

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2006**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, May 18, 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 six members were present: Mrs. Howell, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix. Mr. Burkhardt being absent.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Hazardous Material starts off my report for tonight. Both Chiefs and Joe went to the screening and discussion session set up by Rich Jaffe, reporter for Channel 12 News. The screening and report concerned the transportation of hazardous materials through the tri-state area, and the potential for hazardous materials becoming a terrorist target. Peggy Brickweg, County Commissioner Todd Portune, Richard Ellison of Elmwood and Norwood's Mayors also attended the meeting.

Mr. Jaffe showed the group the tape which aired May 15th on the 11:00p.m. News. The report showed the threat and danger of hazardous materials being transported through the Cincinnati area and the lack of security for these tankers; of specific concern was the storage in and around the Cincinnati area as it relates to community safety. Following the screening of the news story, Mr. Portune agreed with Mr. Jaffe about the threats and dangers associated with the transportation and storage of hazardous materials. Mr. Portune commented that any real enforcement of regulations will have to come from the state and federal level to be truly effective. Railroad companies must keep more accurate records and share that information with state and local communities informing them of where hazardous materials are being transported and stored. Moreover, railroad companies will have to be held more accountable for safer transportation and storage of tankers containing hazardous waste.

Mr. Jaffe informed the group that several major cities throughout the United States are considering passing ordinances forcing railroads to re-route hazardous materials around major populated centers. He agrees with this approach but concedes it is not a complete solution to the problems associated with the transportation of hazardous materials, saying it takes only some of the dangers away from densely populated areas where fatality would be high in an emergency situation.

It would benefit St. Bernard to look further into regulating transportation and storage of hazardous materials throughout our city, and to work with local companies to come up with a cooperative plan to better handle these materials. Hazardous materials in and around populated areas is not a new issue, but is certainly a serious one. It will take a lot of discussion, planning and money to make transporting hazardous material safer. Mr. Asbach, I would like to ask you to pass this information on to Mr. Burkhardt to add

this topic to the agenda for the May 25, COW meeting. Safety Director Jonathan Stuchell and Fire Chief Steve Scherpenberg will be discussing this and making recommendations to Council' as well as getting your views on this subject.

The Daniel Weidner Memorial Soccer Field – We had an outstanding turnout for the dedication of the soccer field at Ludlow Park last Saturday. It was touching to see the support the community showed for the Weidner family. One of the most outstanding features of St. Bernard is the sense of community that is demonstrated here. It is a truly unique feature of our small town and the thing that makes raising a family here so wonderful. There were so many people who helped with the dedication that I want to recognize for a job well done: the service Department had the grounds in pristine condition, the friends and community members that organized and participated in the pot-luck after the ceremony, Damon Miller, Bobby Hausfeld and John Hoeh for the construction and design of the monument, Mike and Lisa Wiedman for providing conceptual ideas and securing material donations, and Joe and Glenna for the behind the scene work they do, as always, to make the day a success. The Weidner's were very touched by the day and were very appreciative. I also was appreciated all of you who were there, I saw a lot of people down there.

On Memorial Day, don't forget to attend the program. As in years past we will have a parade to honor the veterans of our community and country. The parade will assemble at Park Place and Bertus streets at 9:00a.m. and depart at 9:30a.m. led by the Roger Bacon Marching Band.; Weather permitting, we will have the program by the Armed Forces Memorial, and in case of rain we'll go into the Senior Center. I'd like to encourage our civic organizations to participate in the parade as well as the youth of our community. Community children that march or ride a decorated bike in the parade will receive a Dairy Queen gift certificate. Lastly, on this subject, if you know a veteran in the community, encourage them to ride or march in the parade. Contact Glenna McCarty, here at City Hall. We are grateful to them for securing our freedom and want to express our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrifice to making this a free nation.

On visioning, the Masters program of UC's College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning would like to have a brainstorming session with Council and CIC members on Monday May 22, 2006, 7:00 to 9:00p.m. in the Teen Center of the municipal building. This is a no charge session whereby students will gather information about how the community leaders see the city and where they want it to go. You will receive an email from Stephanie Joy with more detail and your invitation to the session.

On the library property, your have been copied on draft to the Greater Cincinnati Public library to advise them of our position on the library property. I think it is fitting to clearly communicate our expectations and desire to our community partners. I want to keep them completely up to date as we move forward in trying to determine the viability of the library project. I will be asking for your input on the draft at the next COW Meeting prior to sending any communication on this subject.

On the upgrades in the City, we have completed another step in securing and expanding the electronic data storage capability of the City. Last week a new server was installed in City Hall. This server has the growth potential for city-wide data storage. If need be, this server could handle traffic from the Fire Department, Service Department and Police Departments. Should the I-75 expansion project displace any of our City service departments we

have positioned ourselves to accommodate data storage consolidation under one roof due to the capacity of this server.

Our HIP inspector, Paul Coors, has taken another position and we will miss him. Last week, I met with Jonathan, Gerry and Joe to discuss plans for replacing Mr. Coors and the current needs of the Zoning and Planning Department.

On a very positive note, the pool will open on May 27th. Pool hours have been expanded to meet the requests of the citizens to noon to 7:00p.m.. Passes can be purchased only at the pool during normal hours (and on 5/20/06). We will offer the sponsor pass again this year whereby a St. Bernard resident with a pool pass can sponsor a non-resident family into the facility. A little bit higher this year, but we did realize that it generated more revenue. Sponsor passes did increase pool attendance.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – (Read by Joe Kempe) Reports for the City's investments and bank accounts were distributed to Council and the Administration at the Committee of the Whole meeting last week. Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 16, 2006. This Ordinance provides for two additional appropriations and two sets of appropriation adjustments as were discussed at last week's Committee of the Whole.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – On the table tonight is Ordinance No. 15 and Ordinance No. 17. Ordinance No. 15, authorizing the Service Director to enter into a contract for a packer. As Council may know we have removed the procedure of no longer authorizing to go out for bids and now you have the final amount, which gives us more efficiency. Ordinance No. 17, is the update in the codified ordinance book by Walter Drane, in addition to this let everyone know that our codified ordinances now are on line, they can be accessed through the internet, if someone knows the website off hand let us know, I don't have it in front of me but I don't know if it's hooked into our City website but hopefully it will be, I know Glenna has been working on that. Just to let everyone know that you can access it through our website.

Mr. Meier, I have been working on reviewing the Ordinance that proposed the CRA that information you gave me. I would recommend, I talked to Gerry Wiedman, I recommend that we set up a meeting between myself, Mr. Weidman and anybody else who is interested, to discuss the details of that Ordinance. There is a lot of information that we should review and decide how that City wants to move forward, but I pretty much reviewed all the information, so we can move forward on that.

Lastly, I brought Council up to date last week on our recent law suit we've been named in. Basically, there was a high speed chase involving an incident through Cincinnati and Norwood that resulted in an accident and the person was killed. As a result of that, the estate is suing, not only the person who caused the accident, who is now in jail, but also the local Police Dept. because they tend to have more money. Our involvement, it is my understanding, is very little, the insurance pool is paying for the defense of that particular law suit and I will keep Council up to date on that suit as they move forward.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – This week is National Police Week where we acknowledge those who protect our streets. Of the 870,000 law enforcement officers who serve in the United States today we will honor 466 fallen officers whose names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Those names will be etched in stone next to some 17,000 already listed. This is a somber week for some but it is also a time where we can reflect and show our appreciations for those who serve. I encourage everyone to take an opportunity to show your appreciation to your local officers and thank them for putting their lives at risk so that we can have a safe community to live in.

Locally our department was represented by Chief Steve Moeller and Investigator Mike Matheson at the ceremonies held yesterday in downtown Cincinnati. I would like to thank them for their participations and I know that there would have been others who would have like to have gone but had responsibilities here.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Officer Bryant Kleinfeldt who retired from our department on May 9th. Officer Kleinfeldt had been on leave for an injury and it was determined that he would not be able to return to police work. He was with us from February 14th, 1994 and was a dedicated public servant during his tenure. We wish both he and his family a happy future.

Last week we also had another employee who moved on while in his 4th year. Paul Coors who was our HIP Inspector & Building Commissioner accepted a position with a local builder. This is a great loss to our City and I can only hope that we can find someone of the same caliber as Paul. He not only brought with him experience in the construction field but also compassion and a true desire for the improvement of our community. We would also like to extend our best wishers to Paul and his family in their new endeavors.

This now brings me to my next point. We will be looking to fill Paul's position and we will be moving forward in an expedient manner. The Mayor, Gerry Wiedman, and myself have met and are putting together the final details before we advertise for this position. We will post an ad in the Valley Courier and we will also be notifying our residents of the opening via Call Command.

At this time I would like to thank the Service Dept. for getting our new pole mounted speed monitoring devices placed for us. You will notice these devices as they are moved around town to problem areas.

Now, in closing, keeping with the spirit of national Police Week, I would like to ask that we have a moment of silence for those officers who have sacrificed their lives for us.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – I recommend adoption of Ordinance No. 15, 2006 which authorizes the Service Director to enter into a contract for the purchase of a new packer in the service department.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting, I was asked to call the railroad about repairs at the crossings. I was able to contact Ben Elroy, track supervisor, and he informed me that all railroad crossings in St. Bernard will be inspected and all needed repairs will be made within the next two months.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee met tonight and last night to review the 2007 budget with the Dept. Heads. The Committee will meet next Thursday at 6:30p.m. in Council Conference Room with Walt St. Clair to ask some final questions. We will then start preparation of the final budget and return to Council for their approval.

The budget tracking tool has been distributed to the Administration, Council and citizens that have requested it. I ask you pay special attention to the areas in red. These are areas that are trending overspending in the spread sheet. Please click the 2005 tab on the bottom of that to compare to last years' spending.

After four months, the income is down 11%, but the spending is also down by 13%. If any citizens would like copies of this budget tracking tool, please contact me.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – Absent.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – I have some numbers here that I was able to get this last week. During the year of 2004, there were 31 property transfers, 31 homes sold in St. Bernard. The average price of those homes were \$105,500. In 2005 we had 51 homes that were sold and the average price increased slightly to \$106,100.00. It shows two things, good and bad. One is the good, that obviously there is a demand for houses here in our City and the bad is that even though the value increased a little bit it was lagging what the average is for the area. A particular concern of mine was the city's improvement of the housing stock, I don't think we can have a vital city without a good housing stock for people. I would like to remind people that if you're planning on doing any home improvements, there is a HIP, which is a home improvement program, funds available. If you're planning on taking a loan to do those improvements, that rate is 3% below the market rate and if you're interested in that the participating banks in that are Fifth Third, US Bank, Key Bank, National City and Northside Bank and Trust. Other than that there are other things that people can do to make the City a little bit more attractive to people.. This is the time of the year that people are out looking at homes. The easiest thing that people can do is to please turn your porch lights on in the evening. When you look down a street of dark houses, its not very inviting. If you would simply turn your porch light on at night time, that makes the City much more attractive. The other thing that I wanted to lead into, Mr. Geiser has already addressed is that regarding the tax abatement is that he and Gerry and I should probably sit down with anybody else that is interested to go through some of the details on this.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Howell – I was just talking to Gerry Wiedman, we are waiting for the new property maintenance code book from the State and as soon as it gets here Gerry and I will have a meeting to address some of the issues with our codes. I would like to ask the citizens if they have any concerns about property maintenance, feel free to email me, pattyhausfeldhowell@yahoo.com and when Gerry and I have our meeting we will discuss some of those concerns.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Wilson – I just wanted to let everybody know that the tentative date has been scheduled for June 14th for my Ward Meeting. It's going to be in Centennial Hall at 7:00p.m.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – Before I start, some of my information might repeat some of the Mayor's, because I did attend the meeting and I had planned this so I am going to continue to read it. I attended the OKI Annual Luncheon on Friday May 5th. The Mayor of Cincinnati, Mark Mallory was the guest speaker. He discussed the importance of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky working together instead of competing to get thing done. Mayor Mallory also went over some of his goals for the City of Cincinnati, and some of the City's successes and failures. I was fortunate to sit with Hamilton County Regional Planners and Engineers. We discussed grants that our City should apply for and what needs to be done to obtain these grants. I learned that the OKI grants that I hoped our City would apply for back in April can be applied for and some will work for our City. I have started that process with working with OKI and the Ohio Department of Transportation. This year's grants had over 9 million dollars left over because not enough cities went after this grant. My goal is for our City to apply for these grants when they become available again. The hope is that we will be able to purchase the Dial-A-Ride buses with this money and use the money to the budget for purchasing to pay for employees to drive the buses. It would not only save our City money, but possibly increase the hours of operation. These grants will not be available for another two years but I plan on applying for them when they do become available.

I also attended a Roundtable discussion on Monday presented by Rich Jaffee at WKRC – Local 12. The Mayors and Council Members from St. Bernard, Elmwood, Cincinnati, Lockland, Norwood, Newport and Lawrenceburg, Congressman Steve Chabot and Hamilton County Commissioners were invited to attend. Along with myself, Chief Scherpenberg, Chief Moeller and Joe Kempe represented St. Bernard. We were asked to view a future news segment and give our feedback.

The segment presented an extremely serious and frightening look at a well known terrorism target right here in the tri-state with hazardous materials being transported by rail. Terrorism experts state that one chlorine tanker, if exploded, would establish a kill zone of 15 miles around the target, killing one hundred thousand people in the first half hour. While there are some controls over the issue from a federal level, anyone can simply walk right up to tankers in most communities and do whatever they wish. We witnessed this in the footage when Mr. Jaffee walked right up to many hazardous rail cars and tapped on them. A few of the cars were in the same location as the railcar that leaked styrene last year. Along with the terrorist threat there is still the possibility of accidents such as derailments. In the past two years chlorine tankers have derailed and killed people in San Antonio and South Carolina.

After viewing the segment we discussed the start of the solution to this problem is for local cities to pass regulations that would force the railroads to re-route around major population areas. What they are talking about there is re-routing rail cars that would not be coming into companies that need the chemicals in our City. They said basically that two thirds of the rail card that come through the major cities, have nothing to do with the companies right in the City. It is just easier for them to run them through a major city

than possible make them go around. Currently cases of this kind are being pursued in half a dozen major cities, including Washington, D.C. I will provide a copy of sample legislation that I received at this meeting to all of Council and the Administration in hopes we can start working on this legislation. I realize that the state and federal governments hold more power than local government, but I challenge those leaders to tell the citizens that they are not in support of legislation that could prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. I also do not want to sit back and wait for a tragedy to occur and then say “hey, we should have done something.” I also was contacted by Washington, D.C. this afternoon. Apparently, somebody sent the footage to Washington, D.C. and they called me. I am working with somebody there and he happens to be the person that wrote the legislation in Washington, D.C. that the Washington, D.C. passed. It did go to court, the railroad took them to court, and the City won. He is now going to be emailing me a lot of information and some ideas to review and to pass on and I will stay in contact with him but he did give me a lot of information to read and the other thing that I learned from talking to him today is that a new law has passed, it passed last June, and this law that a lot of people do not know about gives the local government authority over rail cars that are stored at plants in our City. It’s not publicized a lot because the chemical companies and the railroad do not want us to know about it. He is going to email me the information on that, but that passed back in June of 2005, so like I said, I learned about all this right before I left work and he said it is called HM223, actually and I’ll get more information on that, but he did show me that we do have a place and we do have somewhere to stand and I really think if we start and I talked to Todd Portune after the meeting, and he said he would do anything he could to help us and get the other local governments together and maybe we can be the start to end this horrible situation.

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

Committee of the Whole Report
May 11, 2006

1. Council approved the minutes of the May 4th Council Meeting, 5-0. Mrs. Howell absent and Mr. Wilson late.
2. The Safety Director informed Council that they are going to advertise for applicants for a new HIP Inspector.
3. Mayor, John Estep
 - A. After a short discussion, Council and the Administration are going to wait for the library’s 2007 budget to see if the St. Bernard Branch is included before pursuing other options for that property.
4. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
 - A. Council agreed 5-0 to put an ord. on the table for additional appropriations and adjustments.
5. Director of Law, Edward Geiser
 - A. Council agreed 5-0 to put an ord. for the updates by Walter Drane Co. to our codified ords.

B. Ed informed Council that we are being sued over a police chase that ended in the death of an innocent driver, even though St. Bernard was not actually involved.

C. Council agreed to take no action on the name change on the liquor license for Boomerangs.

D. Ed is also working on an ord. to regulate flier racks and newspaper racks.

6. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, no report.

7. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Joe reported that the new garbage packer was awarded to the low bidder for \$88,935.00. Council agreed 5-0 to put an ord. on the table to purchase the new packer.

8. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.

9. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Howell, absent.

10. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, no report.

11. Business & Industry, Glenn Wilson, no report.

12. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.

13. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy reported that she is working with ODOT on future possible grants that would be available for work that would be a result of the highway expansion.

14. Service, Kevin Meier, no report.

15. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg reported that there would be a Finance meeting 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 6-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

Respectively submitted,
Bill Burkhardt
President of Council Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Howell to read this evening's ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2006, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH V & H TRUCKS, INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 15, 2006.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to comment that at COW we were informed by Joe Kempe that this bid of \$88, 935.00 happened to be the lowest bid, but we are also very lucky that it was the packer that we've had a lot of experience with and a lot of luck with and we are actually below budget on this because they were planning that this could actually go up to between \$90 and \$100 thousand, so , it is below the budget and it is below the price in the budget.

Motion to suspend passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Meier to adopt Ordinance No. 15, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2006, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 16, 2006.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – I know the Auditor is not here but we did have a question at the COW and I'm not sure if anybody has the answer to that. The elections amount had increased from \$2600 to additional \$3324.99 and we were asked why that went up for this year and for the next year's budget if it's going to be more than \$2600 and was just wondering if anybody had an answer to that? OK, thank you.

Motion to suspend passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Howell to adopt Ordinance No. 16, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 17, 2006, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 17, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Howell to adopt Ordinance No 17, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to explain, I did go ahead and vote for Ordinance No. 16 because we do owe the money to Hamilton County, but I would still like an explanation and I think the Finance committee needs an explanation so we know how to plan for the budget for next year.

Mr. Meier – There are two things under Old Business. One is that I'd like to remind people the school is presenting their arts performance on Wed. May 31st and at that performance the ICRC will be video taping that for people that cannot attend. And also I would like to announce that the CIC will be meeting before the end of this month to get an update on progress on the Nu-Maid site.

Mr. Stuchell – I need to apologize to Mrs. Kathman, I had a communication that was emailed to me from a resident acknowledging the service that her family received from the Police and Fire Dept. during an emergency and I didn't know if it was proper to read it now or wait until the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Walden – Under the circumstances, we could probably read it now.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stuchell, Chief Scherpenberg, and Chief Moeller,

I wanted to send a quick note of thank you for the help my husband received from Officer Roll and Paramedics Mr. Baur and Mr. Granger on April 20th. Their kindness and caring was very much appreciated. Thanks a lot for all your help!!!

Warmest Regards,
John and Shelly Byrd

PS. I would like to also thank, 5th 3rd Bank employees, Gabe Sanders and Darlene Bollmer for their help and kindness

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

Mr. Asbach – Two quick things, first of all for the Safety Director, I don't know the procedure but I have had a request from a couple of people on Church St. for the new portable monitor, speed monitor, they just said that it seems that people are flying up and down Church St. Secondly, for the Service Director, I don't remember, we haven't passed anything yet for going out for bids for street repairs to date have we? People have requested, Jefferson Ave. is getting to be like a mine field as I'm sure other streets are.

Mr. Kempe – I'm going to talk about that at the next COW.

Mr. Asbach – OK, thank you.

Mr. Wilson – I just had a question for Joe, he was talking about Elroy being his railroad contact, are they going to take care of, would they take care of like the wood that surrounds the tracks, I mean the actually roadway?

Murray Ave. is really, really bad right now.

Mr. Kempe – Right, that is correct.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zix – I just wanted to thank the Safety Director for putting those speed monitors in the fourth ward, I can't say exactly where it is at because it gives it away so it loses its shoes but thank you.

Mr. Estep – I guess on a similar note, we're talking about traffic and on a very somber note, I'm sure everybody saw in the paper yesterday those two teenagers that were killed up at New Miami School District. As drivers, I'm sure of all of the kids in the street with bikes, and as parents we talk to little kids about staying out of the street but I know we're all busy but I just want to remind everybody, take the time to talk to your teenager, and I have one in my house, not only about the driver but who you are going to get in that car with and how well you know them and using that seat belt because you know, you see things and you think, I'm sure these parents were pondering, did I say enough, did I do enough, and I know we're all busy but please take the time to say something to your kid before they get in that car.

Mrs. Brickweg – I distributed the Ward 2 Newsletter this week and have received a lot of feedback from it. Some of the feedback was from people wondering when they would report if somebody wasn't taking care of their house. I did receive quite a few emails and I passed them on to Gerry and I'm hoping that is the appropriate thing to do but I did pass those on. We also had a Town Meeting last night. We did our best to discuss a few items in detail in hopes if we tackle a few things at a time we will be able to accomplish our goals. The main subjects discussed last night was what the City needs to do to hire a City Manager or City Administrator. We discussed what was needed to change the Charter and if the Charter would need to be changed if we hired someone under a consulting agreement, similar to how we hire Mr. Berninger to do legal work for our City. We also discussed hiring a consultant for writing grants and a possible City Planner. It was suggested that if the City chooses not change the Charter with any of these ideas or any other future ideas that the citizens can get petitions signed and put Charter amendments on the ballot for the citizens to vote on. We also discussed the idea of closing off the side streets on Ross and Mitchell to create a safer community, help increase traffic in the business district, prevent wear and tear on streets and allow a safer place for children to play. I will be asking Mr. Geiser for his assistance on this idea and I will also be talking with citizens and departments to see what they think of this idea. After I gather all the needed information I will ask for this to be discussed at a future COW meeting. And what we are talking about, it has been talked about in the past, going down Ross or going down Mitchell,

closing off Greenlee, Sullivan, Tower and your mail areas to get into back in there just kind of try to create it like a subdivision, you would enter from Vine St., therefore creating cars to go more into our business district and I know there are some plus or minuses to the whole thing and one of the items discussed last night was, can Vine and Ross take the extra traffic and another alternative to that was if we made a four lane, just during rush hour possibly like you see downtown, where you can drive, you can't park from seven to nine or four to six, but there is a lot of ideas to think about here but its an idea that I don't want people to just throw out, we need to be open minded and think about what that could do for our Community.

There was discussion on what the City's plans are for the Boehm Deli. Does the City plan on tearing the building down, has there been any discussion on remodeling it, has the City discussed any of the ides with the citizens. Some of the citizens at the meeting have asked for the subject to be put on the next COW meeting. I hope citizens will attend the meetings so that they can express their ideas and if they cannot please contact your Council representatives with your ideas.

It was a very productive meeting and I am planning on concentrating on these issues and when they are completed working on more. In the meantime if anyone has any comments, concerns or questions, feel free to contact me.

Mr. Estep – Just to expound on that too, I got a real nice email from one of the residents on Sullivan thanking Council and the Administration for being on the same page. He says he feels a little bit safer, he can leave his garage door open and he doesn't see near the traffic and garbage up there as he once did so he's happy.

On the budget, I also want to thank Greg Zix, the Finance Committee and Joe Kempe for all the hours they have been putting in. From what I'm hearing this is a very smooth process this year and a lot of planning has been taking place here to prevent some of the pitfalls we've seen in the past and I commend all of you for your work.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Wilson to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Asbach - The next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, May 25th, at 7:30p.m.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Mr. Meier to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.