'm trying to see the vision here, I don't see where it's going, who's in charge of this to make sure we use it?

Mr. Wiedmann – All I can tell you is I apply for the grants.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I believe back when we discussed it, to apply for the grant, there were ideas of the facades program which was brought to us by the original regional planning commission and that money was earmarked for that if we had the chance to get into that program. We really never did pursue that program for the entire Vine St. corridor. The Vine St. corridor program has been around for quite a long time, going from South Vine St. all the way up to this current date. It's probably been about six years. Actually with that money, it was earmarked for a start of façade program, but we really never got around to it. We were working on larger projects at the time, like the Nu-Maid property, the development of the library was in effect then, the next step to the Vine St. program would have been that façade program which \$84,000 would have gotten it started be we would need more money to finish up the entire program.

Mr. Wiedmann – Absolutely, which would also have to be funded by the City.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Correct.

Mr. Wiedmann – Also I think there was approximately, there had to be \$6,000 that was also used for some of that parking lot revitalization and striping last year. We had some additional monies left over, plus, they allowed us to use that \$6,000 out of that \$90,000 to do that parking lot reconstruction stuff that we did.

Mr. Estep – I'm not going to cross examine you, Weedy, but when you apply for a grant don't you have to specify what it is going to be used for?

Mr. Wiedmann – Yes.

Mr. Estep – I think that tells the tale right there, if it's used for the Vine St. corridor, I don't think you can get that grant money and then say I'm going to use it on personnel. I think that's illegal, isn't it? I'm not accusing you of that, I'm trying to say you're following the road you started out on, I don't know if you can apply for money for one purpose and then say well we'll use it for, I don't think we can do that.

Mr. Wiedmann – There's different criteria for Community Development Block Grants. You can use them for areas of low income housing and things like that were there's low income people that live in a certain census track area. You can use it for things across the City, like for handicap individuals or for seniors, things like that, there's a lot of different criteria there, but this particular time when we applied for it, it was earmarked for the Vine St. corridor because we were looking for the façade rebate program.

Mr. Wilson – What's the possibility of taking that money and using it for the betterment of the City as far as landscaping, doing some landscaping, maybe at St. Bernard Square, all up and down Vine St.

Mr. Wiedmann – I would have to run that by the people at Hamilton County. I can't answer all these questions, these questions weren't even asked by Hamilton County, so I don't know how we can answer all of them right now.

Mr. Wilson – My thinking is, we're trying to pull people in, John has mentioned Applebees, Friday's, and if you go out and look at some of our area where our business district is, it doesn't look very good. We're trying to attract people and I think that's the direction we need to head into is maybe doing some landscaping and doing some store fronts and taking this money right now and utilizing it and heading in that direction so we can make our town look presentable to some of these people because they're coming in and they're looking at our town thinking is this where I want to put an Applebees, Friday's or what have you and I don't think our town looks as good as it needs to to attract that kind of business.

Mr. Wiedmann – You have a point there, but we also have desperate need even in the center of town for street repair and curb repair and things like that. There's many things, Mr. Wilson, that those types of funds could be used for.

Ms. Luken – Might I suggest, after Mrs. Brickweg gets a copy to all of Council and through the COW meeting the people from UC will be here to discuss their findings, maybe they might have some suggestions that end up in the Vine St. corridor and some suggestions for what you read in what Mrs. Brickweg has and you'll be able to make some better decisions at that point.

Mr. Wilson – Can I ask you another question, Gerry, it might pertain to Joe, Mr. Kempe, here. Who do we need to contact to get something done on Mitchell Ave.? It's not St. Bernard's property. Mitchell Ave. the roads themselves need major work. I don't know if that's considered federal or state or just the City of Cincinnati would be responsible for that but the roadway is just horrible going all the way to 75 and that also represents our town because people get off 75 and the drive to our town and there's pot holes and big chunks out of the ground and I mean I think someone needs to be called and notified. Maybe they're unaware of it I don't know but something needs to be done.

Mr. Kempe – We can make a call, I think you're talking about Mitchell to 75 mostly, yes, it is in terrible shape but I don't think they're unaware of it, I'm sure they've had a lot of calls regarding pot holes. I'd be happy to call down

to the Service Dept. down there to try to get an update on what's being done in that in that area.

Mr. Wilson – It might make a difference having a City official call, versus a resident calling and maybe it would get something rolling. Thank you, Joe, I appreciate that.

Mrs. Brickweg – One last comment, I didn't mean to cause all this but my point is, we have this money, there is not a lot of vision and the vision we had didn't get followed through, and we're back in the same situation as we've always been in. Sorry if I'm hurting peoples' feelings, but that is just the way it is. So I'm asking that we try to rethink this and do it correctly. It wasn't my plan to use this for salaries or anything but I do find that people seem to be contradicting themselves because first it was for a façade and then now it's curbs and it can be anything. Obviously, we're not really sure and I will get these papers out so if what I'm hearing is correct that when the grant was written it was written for Vine St. I agree with Ms. Luken that if we all get together we can come up with some great ideas but it's the idea that we need a vision and that, that's the main thing I was asking for and it was very helpful Mr. Wiedmann got me this, I learned so much from these papers and I'm hoping maybe I can learn more about other grants the same way and if we all work together if we all had the information that we need help to make a better decision.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Just to address Peggy's question, please keep in mind that this program that we addressed years ago was a façade rebate program, the key word there is rebate, where you're working with each individual group and company along Vine St. whereas they are going to share in the cost of the façade front in this program. This money that was issued for the grant was actually to address the questions and the how tos and the mailers and everything else that might fall in underneath that program. We weren't going to break down \$84,000 into 70 types of businesses and break it down into a few thousand and work with them on that level. It was a much bigger program in which the façade rebate would have complete frontal revisions of each of the buildings along Vine St. through the Vine St. corridor. That was the vision that we had. Never followed through with it because we did go in another direction, a larger direction the Nu-Maid property at the time, we could put it back on the table and bring it up again.

Mrs. Brickweg – I understand all that but we're talking \$84,000 and I understand Nu-Maid is a big property but it, you can't just ignore that. You have these great ideas and you say, well there's not enough money, you know, did anybody even contact the businesses? The other thing that the business chamber was very frustrated on is the lack of them knowing anything that's going on at Nu-Maid. I can tell you that businesses are wondering what's going on. So when you had this façade idea that they were going to contribute to did we contact any of the businesses and discuss it with them?

Mr. Schildmeyer – Actually, it never got out of the committee due to the amount of money and the direction took at the time.

Mr. Wiedmann – Peggy, just so you know, I go by the directions that I'm given. Now you're sitting there saying that now all of a sudden we're switching from façade rebate to streets and curbs. The question was asked of me if it could be used for anything else on Vine St. I answered that. There are no set rules as far as whether we can go there or whether we have to do it. We are earmarked to do the façade rebate program, there may be a chance that we can do other things in the Vine St. corridor. That's what we're looking into, but I don't like the insinuations that all of a sudden now we're switching else and that's just exactly what you just did.

Mrs. Brickweg – I am not insinuating anything, I'm not pointing any fingers. If you want me to point fingers, I guess it's the committee that let it go. It is not you.

Mr. Wiedmann – See, I don't like pointing fingers either, and I think there is an awful lot of that that's done around here. So instead of that, why don't we all get positive, why don't we start trying to do things together instead of just picking on each other all the time. This is crazy. It's counterproductive. There's a lot of things that can be done instead of things being said at the chamber or that. Why can't they bring back suggestions? There's a lot of things that we all have good input into, but you get up here and you start hearing things and all of a sudden you say, this is ludicrous, if we have \$84,000, let's figure out what we can do with it. That is exactly what we're trying to do. That's exactly what we're trying to do with the red van. I don't know whether any of it is going to work or not, but we're sure trying. That's the part, you sit up here as a dept. head and you sit and you listen to this stuff and you think, my God, we're back there trying to do this stuff every day and yet, you said a minute ago, it's my job, or something like that. Yes, it is my job and we do it to the best of our ability.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess the difference where you say pointing fingers and I say accountability is what I'm talking about.

Mr. Wiedmann – Don't point accountability at me.

Mrs. Brickweg – When did I?

Mr. Wiedmann – I'm just telling you, don't.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm not. The idea that we have \$84,000 and it's now just coming up and it's going all around and nobody seems to know what to do with it.

Mr. Wiedmann – It's not just coming up. It's been out there for two and a half years.

Mrs. Brickweg – My point exactly and it just came up a couple weeks ago at a meeting. That's my point exactly the vision. That money has been out there for two and a half years and the first I ever heard about it was a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Wiedmann - \$84,000, we talked about it last year when we took \$6,000 out of it for the parking lots.

Mrs. Brickweg – We said we were going to use it and we still don't know what we're going to use it for. How about at least we have it on the agenda now at the COW to discuss what we're going to use it for.

Mr. Wiedmann – That's fine, that's fine. We have also got a notification today that the next three year plan is in the works. We have to pass some legislation for it, so there will be a complete three years that you can have vision, if we get the grant for whatever you want to do with it.

Mrs. Brickweg – Can I get the information on that?

Mr. Wiedmann – As soon as we pass the legislation, yes.

Mrs. Brickweg – I think part of the problem is there is a lack of information, I didn't even know who to ask for it. This was so helpful to me, once I got it. Maybe it would be helpful if your dept. could give a report and then people would know what is happening. When you say you sit there and you feel like you're being bashed because I don't know what is happening in your dept.

Mr. Wiedmann – That works two ways. We're here 9 to 5 and you can ask questions also. Any Councilperson can come back to anyone of our dept. heads and between 9 and 5 and ask any question they want to ask. We will do out darndest to get the information.

Mrs. Brickweg – That's true, I met with Paul Coors and he explained the letter that I had in my mail box today because I did not understand it. I have made many phone calls to you. I don't want you to take this personally at all. I'm looking at the big picture of St. Bernard and trying to when we have money figure out the best way to use it all around and to discuss it and to get everybody the information because I, the more information we have, especially about grants, with the financial situation we're in, the better off we'll be.

Mr. Wiedmann – I agree, we should use the money as best we can and find good ways to use it. There's a lot of things that are coming out of this Council, such as, the comment you made earlier to the Mayor as far as not enticing any businesses to come here. There's new businesses that have been in here in the last month or so. There's a Maridia Tile Co. down on Kiley Pl., there's a place where you were going to put Curves, there's a new business in there, so therefore, to come up and make blanket statements like that is unfair to all of us.

Mrs. Brickweg – How come nobody tells the citizens that? How come nobody reads a report saying that? Is that my job because nobody's notified me.

Mr. Wiedmann – No, but is it your job to criticize if it's not true?

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm asking someone to report to the citizens what is going on. That is our job as elected officials. If I don't get the information I can

not report it. It is pretty odd that the business chamber didn't even know there were new businesses.

Mr. Wiedmann - That speaks for itself.

Mrs. Brickweg – Can you explain that.

Mr. Wiedmann – No, I just made a statement. There is one right on Vine St. right next to the shoemaker, the other one is down on Kiley Pl.

Mrs. Brickweg – Does the tax dept. notify the business chamber or does the, I mean, Sheri is there any way when, I'm sorry, is there anyway when new businesses come in could you let me know since I'm on the business chamber, there seems to be a lack of connection here. I'm supposed to know there is new businesses but nobody tells me that, so nobody tells me that so how am I supposed to know that.

Mr. Wiedmann – Just to clarify things, there are new businesses coming into town and so your statement that you made earlier was incorrect.

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Mayor, is there a way that maybe you could report when new businesses come into town and let me know so I can announce it to the business chamber and to the people.

Mr. Estep – There has to be a way, Peggy, and I think it's a great statement so I'll have to find that answer out for you, I don't know exactly who contacts who or checks in with who when a business is in place but some of this is new to all of us but lets move on here.

Mrs. Williams – With the Tax Dept., we just get so many companies that are coming into St. Bernard and doing so much work here and there so we could put it on our things to do. It depends on what you want us to spend our time on. We can do the best job we can. We just have a large volume, it's not just like a company that's going to planet in St. Bernard for the next 20 years or something.

Mrs. Brickweg – I like to hear that. Maybe, John if you can work on it and find out what I can do to help and I'm sure the business chamber would like to help if they could have a listing of all the current businesses.

Mr. Estep – As I said, Peggy, I think it is a great idea, we need to do more of that and we should communicate so I think this is sort of a, I think this pointing a finger at our self. I'll take this on and I'll work with you on that.

Pam Moeller, Heger Dr. – I have just one comment, I only brought that \$84,000 up because when I sat at that Council meeting I got the impression from everyone that was speaking about it that you had no idea what to do with this money. That's just my personal impression from that meeting and when I happened to see that on there, I just felt it was such an injustice to those Firemen in this town that you did not even work with them and I'm speaking to the Administration, that I personally was trying to do something positive and trying to find some money for them that maybe they could save a job. I think when you use one thing in the City Hall to save a job and you

won't do the same thing for those Firemen I think that's wrong. I think those Firemen got a bad deal and they left everybody save a job except that Fire Dept. So when I heard that, when I saw that about that it could be used for Police or Fire it wasn't to pick on Mr. Wiedmann, it wasn't to pick on the money, it was just, you know, I saw that and I just wanted to know if anybody could clarify it for me and maybe I just needed to call the number on the list so I could find out myself but you know I was trying to do something positive so I didn't mean it to turn into something negative for anyone, especially Mr. Wiedmann and that's the only reason I brought it up.

Mr. Wilson – Pam, you made a comment that City Hall workers were allowed to use something to save a job and the Police and Fire were not allowed to use the same thing, what are you referring to?

Pam Moeller, Heger Dr. – I was referring to the Health Care Benefit, myself, and I was told and maybe it's something that need to be addressed to the Fire Dept. but you know if you use it for one, you should use it for all three or all four. I believe when you save a job in the Police Dept. the Fire, City Hall and when you save a job in the Service Dept. those Firemen should have been allowed that same avenue.

Mr. Wilson – They are as far as I know. Tonight you asked that question and they said that that was acceptable, right? Is that what is just heard, earlier? Can someone verify that? That question was brought up and I believe someone answered her earlier that that could be used as well?

Mr. Kempe – I made that comment, yes.

Mr. Zix – Could I ask Walt, I guess, would they be bound by their contract, would they then need to open their contract at that point to allow someone not to have insurance, is this negotiable, I don't know?

Mr. St. Clair – I wouldn't be sure as how the contracts would affect it. My only comment would be, all the depts.. were asked to make concessions, they were able to be creative in any type of concession that they made and each dept. made different concessions. Whether or not one type of concession would be available, one type of concession would be available to all but one of the restrictions that you have in Police, Fire and Service has to do with contracts where City Hall is non-contractual.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – I have a question now that we're talking about bringing business in, is there a certain, and I guess this is the, one of the problems, is there a certain protocol that a business has to go through to get into St. Bernard because we don't, there was a business like a Christian Book Store business that seemed to add no value to the City. Are we, you know, when a business wants to come in, are we doing something to chose that business to say what economic growth can you bring to the City and if so, who's following up to insure that they're filing accurate taxes with us, that we're getting our money? Are we comparing it to financial statements? I mean, what makes the determination what business opens where?

Mrs. Williams – When a business comes into St. Bernard, they're required to complete a business questionnaire with the tax dept. and based on that business questionnaire we'll set up an account with them and then they are required to file their federal forms with us so that based on their federal returns that they file with the IRS, that is the information that we are going to use which I believe is pretty legitimate. As far as can we catch up with every business I think that between the planning dept. and the various depts.. within the City there is good communication about, they've seen this or they've seen that kind of movement at different business locations and so if there is anything that we are ever not aware of, we become aware of it. Now, contractors, there are some rules with that, if they come into town and they only work twelve or less days, or less than twelve days, then they are not required to pay certain taxes with us so you have to meet certain requirements, but yes, there is a procedure, I think it's a pretty strong procedure, I think we do a good job of following up with businesses.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – OK but that's on the end of it, I'm saying on the beginning, if we, we need to put ourselves where we have a choice who we're willing to accept because if we accept someone at a location who may not bring in the same revenue as another individual, is there some type of checks and balances where we can say, we're not just going to take anybody, because at that point are we going to say OK this person is going to be filing taxes with this business, yea, you're filing taxes but you're using City services in excess of what you're providing to the City.

Mrs. Williams – As far as I'm aware, there is no kind of process in place to monitor what is coming into St. Bernard and to see if it would generate revenue, for example, Peggy, with her best efforts, did bring a dog training, however, its not for profit and they have no employees, so they're taking up, and they're probably wonderful, but for tax purposes, they bring in no withholding tax, no net profit tax, so yea, if there were some way to have that kind connection, somebody who would be proactive and you'd have to develop a role I would imagine for somebody to address that. I can tell you right now the tax dept. does not have time to develop someone in that role.

Mrs. Brickweg – That is why I brought up multiple times, the possibility of a City Manager, Project Development manager. It seem that everybody has their jobs right now are very busy in them and if spent the salary on a City Manager, lets say \$100,000. and I know the budget is really bad but that man can run the City, write grants, that person can write grants, bring in new businesses, they can end up paying for themselves. I was just asking once again on the vision, to look at that idea, but there is not too much follow up to it, I suggested it and just as a Council person that's about all I can do at this point but I really think it would pay for itself and that was part of the thing with the millage, a lot of people want that vision of how are you going to bring in new revenue, how are you going to make a change.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – There was talk, one of the Council Meetings, that it would be suggested that if someone wants to rent, they have to do a rental application for \$25. Why don't we hold our businesses to that same standard? This way we could say, I mean it shouldn't be OK, mom and pop want to open a business, it should be something they have to apply

for and that should be decided on some type of business or planning committee, what is the value of that because they're going to use the services, they're going to use service dept., they're going to use the Police dept. they're going to use the Fire, but what are they giving in return? It certainly isn't to look pretty, look at Vine St.

Mrs. Brickweg – This is my best guess and I could be totally wrong but it just seems like at this point that St. Bernard is happy to get any business we can and if somebody comes and says they want to rent a store front, we're going to do it and that's the way I've seen it in the past few years, is that a bad thing or a good thing I'm not sure at this point because there's not a lot like I say the vision to look forward and somebody to have that job, that's something we need to look into.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – Right, and renting a store front, I mean, realistically maybe we won't see the profit because we're not the property owners of a lot of that, you know, I just, we want bodies but I don't think we should just get any bodies so that's something to consider.

Mr. Burkhardt – I know over South Vine St. we do have some control because we did turn a check cashing place up next to UDF because we didn't feel it was something we wanted. We don't have control over all of the properties on Vine St. North Vine St., we don't have any control over the shopping center, where Walgreens used to be, IGA, we don't have any control of any of those, that's why the CIC bought Nu-Maid so we would have control over that area finally, because I think at the time they were looking at putting a used car lot in there from Goodwill and we didn't want that. They had a barrel storage place from Queen City Barrel and everybody knows you don't want that. We did try, and there are certain areas that we do have control over but we don't have control over everywhere.

Angela Chatman – What was the reason for turning down the check cashing place? I admit, it's probably not the best and most desirable, but that is a profit making baby.

Mr. Burkhardt – Well at the time, there had just been a shooting up there on Galbraith and we had a public hearing and some of the residents and owners up in that area just didn't want it.

Angela Chatman – OK well there's still, I mean it's the same risk at UDF, I mean, you know there was a shooting at UDF in Oakley so I don't think we can base some things off of that, I mean, I would just like for this Administration to look at the bottom line and what can somebody or what a company can bring in as opposed to what they'll be utilizing so.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I believe a lot of the places that do come in, actually go through planning and development office and then it comes through a hearing which the papers are brought before Council on the hearing and people can attend that hearing and input their part, positive or negative on any of the businesses that are going into these established buildings.

Angela Chatman – OK, well if that's the case then how come people don't know that businesses are around or Mrs. Brickweg or this individual or Mr.

Estep, excuse me, doesn't know that certain businesses are here if all of these things are here if all of these things are happening? Where is the line of communication at?

Mr. Schildmeyer – The public hearings are published through the minutes. Gerry puts them in the minutes, puts them in everybody's boxes every time there is a public hearing. We read one tonight on the zoning, we had one last week we discussed on the bar up on the corner across from the Dairy Queen. We had one the week before on another program on a new business going into another building. Those are available that way, that's where Peg could probably get her information also that way on the public hearings that way and following up on when a store is going to open up and who owns them and what they are going to be.

Angela Chatman – I've never read that in a meeting, minutes. I've never ever seen that. That keeps in mind to

Mr. Walden – You've had a lot of extra time, because of the answers consuming some of your time but we are well past the five minutes.

Angela Chatman – OK, I apologize but this is another, not everyone gets the minutes, that's a part of the problem.

Mrs. Brickweg – Can I comment on that? So for every new business that's going to come in we have a meeting, a special meeting, you just said a title company, I never heard of that and I did not get anything in my mail box. So we have a public hearing on every new business?

Mrs. Kalb – We have public hearings on the properties that City has the right of veto on which is the South Vine St. area. Anywhere from Chili Time down towards UDF. That's what we get the notices for those public hearings on. We don't own the property there, we have to wait for the owners to find the businesses, then those businesses come to the City and there is a procedure that they have to go through to be approved there. Now if a business however, meets all the zoning requirements and Council doesn't have control over it, then Council does not get any kind of notification as far as that goes.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I would guess that's a lot more businesses.

Mrs. Kalb – Yes.

Norman Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – I just opened about an hour maybe two hours ago, a letter inviting me to one of these hearings you're talking about on Vine St. a new business coming in, I'm requested to come to the hearing if I want to. I've got two or three of these in the last very recently, I have property on Vine ST. ;and they are making it aware that someone else is coming in at least close to where I'm at. I can remember having the hearing here when they were going to put the building next to La Rosa's, there was quite a group of us here objecting to the property if you wanted to put on at the time, so we do have a notices for people on South Vine St., I don't know that someone on the other end of Greenlee Ave. gets one of them but if you got property on the business area we do get notified and we are

invited to the public hearing. The other thing I wanted to mention and Gerry probably remembers this, maybe 20, 25 years ago when we had the renewal area on Vine St. the South and North Vine St., we did upgrade a lot of our businesses through the health of the City, they kicked in, the property owner kicked in, we got a lot of renewal on it so there is a lot of benefit, but when we got \$85,000 earmarked for the South Vine St. project, we should hold it to the South Vine St. project. We are not spending out of the millions and millions we got in the City, there's probably not even a million going today to the improvement of the City so we can't give up an \$85,000 grant that we want to improve the City to do something else with it. We got a guy in Gerry Wiedmann's office that goes around telling you to fix up your property. We should be able to fix up the property of the City of St. Bernard with some of the money too.

Ron Miller, 4230 Bertus – Lets switch gears here a little bit real quick. Getting back to the tax levy, Chris did a real good job, I went to that meeting, it was real informative and stuff, but what wasn't answered was the question is, what happens if the levy doesn't pass? There's been a lot of services taken away and we've survived that, but that also turned the City upside down for quite a few months. If the levy doesn't pass, the bigger question I'm hearing from people is, what's going to happen, are we going to eventually be taken over by Cincinnati because we're not going to be able to keep up no more? I'm just curious of what, I mean I know the little stuff what's going to happen, but what's the big stuff what, I mean, do we have a plan as to what is going to happen if we don't pass it? I guess it's just a little free air time for the people out there to vote for it. I don't want to see the City to go down in the dumps. I'm just curious about that.

Mrs. Kalb – Mr. Miller, at this time, if the levy goes down, we do have to pass a budget in July and then we will have to decide our budget is secure for this year, but at that time we will either have to maybe put another levy on in Nov. or possibly make another million dollars worth of cuts. Those decisions haven't been made. However, I hear all the time, people talk about what would happen. The City of Cincinnati can just come in and take us over, and I mean, I haven't practiced law in over ten years but I don't know of any legal mechanism where the City of Cincinnati can come over and just take us over. We are our own statutory, well we're not a statutory city anymore but we're a Charter City and we have home rule. We have an income. We have rights. We maybe altered in the form that we're in, but it's a matter that we still have 8.6 million dollars in revenue. What we would have to do is cut our expenditures down to the 8.6 million dollars. There is no threat of the City of Cincinnati coming in here and taking over this City. I don't know of any legal mechanism for that to happen. Changes are going to have to be made. People didn't like the last changes we made, they won't like what we're going to have to do with the budget the next time. But as long as the City has income, we just have to alter our spending habits to match the income at that stage of the game.

Mr. Estep – Ronnie, to answer that question, I think other places when they go after a levy will say in some school districts they come out with threats some time, if you don't pass this levy we're going to cut sports, cut busing and you see there's a lot of them that don't pass and we were really trying to avoid that negativity. The Administration has discussed some alternatives

that we'll have to meet. Basically what this levy is going to generate, plus a little extra, and we surely need the extra if you've seen the streets, and we all have, is the million that Council afforded the Administration to get us through this mess. We really tried to avoid any threats or, if it doesn't pass, this will happen or this won't come through, we're trying to stay pretty positive and I've heard a lot of positive feed back from the depts.. and like Barb mentioned that the fact that the three Churches are going to meet that Monday before, you get the three Churches and the three depts. on your side, something good is bound to happen. We've got our fingers crossed and I think it's going to go good.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Kalb to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0/

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW is Thurs., April 28, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. It will probably be a long one.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Burkhardt to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.