

ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2006

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, May 4, 2006 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: 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. Wilson seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – The St. Bernard Summer Newsletter has been mailed to residents. Highlights of the news letter include the opening date of the Aquatic Center which is May 27th. Pool hours for 2006 will be Noon to 7:00p.m. daily. Nancy Franz will act as Pool Manager with Sharon Walterman as Assistant Manager. We were successful in finding enough life guards to staff the summer pool operation and I want to thank everyone who helped spread the word that more life guards were needed.

Say Soccer and Lollipop Signup dates will be held on Sat., June 3 and 17, 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. in the Recreation Office. Additionally, parents can signup children at City Hall from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday through Friday. Lollipop Soccer is for children ages 3 to 5 years and Say Soccer for children 6 and up.

This is my final opportunity to remind citizens and friends of the Weidner family that the date for the dedication of the soccer field at Ludlow Grove Park is on May 13, 2006 at 1:00p.m. Citizens and friends of the Weidner Family are invited to attend. There will be a grill out and pot luck immediately following the dedication at Ross Park, shelters 3 and 4.

We will honor our Nation's vets on Memorial Day., Monday, May 29, 2006. All veterans are encouraged to attend so we can honor them for their service to our Country. If veterans would like to ride in the parade call Glenna McCarty or Joe Kempe, that is here at City Hall, at 242-7770, ext. 20 or ext. 11 and we will make arrangements for the veteran to ride the parade route. Also, we would like a complete list of names from St. Bernard's residents of family members who are serving in the military. We have contacted local churches to help us with this listing – or, you can turn names of those serving into City Hall.

This year we are hoping to get a number of our neighborhood children to participate in a big way in the Memorial Day Parade by decorating their bikes and scooters with red, white and blue streamers to make the parade loop with us. We'd like to include everyone, including the youth is a good way to make them feel a part of this celebration. We think this is a great way to instill in our children the role our country's armed forces have played in keeping ours a free Nation. Each child that comes to march in the parade with a decorated bike or scooter will receive a Dairy Queen gift certificate. The parade assembles at Park Place and Bertus Streets at 9:00a.m. led by the Roger Bacon Marching Band, start time is 9:30a.m. The parade ends at City

hall where we will have the Memorial Day Program by the Veteran's Memorial. In case of rain, the program will be held in the Senior Center of the Municipal Building. Plan to stay for coffee and donuts after the memorial provided by the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 1162.

As you know, I have been in touch with The Cincinnati Public Library. I would like to be added to the COW meeting agenda to discuss the direction Council would like the Administration to move. I would also like to talk to them and have their feelings on the proposed building site. I will be asking for a consensus from Council – so to help you collect your thoughts, I have distributed a letter from Kim Fender to each Council person which will bring you up to date on this subject.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The April 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 Auditor's report, and they are given to Council and the Administration.

Payroll for the month of April:	\$ 366,731.34
Payroll year to date:	1,728,795.75
Other expenditures for the month of April:	\$ 386,130.92
Other expenditures as of April 30 th :	1,252,566.88
Total expenditures through the end of April:	\$2,981,362.63

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – I have the receipts for the month of April.

Receipts for the month of April:	\$ 794,581.51
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Receipts for the year through April 30 th :	\$ 3,537,674.22
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SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – St. Bernard Fire Department Monthly Report, April, 2006. 77 Life squad runs, 12 Fire runs, 8 Service calls, 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 7 Commercial Fire Inspections. The St. Bernard Fire Department will participate in the annual Community Awareness Emergency Response (C.A.E.R.) drill on Wednesday, May 10th at 10:00a.m. at the JM Smucker facility. This year's drill will involve a simulated spill into the Millcreek and its containment. Any citizens or officials, who wish to view the drill, are invited to attend. Please meet at the JM Smucker visitor center around 9:45a.m and you will be escorted to a viewing area. As I mentioned last week at the COW meeting we had two major incidents in the last couple of weeks here in St. Bernard. One was a targeted home invasion with intent to rob and the other was an armed robbery at United Dairy Farmers. In both of these cases we have apprehended and charged the suspects. I would personally like to thank our Investigator and the Officers involved in these cases for all of their hard work and dedication. We are also very grateful to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department's Criminal Investigation Unit, especially John Mullholland who was instrumental in processing the evidence from the UDF crime scene. He was able to lift prints off of a Milkyway that the suspect carried up to the counter and found that the suspect's prints were in two databases which implicated him. I am

very proud of our department and the way that we work with other agency's cooperatively to get things done.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – No report.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee has sent out letters to department heads to prepare their 2007 budget. They have been asked to fill these budgets at a 5% reduction of their original 2006 budget. We will review in meetings with department heads shortly after we receive them.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – I have the April 2006 activity report for the Police Department I will give to the Clerk to add to the minutes. Also I talked to the Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams and she will be at the next COW.

Activity Report: 911 Disconnects-13, Accidents reported – 32, Alarm Drops – 47, Animal Complaints – 23, Arrest (Misdemeanor) – 49, Arrests (Felony) – 13, Assist other agency – 27, Assaults – 3, Auto recoveries -1, Bank security runs – 28, Breaking and entering – 3, Calls for service 1031, Check on welfare -5, Criminal Damaging – 8, Dead on Arrival – 1, Debris in roadway – 8, Directed patrols – 13, Disabled motorists – 41, Disorderly group of persons – 7, Domestic disputes – 18, Drug abuse – 6, Drug paraphernalia – 2, Drug investigations – 1, Fights in progress – 9, Fingerprints – 2, Fire run – 11, Fireworks complaint – 1, Follow-up on runs – 35, Found property, 15, Funeral escorts – 1, Intoxicated subjects – 3, Investigate suspicious activity – 85, Juvenile complaints – 25, Landlord tenant disputes, = 1, Lockouts – 30, Lost motorists – 1, Lost property – 3, Medic runs (Local) – 57, Medic runs (Mutual Aide) – 1, Menacing – 1, Menacing (Aggravated) – 1, Mental hold – 2, Missing persons – 4, Noise Complaints – 17, Offense reports (Total) – 51, Offense reports (Cleared) – 39, Parking complaints – 45, Parking tickets – 13, Places found open – 8, Railroad complaints – 9, Robbery (Armed) – 2, See Complainant (Misc.) – 32, Suspicious auto – 11, Suspicious persons, 15, Telephone harassment – 1, Thefts (Bikes) – 1, Thefts (General) – 22, Thefts (Motor Vehicles) – 1, Traffic details – 41, Traffic Stop (Total Citations) – 78, Traffic stop (DUI's) – 1, Traffic Stop (Other) – 32, Traffic Stop (Speeding) – 45, Traffic Stop (Warnings) – 132, Transport Prisoners – 11, Transport person – 5, Wanted persons – 11, Warrant service – 4.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – The Service report for April, 2006. There were 228 tons of garbage taken to the landfill, there were 16.95 tons of recycling material that was picked up, along with 38 appliances. The City received \$1,111.70 for recycling in March of 2006. Also as the City representative to the ICRC, I would like to let people know that the ICRC will be video taping the High School's Art performance. They will be at the May 31st performance. They will do that video taping at no charge to the City and then they will upload the copy of that video to the City's website, so anybody in the schools who have family or friends outside the City that may not be able to attend that they will be able to go to the City's website and view that performance.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – The City website had a total of 2,408 hits in the month of April.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Howell – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Wilson – I have a tentative date for a Ward meeting I'm going to have for the 3rd Ward. I'm shooting for June 14 at 7:00p.m. It is a Wednesday and I'll announce a little more detail later, like where and some other information on it. I also wanted to thank everybody that was involved with the Clean-Up St. Bernard, I got there a little late, ended up down at Ludlow and was able to fill up maybe half a bag and that was getting into the weeds and everything else and we should definitely commend all the Service Dept. workers for doing such a great job, keeping our City clean because from talking to everybody it didn't seem like we had a whole lot of garbage everywhere. It seemed like they did a pretty good job of taking care of things.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – I attended the Hamilton County implementation Committee Meeting to discuss the Mill Creek Expressway Project on April 24th. The meeting started off with an overview of the project so far. From there the public meetings from January were discussed. They received a lot of feedback at these meetings which they continue to review. Step #6, which is the Final Conceptual Alternatives Study has been submitted and they continue to discuss and refine alternatives to the highway plan. They currently are reviewing engineering studies looking at traffic patterns and volumes, interchange alternatives and updating cost estimates. Because the cost of this project has gone up 300% they may need to phase the project differently. One of the reasons for the increase in cost is that construction prices along with oil prices have risen sharply. The estimated cost of this project has risen \$40 million dollars since the start of the project. The project may take longer than originally planned and they may have to re-prioritize some parts of the project. Step #7, which is the Development of Preferred Alternatives will start in June of 2007. This is where they make final decisions and they will have another public meeting to inform the citizens.

I did ask questions regarding the loss of residential homes, businesses and government buildings in St. Bernard. They stated at this point we will be losing the Service Department building and the businesses behind it. They are still studying the Fire Department and gathering information on the structure and parking lot. They did promise that everyone that loses property will be compensated for their loss by being paid an appraised value, moving and relocation costs. I explained that our City is very land locked and it could be hardship to find places to move these to and we would appreciate as much advance notice as possible. I would like to encourage our Administration to start talking with the businesses that we will be losing and help them relocate in our City. I will continue to attend these meetings and keep you informed of this major project.

I will also be attending the OKI Annual Luncheon on Friday May 5th. The guest speaker will be the Mayor of Cincinnati, Mark Mallory. One of the goals for this meeting is to discuss how Hamilton County can gain more power and money for projects by having all the Municipality Representatives attend the meetings and vote. The attendance records have

been very poor in the past and the goal is to change that. If most of the Hamilton County Representative attend the meetings and vote, then we would have the most votes. This could allow Hamilton County and St. Bernard to receive additional funding for projects.

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

Committee of the Whole
April 27, 2006

1. Council approved the minutes of the Apr. 20th Council meeting, 7-0.
2. Mayor, John Estep, no report.
3. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
 - A. Walt reported that the State Auditors will be next week and he will look into why the fee to the 1st Suburbs hasn't been paid for the last 2 years.
4. Director of Law, Edward Geiser, Absent.
 - A. Council discussed the issue with Flier Racks and will bring it back to the next COW meeting after talking to the Law Director.
5. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell
 - A. Jonathan informed Council that the 2 new speed detection devices are in. And he also reported on a robbery and home invasion that the police are working on.
6. Service Director, Joe Kempe
 - A. Joe reported that the Beech St. project will begin in 3 to 4 weeks and should finish up around mid July.
7. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams. Absent.
8. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Howell. No report.
9. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach
 - A. After a short discussion, Council agreed 7-0 to put an ord. on the table to make the entire City a Community Reinvestment Area. This is the first step in getting the tax abatement program going.
10. Business & Industry, Glenn Wilson. No report.
11. Safety, Bill Burkhardt. No report.
12. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg
 - A. Peggy reported that there were close to 100 volunteers at the Clean-Up St. Bernard Day. Peggy also will report later on the 1st Suburbs and OKI meetings.
13. Service, Kevin Meier
 - A. Kevin suggested adding steps from Vine St. down to the area along side the parking lot by Imwalle Funeral Home. This would give

people access from Bank Ave. area to Vine St. so that they won't have to use the funeral steps and driveway.

14. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg reported that there would be finance meetings with department heads starting May 17 & 18. The committee will be asking for a 5% reduction in all budgets from their 2006 budgets.

16. Council voted 7-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Burkhardt
President of Council Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS - None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Estep – There are two things I need to add to my report. One, ditto what Glenn Wilson said, Thank you to all the residents. We had a great turn out. We did get a lot of garbage and that is just due to the traffic and the businesses that are in our town. That's good.

Just a thank you to Gerry Wiedmann, as you know, Council approved the purchase of the Boehm's Deli and Gerry was instrumental in those negotiations and spent some time with Mr. Sing up there and I appreciate that very much and we're going to move forward with that project.

Mr. Meier – We had talked a few months ago about doing a Showcase for St. Bernard. We're at the point now that we can pretty much identify properties that are for sale or likely to be for sale and the agents that would be holding those open houses. What I would like to do is put together a letter to send to those, and John, if you wouldn't mind, I would like to give a copy of it to you so that you can actually send it out, so if that is agreeable, I'll put that together, give it to you, and you can edit it anyway you like, and we can go ahead and get that out to those agents within the next week or so. I will be getting back to the people that volunteered their time to help with this, with different departments and start putting things together, now that we're within a month of doing that. I think it is time to finalize some plans and pull this thing off.

Mr. Estep – Sounds good. Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – On April 22nd we held a Clean Up St. Bernard Day. I want to offer a HUGE THANK YOU to all that participated. I was overwhelmed with the amount of volunteers. We had over 100 people show up and work. My first thank you goes out to Dave Fassalozza and Jerry Shipp from the Service Department for driving the trucks around town and picking up the trash bags. I also want to thank all the students from St. Clement, St. Bernard Elementary and High School and Roger Bacon High School who participated. The Cub Scouts did a great job with Ludlow Park and the

Canal bed and they enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of kite flying after their work was complete. It was also nice to see members of the Administration and Council working to beautify our City. Mayor Estep, Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, Building Commissioner, Gerry Weidmann, Council Members, Patty Howell, Bill Burkhardt and his wife Lynn and Glenn Wilson collected a lot of trash. One of the most improved and cleaned up areas was Girl Scout Lane, just drive by and see how clean it is. To all the other citizens that came and helped THANK YOU! I am hoping this will become an annual event in St. Bernard. For those of you that do not follow the St. Bernard portion of the Mill Creek Valley Forum, I had a bet with Hartwell over who would have more volunteers. Thanks to all the above we won and now I will get a free lunch at Chili Time! THANKS AGAIN TO ALL and I would also like to add that I agree 100%, the reason we didn't have a lot of trash is because we have a great Service Dept. It was amazing to see the amount other areas had, because we could actually compare bags and like I said, we kind of ran out of jobs because they did such a great job, so I'm thinking, maybe we could plan for even more projects next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to announce that I will be having my Ward 2 Town Meeting on May 17th, 7:00p.m., Centennial Hall. This meeting is for Ward 2, but anybody is welcome to come and we can discuss any ideas. One item that has been asked to be discussed at the meeting from some citizens is Boehm's Deli and to see what citizens would like to do, either tear it down or renovate it so I said I would put that on my agenda. I also wanted to let the citizens of Ward 2 know that I'm finishing up the Spring Newsletter and I hope to have that distributed in the next few weeks.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mrs. Dee Rutenmiller, 220 Harvey Ct. – As most of you are aware, the St. Bernard/Elmwood Place Schools recently passed a school levy. I am here tonight to represent my committee. The registration committee of the levy committee, to thank many people in our community for the help we received. To all you voters who voted for the levy, a very sincere THANK YOU. To the City of St. Bernard, thank you for allowing us to have a parade, to Police Chief Moeller, for providing us a Police escort, to Officer Barnes, for being the escort, and to Officer Ungruhe, for stopping the traffic at Vine and Ross. To the following members of Council for placing a sign in their yard: I am listing them alphabetically, Councilperson, Steve Asbach, Councilperson, Bill Burkhardt, Mayor, John Estep, Councilperson, Kevin Meier, President of Council, Curtis Walden and Councilperson, Glenn Wilson. Speaking for my committee and the students of St. Bernard/Elmwood Place, this statement of support for Public Schools meant a lot to all of us. I have one last group to thank and this to us is a very important group to thank. The men and the women of our Service Dept. for the support that they gave to us. From the bottom of our hearts, we say THANK YOU. Thank you members of Council for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.

Norm Miller, Washington Ave. – I don't know what I want to talk in this thing, every time I get on this thing they say they can't understand what I said, all I do is mumble, so I don't know whether this is necessary or not. Tonight I want to talk, maybe to Greg Zix first, I hope that you being the Chairman of the Finance Committee that you'll keep an eye on what's going on with our Finance because it seems like you're the only one that gives us a lot of facts of what's being overspent and what isn't being overspent. I think if you'll do this for the citizens, we'll know what's going on rather than after it's went on, it's too late. Mr. Meier, I think you're doing a great job with informing us with what's going on with the different phases of the City. The redevelopment, whether it be Nu-Maid or the Vine St., whatever. The other thing, quickly, Mrs. Rutemiller didn't mention, and I want to publicly thank, I'm not part of the school system, I'm only a citizen in the City, but I would like to publicly thank the City or the Village of Elmwood for their support for this tax levy. They believe in the school system, I think the City of St. Bernard believes in the school system, although a lot of them will tell you that they don't, but this school system vote was great, we can move forward with the City. The other thing I want to say, in November we had an election and there was a lot of nasty things said to us, for and against, in February we had another and we had the same rhetoric, and we had another one just this past week and there was a tremendous amount of rhetoric. If you vote for a tax levy, I'm going to sell my house, if you don't vote for it I'm going to sell my house, everybody going to sell their houses if they don't get their way. Well, let these people go ahead and sell their house. Let them go out and see what is out there and what their tax rates are, what the school system is, if they think they can turn the City around or their Council, they can't do it, they live in the same world we live in, so I want to say to the people who got their home for sale, this town can turn itself around. Take your sign down, be part of the City. If you want to sell your house go ahead and sell that house, but don't let the gate hit you in the behind when you leave.

Mr. Zix – Mr. Miller, I do put out a monthly tracking sheet and I know some of the citizens get it and I'd be glad to get you one or anybody else that would want one, especially through email, I can get that out to them. It shows all their expenses, what their trending to be and what the dollar amounts that we are bringing in, but I will a point to try to have one for you next meeting you're here.

Norm Miller, 220 Washington Ave. – Thanks, Greg, but I don't know what emails are.

Mr. Zix – I'll get you a hard copy.

Mrs. Brickweg – I forgot to add to something, I wanted to know if, I don't think it has been announced to the citizens and I know a lot of people are talking about it, I was wondering if we could put it on the agenda for the COW that Paul Coors, our HIP Inspector is leaving, his last day, I think is May 12th, and I was just wondering is we could put that on the COW to discuss what the City's plans are with replacing him or what we're going to do.

Mr. Burkhardt – Already on the agenda.

Mrs. Howell – I just wanted to let Council know that I will not be here at the COW next week.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW will be Thursday, May 11 at 7:30p.m.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Meier to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.