

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2006**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, June 1, 2006 in Council Chambers.

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

Mr. Walden – Before we begin with the regular order of business tonight, we're going to have a presentation from the Mayor to one of our heroes this week, Kelsey Keiner.

Mr. Estep – World wide drowning is the second leading cause of injury related deaths to children fourteen and under. In the United States, drowning remains the second leading cause of accidental death among children one to fourteen. On Monday, May 29th, 2006, we had an incident at the Municipal Pool. A young man was found in water over his head, face down. Tyler Hausfeld, a ten year old resident noticed the two year old not moving. He alerted Kelsey Keiner, who immediately moved the youngster out of the pool and began CPR, called the Life Squad and everybody did what they were supposed to do. We are here tonight to commend Kelsey Keiner for her heroic actions. Tyler Hausfeld had a prior commitment. He'll be here in two weeks so we can do the same for him. Red Cross notified me this week that Tyler would be acknowledged and commended by a local Red Cross Award. Kelsey Keiner is also being nominated for a national award signed by the President of the United States. While we're here I would also like to publicly thank the Police and Fire Dept. for their immediately response and the way they handled everything. At this time I would like to ask Kelsey to step forward.

She is nervous tonight. After what she has done, we can't imagine how this would make her nervous.

Tonight I would like to read this PROCLAMATION to Kelsey.

It is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City of St. Bernard to recognize occasions of outstanding significance.

Kelsey Keiner is given all that is possible through word and deed and is therefore an example of true and faithful service for all of us, as well as future generations to follow.

Today, it is fitting to honor Kelsey Keiner and to recognize her for quick thinking under extreme stress and for trusting and relying on the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training she had recently completed while on Life Guard duty on Memorial Day, May 29th, 2006 at the St. Bernard Aquatic Center.

Kelsey Keiner is a sixteen year old student at St. Bernard/Elmwood Place High School. She has maintained a summer job at the Aquatic Center for the past three years. Two of those as a Pavilion Attendant. It is our good fortune that Kelsey decided to pursue American Red Cross Life Guard Certification for the 2006 summer swim season so to join the St. Bernard Life Guard Team.

May 29th began an ordinary day at the pool but quickly developed into an extraordinary day when a two year old boy was spotted floating face down in the swimming pool. Kelsey's quick thinking and dedication to duty changed forever another wise tragic outcome for a local family and for the St. Bernard Community. By pulling the boy from the water and administering a life support technique known as CPR. It is customary to honor citizens who make significant contributions to their community and to their fellow man.

AND WHEREAS congratulations and adulations is due Kelsey Keiner upon this occasion and for outstanding dedication and devotion to duty and her fellow man

I, JOHN R. ESTEP, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD congratulate her and wish to recognize Kelsey Keiner, St. Bernard Heroine. Today, June 1, 2006 an acknowledgement for her community service and to convey our admiration and best wishes of each and every citizen and the City of St. Bernard.

I do hereby unto set my hand upon the Great Seal of the City of St. Bernard to affix on this Community in the year of our Lord 2006. KELSEY KEINER.

The family of the rescued child would like to thank Kelsey also.

Theresa and Dennis Byrd – There are no words, Thank you.

Lt. Bill Ungruhe – Also from the Police Dept., we just have a small token, a certificate, and we started this about six years ago. It is called “Caught doing something good.” A lot of times in our business we are always catching somebody doing something bad. It is really a pleasure, especially being the first Officer to responding there, knowing that one of our youngest citizens was in good hands both with Tyler and Kelsey. It was unusual when I come as first responder to find somebody calm, doing the right things and I was just so proud of everything that was done that day and today I award you this certificate on behalf of the Safety Director, the Chief of Police, and all the Police Officers. The City of St. Bernard recognizes you for saving the life of a child at the St. Bernard Pool, Memorial Day, May the 29th, 2006. This demonstrates your desire to make the City of St. Bernard a better and safer place to live. We are very proud of your actions, you are a good roll model for other young citizens and we thank you as I know the family thanks you and this is what St. Bernard is all about. Thank you very much.

Mr. Walden – We will now resume with the regular order of business.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I would like to remind the people in the audience that came for that presentation, you are allowed to leave. There are better things to do than sit through Council Meetings. I thought a year ago these were emotional, but this is pretty moving tonight.

Just a couple of things, we have a couple of messages coming out on Call Command and the next one will be June the 5th to remind everybody about the sign up for the swim lessons and the splash-a-size for the adults. It will have the times, dates and the fees announced. We'll have another one coming out within the next two days for the job description for the HIP Inspector. We're going to announce that over Call Command and use the Valley Courier as the two vehicles to get that word out and we'll be following the same procedure as we did the last time to replace that guy we surely missed.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The May Auditor's reports are prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report and the report showing year-to-date revenue and expenses by fund are derived from the auditors report, and they are given to Council and the Administration.

Payroll for the Month of May:	\$ 354,609.60
Payroll Year to Date:	2,083,405.35
Other Expenditures for the Month of May:	\$ 623,925.34
Other Expenditures as of May 31 st ;	1,876,492.22
Total Expenditures through the End of May:	\$ 3,959,897.57

Before Council tonight is Ordinance Number 18, 2006. We did not discuss this Ordinance at the COW, but it is really just a bookkeeping Ordinance to reimburse the Master Plan Cash Account from the General Fund Cash Account for the purchase of the Schlanser Property at 4300 Sullivan Ave. This purchase and the necessary appropriation were already approved by Ordinance Number 13, 2006.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – I do have the receipts report.

Receipts for the Month of May:	\$ 1,327,196.77
Receipts for the Year through May 31 st :	\$ 4,864,870.99

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – Just to add to what the Mayor, Mr. Estep said about Kelsey and Tyler, we couldn't have been any more fortunate to have those in the places that they were at that time. I am also very proud of these tow and we are privileged to have them as a valuable part of our community.

Also on Memorial Day, I was honored to walk with the two departments that I represent. I would like to thank the on duty personnel from both the Fire and Police Dept. for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade. Chief Steve Moeller, Chief Steve Scherpenberg, Lt. Bill Ungruhe, and Firefighter Bill Kreyenhagen served as our honor guard. Lt. Bill Ungruhe, Bill Kreyenhagen and Lt. Mike Simos who was on one of the PD's mountain bike's were there on their own time and I want them to know how much I appreciate that.

We will begin advertising to fill the position of Housing and Property Code Inspector and I would like to read it for the benefit of our viewing audience. \The City of St. Bernard Building Department is seeking a qualified individual to perform inspections on repairs, alterations and additions to our

residential properties. All inspections are to insure compliance with the City's adopted Building Codes and Property Maintenance Codes.

The selected individual will perform inspections for all permit related residential projects together with the property maintenance inspections mandated by the City's "Home Improvement Program".

Applicant must have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. equivalent.

Applicant should also have a minimum of three years responsible full-time paid experience involving one or more of the construction trades and/or general construction work at a level requiring building plan reading and interpretation. Previous commercial and/or housing inspection experience will be a solid consideration together with any current OBBC, ICC or BOCA certifications.

Successful applicant must have a valid Ohio Driver's License and provide their own transportation on a reimbursement basis. Successful applicant must also pass a physical examination, a police background check and a polygraph test.

The position will be in the "Unclassified" service. It will be full-time with approximant work hours of 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m., Monday through Friday. Starting salary will be \$40,000.00 annually. Successful applicant must be a City of St. Bernard resident within six months of the completion of their probationary period.

Applications will be available at City Hall, 110 Washington Ave., St. Bernard, OH, between 9:00a.m. and 4:00p.m Monday through Friday, June 1, 2006 through June 16, 2006.

The St. Bernard Fire Department Monthly Report for May 3006 had 78 Life squad runs, 14 fire runs, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 2 hazardous situations, 1 service call, 9 commercial fire inspections and 1 fire sprinkler and inspection.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – No report.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee met the last several weeks with the Dept. Heads to compile the budget. I will be sending that budget out to the Council for review for next weeks COW Mtg. I would like to thank Joe Kempe and the Dept. Heads for their preparedness on the budget. It was one of the smother budgets we have ever put together.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – No report.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – First of all I would like to thank everybody who was able to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. It was a very good opportunity to spend some time walking and talking with the other Officials of the City.

Also, last night, ICRC video taped the school performance at the High School Auditorium, from all reports it was very entertaining and successful and a positive rendition of the history St. Bernard. I will be letting everybody when the broadcast times are as soon as they are available.

Also, on the CIC, they held a meeting that in the future all CIC meetings will be open meetings. People will be invited to come and observe if they wish

to do so. Any meetings that were of any confidential or proprietary information from the businesses is being discussed will be closed meetings, they will go into Executive Sessions, other than that if somebody wishes to come on a non-participatory basis, they would like to come and sit and observe, they will be welcomed. Those meetings will be announced.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – There were nine hundred and ninety six hits on the City web site for the month of May.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Howell – I don't have a report but the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee meeting is going to be held next Thursday, June 8th, at 6:00p.m. downstairs. Also Gerry and I are going to meet next week to discuss some of the property maintenance codes, so I urge the public, if you guys have any questions or concerns that you would possibly want to address or handled, either email me, which the last time I did give the wrong email address and I apologize, the correct address is phausfeldhowell@yahoo.com. If you have any questions or problems, let me know.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Wilson – A couple of things, one is my meeting that I had scheduled for June 14, at 7:00p.m. is going to be at the St. Bernard Municipal Bldg. I just finished putting all the flyers out, mainly I covered the Third Ward, but anybody in St. Bernard is welcome to come. We are going to mainly discuss the Schwegman Bldg. what can we do with that property.

The other thing, I've been working on the Finance Committee with Greg, and it went very smoothly. We've had several meetings to discuss the budget and it's one of the smoothest budgets I've been through, it just seemed like everybody that worked on it, came prepared, including Joe. They should be commended for that.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – At a past Council meeting I announced that I wanted to start an "Employee of the Month" to honor St. Bernard employees. While talking with some employees, they said they did not want to "appear" better than others in their departments, since they all do a great job. I still think it is important for our citizens to hear about our employees, because so many times employees behind the scenes get missed. Because I feel it is important to acknowledge our employees for doing a great job, I have decided to tweak this idea a little and call it "Employee Appreciation". I will be talking with Department Heads to get their feedback, ideas and assistance. I have worked up some questions for the employees to answer so we all can get to know them better. I will include some of their answers when I show them our appreciation. In case anyone is worrying I did make brownies for Jerry Shipp and he is still alive!

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

**Committee of the Whole
May 25, 2006**

1. Council approved the minutes of the May 18th Council meeting, 6-0, Mr. Asbach absent.

2. The Safety Director and Chief Scherpenberg discussed chemical tank cars and after some discussion they will work on getting the public notified on safety procedures to follow in case there is an accident involving one of these tank cars as they pass through the City.

3. Mayor, John Estep

A. After a short discussion, Council and the Administration will wait before sending a letter to the public library concerning the City's wish to get the property back if the library does not promise to build after their meeting in July of 2007.

B. Council agreed to give Mr. Wiedman the ability to fund the study by Dr. Romanos, 6-0.

4. Auditor, Walter St. Clair, no report.

5. Director of law, Edward Geiser, no report.

6. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, no report.

7. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Council agreed 6-0 to go out for bids to do street repairs throughout the City.

8. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, absent.

9. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Parry Howell, no report.

10. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, absent.

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

12. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.

13. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Lou Steinert and Jan Boylan expressed their wishes that the City try to find a use for the old Schlanser property before deciding to tear it down. Mr. Gabe Sanders also addressed Council with his wish to tear down the Schlanser property and keep the area as a green space.

14. Service, Kevin Meier, no report.

15. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg reported that the Committee is finished with budget to send to the County and will get a copy to all of Council.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

St. Bernard City Council

I would like to take a moment and send a heart felt thanks for the fast service on the request I made on E. Ross Ave. It was hard for me to get in front of elders and give that speech, and actually be taken seriously. My neighbors and I are extremely grateful that the City of St. Bernard is concerned for their citizens. I have already noticed a difference that the speed lights have made, and the extra efforts that the St. Bernard Police are making in patrolling the speed in that area of town. Once again thank you for making St. Bernard a safer City to live in.

Srah Spradlin
324 E. Ross Ave.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to receive and file the communication and send a copy to the Police Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to read this evenings Ordinance by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 18, 2006, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 18, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adopt Ordinance No. 18, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Asbach – I would just like to ask Mr. St. Clair, with reading an email yesterday, it mentioned reimbursement from the State for tangible personal property, the changes that were made, the new law that was passed. It said that these payments were being made for dollars, lawsuits, the changes were made during the last State budget. I was just curious if we were, it listed something on a chart but I was having a terrible time trying to read the chart, so I don't know if you had any update or anything on that?

Mr. St. Clair – No I don't really have an update on that, it hasn't affected us yet for receipts or expenditures, so I haven't seen anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to ask everybody to bear with me, I'm having a bad allergy attack, so I'll just do my best to read this. At last weeks COW meeting an audience member addressed Council and the Administration regarding how our City has been run in the past and is currently being run. I decided to do some research on his views that Council

and the Administration are not fulfilling their job responsibilities. According to our City Charter we have a “Strong Mayor” type of government. According to Ohio Revised Code 705.79 the Mayor’s duties include the following:

1. Seeing that laws and ordinances are enforced.
2. Recommends measures to Council for adoptions.
3. Keeps the Council fully advised of the financial condition and future needs of the municipal corporation.
4. Prepares and submits to Council such reports as required by that body
5. Appoints competent, disinterested persons to examine with out notice the affairs of any department, officer or employee and have them report findings to the Mayor and then the Mayor reports them to Council.
6. Performs such other duties as the Council determines by ordinance and resolution.

According to Ohio Revised Code 731.05 the duties of Council should be legislative only, Council shall perform no Administrative duties and it shall neither appoint nor confirm any officer or employee in the City government. All contracts requiring the authority of the Council for their execution shall be entered into and conducted to performance by the board of officers having charge of the matters to which they relate. After Council gives authority to make such contracts and the necessary appropriation is made. Council shall take no further action.

For those wondering why I read the following Ohio Revised Codes, at the COW we discussed the role of the Administration, past and present. There was no finger pointing at the current Administration and Council because it appears we have not been running the City Administration and Council the way it should be run for a long time. It was discussed that Council members are doing more than they should and that the City is currently lacking a leadership role. For example it was stated that the Mayor and his or her Administration should be running the City and asking Council for laws and appropriations to fulfill their jobs. It was stated that it is nice that Council and the Administration work together, which is true, but working together does not mean doing each others jobs.

I brought up the idea of Council discussing changing the Charter to have a City Manager or the idea of hiring a City Administrator under a contract, similar to what we do with attorneys. Another idea discussed was having a full time Mayor. That way the Mayor could concentrate on the day to day running of our City. A full time person could attend daily meetings, be a hands on person, and be able to report to Council on all the affairs of the City.

I feel along with many others that our City is at a turning point in the road. We need leadership, we need to hire professionals to help develop and market our City. We need to invest in our City by obtaining a low interest loan to purchase run down homes and businesses and fix them up to sell or tear them down. We need to focus on Vine Street, the main corridor to our City. Council did agree to appropriate the funds for Dr. Romanos from the University of Cincinnati College of Planning to continue their study of St. Bernard, but we need the funding to make the plans happen. St. Bernard has had many plans, but without the financing and leadership they will just remain that – plans.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Norm Miller, Washington Ave. – My television went off yesterday and my daughter came in from Owensville to get it working. I'm certainly not going to be able to turn that mic on.

I just listened to Peggy's remarks there and I think a lot of it is unfounded. The Mayor came into this mess of the City and it seems like everything that is said is "The Mayor, the Mayor, the Mayor did it." The Mayor inherited most of this stuff. The Mayor made some decisions at the beginning of his Administration to change some things and what did he get, he got almost got run over with a hell wagon. Council didn't want this and Council didn't want that, but the Mayor took the blame for everything that happened. Don't blame everything on the Mayor, we got a Council up there that whether you make the decision or you don't make the decision you can help make decisions. You need to work together, put it aggravates the devil out of me, everything that comes up, the Mayor did it. If we get a City Administration like you're talking about, the City Administrator is only as good as the way the City looks. And if you think we can get a good Administrator, you're going to pay big bucks and I looked at the budget here right now and if it keeps going we ain't even six months into it we'll be a half million dollars in the hole now. So where are we going to get all these big bucks that we need. We got big ideas but we got a little pocket book to handle it and we need to handle it. I talked to Greg earlier, we've got a red item here of \$150,000. and another red item of \$180,000. We ain't even six months through this one and we're talking about all of this big stuff. We can run this City, we've ran it for 100 years. It just irks me every time you hear some of this, the Mayor did it. There is more people involved in this City than the Mayor.

The other thing I want to say is, last night I went to a, it was in the high school building with grade school participation of a program about the City of St. Bernard. Was anybody up there, hold your hands up, did anybody attend it? See we got all these people here, we talked about our school system, nobody is interested in what the program is in our school system. If you would have gone there, I understand, Curtis Walden told me that they were taping that for view over television and it's something for everybody to see. I hear critics about St. Bernard School system, they don't do this and they don't know how to do that, if you'd a been there, you would see what a bunch of kindergarten to six grade students achieved, they coordinator of this said he hasn't seen anything in this area as good as what was put on here. These young kids knew their lines, it was a beautiful program, the program was 100% about the history of St. Bernard. If you get a chance, watch this on Cable TV, it is going to be televised, but when things like this come up instead of all this rhetoric that I hear about the St. Bernard system, it's not this and it's not that, they should do this and they should do that. If you pay attention and see what some of the programs are rather than what you think they are, I think we'd all be better off.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to comment to Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller, I did my best to summarize what we spoke about but I think you misunderstood. I was not blaming the current Mayor. I read it right in there. That for the past many years we have not been following what we are supposed to be doing. Secondly, the idea of a full time Mayor, it includes John. I didn't say it was going to be a different Mayor. It could possibly be John if that is what he likes. I was just trying to explain what we discussed at the COW meeting

and I did my best to word this so there was no finger pointing. But as you said about the money, I agree, and that is why I said right in my report that we need to if it comes to that, we need to take a loan to invest in our City to fix it up. You're right, there is no money in the budget to fix it up. So we can have all these plans but if we don't have any money to do the plans then that is just what they are, plans. I was not pointing the finger at John because like I said, even the past Administration and probably the Administration before that were not doing exactly what we are told to do and that might be part of the problem. I'm not pointing any fingers at anybody.

Mr. Walden – Norm, let me just check real quick, is there anyone else in the audience wishing to address Council this evening? If not, the floor is yours.

Norm Miller, Washington Ave. – Peggy, I don't think you have to address anybody. When you make remarks internal or in the City of St. Bernard in the many years I can remember, people read between the lines and make other decisions when they read between the lines, that is not your problem, but they read between the lines and most of the time it's negative. As far as the money goes, you said we need to invest in city manager to make our City better, we need to invest in this and that. We need money invested in the City itself, and the property of the City. We don't need to invest in bodies, we got a Vine St. over here that's a mess. We got a lot of other things, so instead of borrowing money for City Manager and everybody else, we could do this. We need the money, not for personnel, we need the money to build the City back.

Mrs. Brickweg – Norm, I'm sorry you misunderstood I said, let me read this again because I did not say we need to invest in a City Manager. I'll read this.

"I feel along with many others that our City is at a turning point in the road. We need leadership, we need to hire professionals to help develop and market our City. We need to invest in our City by obtaining a low interest loan to purchase run down homes and businesses and fix them up to sell or tear them down. We need to focus on Vine Street the main corridor of our City. Council did agree to appropriate the funds for Dr. Ramonos from the University of Cincinnati College of Planning to continue their study of St. Bernard." What I'm suggesting is the money to be able to do the plans in his report. At no point was I saying to borrow money to pay for a City Manager and I'm not sure, you were at the COW and there were a lot of things discussed. I did the best I could because we discussed that probably for a good half hour. So I'm sorry if people think I'm pointing fingers, I'm not, I can't do anything about what people read between the lines but just borrowing the money, the money I want to borrow is to fix up the City not to pay for the personnel, but I would pay for, I'll be honest, I would pay for personnel to help market our town because we're not marketing out there and that was part of Dr. Ramonos' plan, to market into other communities out to other cities and show them what a great place we have here.

Mr. Wilson – I kind of missed under old business, I wanted to ask Jonathan about the HIP Inspector ad. Are we going to give that to ICRC to have that televised on Cable?

Mr. Stuchell – Yes, we are.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, June 8th at 7:30.

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