

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2006**

The regular meeting of the St Bernard City Council was held Thursday, August 3, 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: Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier. Mr. Zix was absent.

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

Mr. Walden – Members of Council, are there any errors or corrections to the minutes submitted?

Mr. Meier – On the Service report, actually, what I have from the ICRC is the link, the internet link, not the actual tape for the playing of the “Through The Years” from the High School.

Mr. Walden – Any other errors or corrections to the minutes submitted. All those in favor of amending the minutes please signify by saying aye. Amendment to the minutes passed 6-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I contacted Chief Striker with the Cincinnati Police Department to discuss the incident at the Shell Station located at Mitchell and Vine St. Although this property is not located in St. Bernard, it is close enough that it serves as a gateway to our community. Therefore our interest in this location is warranted. Chief Striker and I discussed “Immediate Execution” a provision under that they are looking into and is used at one of the downtown bars. They cite the place, they keep track of all the activity there and then they get the OK to put the padlock on the place. I told him I’d like to see that at the Shell station. I asked him to support more incidents to us and we’d do the same to him. He is working with Chief Moeller and is supporting more sweeps at this location. I offered to attend meetings, make phone calls or write letters, any way I could, if he want me to come down and serve on a committee, I’d give my write ups or incident reports from our community that we see going on, I’d be glad to and he seemed very receptive. Him and I have been in contact a few times.

I have had numerous conversations with residents about the removal of the rims at Bertus Park. I just got another phone call tonight from a resident. They are overwhelmingly in support this action and it has greatly improved the sense of community in this area of St. Bernard. It has not only cut down on some of the garbage that we see up there, but it has greatly decreased some of the language that the residence don’t like to hear, especially with the kids in that area, so some of the residence have been denied some access to that park because of the bigger people running them out, so we can now move forward with what we’re doing there.

This Saturday, Aug. 5th, there will be a Tee Ball Cookout at Vine Street between 1 and 3:00 p.m. I know they have already had a party to recognize some of the Tee Ball players but this is an opportunity to acknowledge some of the coaches, players and parents. We're going to have them down for hot dogs and soft drinks at the pavilion from 1 to 3 and they'll get a shirt and then we'll cook out.

The following week, Aug. 12th, from 1 to 3 we're going to do something similar for the female teenage softball players and Knothole players from our community. As a matter fact, one of the Knothole teams made it to 2nd place in the City tournament. We'll supply the hot dogs and soft drinks for both of those. It is also an opportunity to thank the Recreation Dept. for all they've done and as well as the Service Dept. who have serviced the parks and lined the fields and refined the fields for the adult softball and the kids Knothole and Tee Ball games. Especially with the weather we have experienced they have really been out there working hard and I'd like to thank all the Recreation and Service.

Following this Saturday after the Tee Ball party from 7 till 10 p.m. we will have our first adult swim party. It will be for residents 21 years old and older. We'll have a band called "Closin Time" and they are supposed to be pretty good, admission is free, we will not serve any alcohol, but feel free to bring your own cooler and lawn chairs to the pavilion area and this will be scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. this Saturday. Please join us in that fun.

On a different note, Gerry Wiedman is in the process of getting bids to tear down the Schlanser building. Initial plan are to use this area as green space, while keeping it available for future development. It is thought that would be better than having a knee jerk reaction, trying to slam a building on there and not trying to add character or charm to that part of our City and find out later that it probably was not the best thing to do. We do want to get it down, we don't want to have a building that starts to have windows broken and people going in and out of there. We discussed a green space with some ventures but I don't want to go back to providing a magnet for which we just got rid of up there, and I appreciate the support of Council on everything that we've done with Schlanser so far and I do know that I enjoy the conversations that we have and I like the way we can move forward with this.

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

Payroll for the Month of July:	\$ 402,815.15
Payroll year to date:	2,914,817.91
Other expenditures for the month of July:	\$ 316,145.05
Other expenditures as of July 31 st :	2,610,512.14
Total expenditures through the end of July:	\$ 5,525,330.05

Before Council tonight is Ordinance Number 21, 2006. As requested by the Service Director and discussed at the COW, this Ordinance creates a new line item in the Master Plan Capital Improvements Fund, called Church Street improvements and also makes appropriation adjustments in the

General Fund, increases for part-time employees and service department incidentals with corresponding decreases for clerk/employees and equipment maintenance and in the Master Plan Capital Improvements Fund, increases for Church Street improvements with corresponding decreases for streets and sewers/Spring Grove and Beech. Also before Council is Ordinance number 22, 2006. As requested by the Service Director and discussed at the COW, when, after due notification, a property owner fails to comply with the Codified Ordinances on Trees and Weeds, the City cleans up the property and charges the property owner. When the property owner fails to pay, the City can put the charges as a lien upon the property. Certified copies of this Ordinance will be forwarded to the County Auditor for that purpose.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – At first I would like to thank John for his action on the property at the Shell station and the incident that took place, I've had a lot of people address me about that, and they were very concerned about that incident. And just one note on that, when I passed there the other evening, early in the evening about 7:00 or 8:00, there happened to be 2 Cincinnati Police Officers sitting in that parking lot. The place was empty. There was nobody hanging around. It does have an affect having somebody sit down there.

Also I want to thank Walt and Judy for their work on, they have been helping me research this issue on dedicated parks. They went through and found all the old deeds and also Judy went through and found the Ordinances back to 1921 so she has been a great help in finding the information on that which helps confirm that decision.

At the COW last week I brought Council up on some issues and current law suits and I'd like to, if Council will bear with me, to state it again because maybe people at home would like to know what is going on.

There is a law suit that involved a person by the name of the estate of Kathy Bauer, St. Bernard has very limited involvement with it, she was killed in a car accident, it was a high speed chase, that case has been dismissed against the City, they withdrew their complaint, however they could file it again but as of right now the case is dead.

There has been a lot of interest on the suit of the C-9 Trust Fund, the case against the City of St. Bernard, this case has been continued to Oct. 4 for trial.

Lastly, we have filed suit against three sexual offenders within 1000 ft. of the school. Two of them have been resolved. One has moved out town, the second is currently back in jail and the third one is waiting for a decision on a motion for summary judgment that he has filed and we should have that decision sometime in September.

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

Receipts for the month of July: \$ 1,007,556.64

Receipts for the year through July 31st \$ 6,535,544.65

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – The St. Bernard Fire Dept. monthly report, 84 Life Squad runs, 7 Fire runs, 5 well intended false alarm runs, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 10 service calls, 2 hazard conditions responses, 8 fire safety inspections and 1 fire alarm test. Also the Fire Dept. would like

to remind all citizens of the availability of smoke detectors and batteries for your detectors that can be installed in your home or picked up free of charge at the fire station. Also, on Tuesday August 15th, from 5 to 7 p.m. the St. Bernard Fire Dept. in conjunction with the local Gold Star Chili will host a 2006 Fire Education Night at the St. Bernard Square location of Gold Star Chili. All St. Bernard families are encouraged to come.

Also, during the extreme heat, we are asking that you please look out for your family and friends. If you have a neighbor that you are concerned about, we ask you to please check on them, and if you need any assistance please call 242-2727. Also we are installing a cross walk on Chalet Dr. at the Bus Stop to allow for safer pedestrian crossing for the children in the neighborhood. I know it will be some elimination for a few parking spaces but the lose of those spaces will definitely be worth someone being injured. Also, with respect to the Shell station, Chief Moeller is working with Cincinnati Police Dept. District 4 and 5 to work on cooperative efforts and increased patrols in that problem area and I'm convinced that we will be able to do something about that.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – The Beech St. project is almost complete. The final repaving of asphalt is scheduled to be completed by tomorrow. A final inspection of Beech St. will follow sometime next week by John Goedde of JMA, Gerry and me.

Work has already begun on Clay S., Ross Parking lots and Cleveland Ave. and will continue on the remaining streets the following two weeks. All street repairs, except park Place and Church St., should be completed by August 16th weather permitting. Letters have been mailed to residents and businesses along and around the streets being repaired. A second letter will be mailed out Friday or Monday detailing the exact day each street will be repaired, so residents can be prepared for the work.

The engineering for the repairs on Park Place and Church St. have begun and once the details are worked out with Water Works for the repairs on Park Place, we will be able to go out for bids to resurface those two streets.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – (Read by Mr. Asbach). The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance 21, 2006 this evening.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – No report.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – During the month of July the Service Dept. had 20 trucks at residences, 20 dumpsters placed at residences, 198 special pick-ups at residences, 221 and ½ tons of garbage taken to a landfill and the City received \$1,363.80 for recycling for the month of June, 2006.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – My committee did meet with Eddie Geiser to discuss commercial vehicles and unfortunately there were still a few more questions that we needed to ask Chef Moeller and so

we're going to get with him again and soon as I have some more information I will bring it back to Council.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION – Before I read my report tonight I would like to say something personal. I would like to wish my grandmother a happy 96th birthday. She is a Delhi resident, but she follows my work in St. Bernard and she is one of the main reasons I am here right now. She has always taught me to stand up for truth and honesty and to always communicate and listen with people. I was supposed to be having her party at my house tonight, but when she realized I had a Council meeting she would not hear of me missing a meeting, so she will wait to celebrate till tomorrow night. Thanks grandma and happy 96th birthday.

Now for my report. This past week I received a few enquiries regarding the Dial-A-Ride buses and why the City was using the medical van to provide Dial-A—Ride service. Our City currently owns four buses which apparently were not being used. I emailed Mr. Kempe this week regarding this and he informed me of the following information:

There are two buses that are used regularly by the Dial-A-Ride drivers (bus #1 & #3). On Monday, Bus #3 was having the brakes replaced when Bus #1 broke down while being used. The rear end of the bus went out and it had to be towed to a Chevrolet dealer. The medical van was used Monday night as a substitute for the bus. Bus #3 will be fixed this week. The City actually owns 6 vehicles for the Transportation Dept.

Bus #1 is a 2001 Chevrolet (mileage was 83,336 on 1/1/06 – probably close to 100,000 miles today). After the rear end is repaired, this bus should be in relatively good condition.

Bus#3 is a 2001 Chevrolet (mileage was 92,040 on 1/1/06 – probably close to 100,000 miles today). It, too, is in relatively good condition.

Bus #2 is a 200 Corbitt (mileage 77,469 on 1/1/06). This is the smallest bus and is in poor condition and is probably not worth putting a lot of money into it.

Bus#4 is a 1988 Chevrolet (mileage 120,975 on 1/1/06). This is the oldest bus, in poor condition and has a lot of electrical problems.

Medical but (handicap Van #5) is a 2002 Ford with 62, 533 miles as of 1/1/06. It is in very good condition.

Red Caravan #6 is a 2003 Dodge with 17,179 miles and in excellent condition.

I did ask Mr. Kempe if there were any plans to replace any of the buses. The 20 year equipment purchase plan for the City, which Phil Stegman put together last year, has a new bus being purchased in 2008. With the repairs on buses #1 & #3, and the back up of the medical and red van, Mr. Kempe does not see a need to purchase a bus this year or in 2007. Mr. Kempe is also going to look into selling the two buses (#2 & #4) in the near future. He plans to put together a list of vehicles to sell after the new packer is delivered.

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

**Committee of the Whole
July 27, 2006**

1. Council approved the minutes of the July 6th meeting, 6-0, Mr. Asbach absent.
2. Mayor, John Estep
 - A. John gave Council a sample pamphlet for Council to go over and to get back o him with any changes or additions. The pamphlet is to be used to inform people of what St. Bernard has to offer. It would be sent to the colleges and hospitals to try to lure new residents into the City.
 - B. John also informed Council that he was in touch with the Cincinnati Police Chief about the shooting at Vine & Mitchell. Some of the ideas to make the corner safer were cameras, curfew enforcement, and asking the Sheriff's Dept. for help.
3. Auditor, Walter St. Clair, no report.
4. Director of law, Edward Geiser
 - A. Ed informed Council that the C-9 Trust hearing was postponed until Oct. 4, 2006.
 - B. Ed informed Council that the case concerning the death of a woman in Norwood due to a police chase was dismissed.
 - C. Ed is also working on the issue of paper racks in the City.
 - D. There was no decision in the case concerning a Service Dept. employee that was laid off.
5. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell
 - A. Informed Council that they are in the process of trying to hire 3 new police officers. And that he accepted the resignation of the two officers that were still on their probation period.
 - B. Also, the HIP inspector position is close to being filled.
6. Service Director, Joe Kempe, absent. Mr. St. Clair and Mr. Wiedmann gave the report for the Service Director.
 - A. Council agreed 6-0 to put an ord. on the table for the collection of funds for doing property clean up.
 - B. Council agreed to put an ord. on the table for an appropriation adjustment to use the funds from the Spring Grove project to repair Church St. Also, to transfer funds within the Service Dept. to pay the part-time summer help.
 - C. Council was also informed that Park Place would be repaired this summer.
7. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.
8. Laws, Contracts, & Claims, Patty Hausfeld, no report.
9. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, absent.
10. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.
11. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.
12. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy informed Council that she attended the 1st Suburbs meeting, is looking into Land Bank Grants, and will report back to Council.

13. Service, Kevin Meier

A. Kevin has drawn up an ord. for the Property Tax Abatement program and has a few items for Mr. Wiedmann and Mr. Geiser before bringing it back to Council at the next COW meeting.

B. Kevin also has the tape from ICRC for the showing of The Play by St. Bernard School. It will be on the City's website for viewing.

14. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg has this months tracking tool out and anyone with questions can give Greg a call.

B. Council agreed 6-0 to go out for bids for the demolition of the Schlanser property.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Burkhardt
President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

City of St. Bernard, Administration & Council

This is in response to the recent removal of the basketball rims at the Park on Bertus Ave. While I'm sure this was a difficult decision, I feel it is the right one and I support the Administration & Council for this decision. In the past, this park was generally utilized by younger children from the neighborhood (mine included), but in recent months with the number of teenagers playing basketball in the park, it's become somewhat of a hangout and I would consider it unsafe. I've also noticed activity after dark within the park that should warrant regular visits from the Police Dept. (on foot) to curb this activity. The City has more than enough basketball courts available to the citizens in the vine St. Pavilion in a safe & controlled environment, so I don't feel that the community suffers with the elimination of these two baskets.

With the removal of the basketball rims comes an opportunity for the Council to come together to review development options for this property.. Green space for the neighborhood, upgrading the park to be more family oriented or continuation of the Angels Way residential development are just a few of the options that come to mind.

In closing, I would urge Council to engage the professional expertise & opinion of Dr. Michael Romanos from the University of Cincinnati to review the options for the property, as he is not only impartial but more importantly has shown a genuine interest in seeing the City of St. Bernard prosper and the community could benefit from his expertise.

Respectively,

Neal Morris
Resident/Business Owner
City of St. Bernard

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

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 21, 2006. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH A NEW LINE ITEM AND TO ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 21, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – I just want maybe to inform the citizens that this is not an additional appropriation. What we are doing is taking money, it's like \$105,000.00, which was going to be put to use on Spring Grove, but since our City was contacted and MSD is going to be putting sewers in in the next few years, we decided to take that money, instead of redoing Spring Grove and then having it torn up again, to go ahead and fix Church St. So the money will already be in the budget, so it's not an additional appropriation but we are basically transferring it, but in order to use it we do have to create a new line item.

Mr. Estep – I do want to thank Peggy for saying that and I really appreciate Council's decision to go ahead with this. That is just one of those situations that they are doing their job and made that decision. We could have done business as usual, fix Spring Grove and in three years tear it up again. I want to thank Joe for looking down the road a little bit. I think Joe should get the credit here, He had a little vision down the road here and was proactive and used good decision making by saying let's hold off on that and use that money in a different area. I want to complement him on his decision making in that situation.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adopt Ordinance No. 21, 2006 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 22, 2006. AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TO REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR THE COST OF BRINGING THE LAND OR REAL PROPERTY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 905 (TREES AND WEEDS) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 22, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

REMARKS

Mr. Geiser – I just want to explain as Walt explained in his opening remarks about this Ordinance. We seem to be taking a more aggressive stance with

Joe and the Service Dept. who are trying to clean up some of the properties in St. Bernard. This Ordinance comes through a little more often because every property now we have Council's approval for this Ordinance to go downtown. Also I want to thank Walt for all the work he did putting this together and following up and getting this done. It gives up approval to get these properties cleaned up.

Mr. Schildmeyer – We had a similar Ordinance a while back for some properties around the City, this is a great vehicle for that type of grooming these properties and it's very effective. Immediate action was taken cleaning up the properties and I hope it continues with this Ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 22, 2006 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Burkhardt – I have a question for Joe. The Cleveland, McClelland project, Joe had mentioned, is that still going to happen?

Mr. Kempe – Cleveland, yes, we will get Cleveland done, but not McClelland. We notified, after you brought up the repairs needed on Cleveland Ave., we contacted JMA, asked them if they had an opportunity to get something done in a relative inexpensive way. Of course with these two projects we have going on, it just so happen that was doing the work down on Beech St. as well as the parks, we then can incorporate Cleveland Ave. into that project so we were fortunate to be able to get that done.

Mr. Burkhardt – I appreciate that. Thank you.

Ms. Hausfeld – I have something for Mr. Kempe also, and I don't have my paper right out in front of me but I had two customers that were, sorry, they all get me at work, thinking about Imwalle and I think if they were thinking Broerman being done at the same time, and I just wanted a little bit of clarification because I didn't think that would happen.

Mr. Kempe – No, what I did was, I mailed out a letter stating when this work was going to be done. It's not specific to a street when the actually street was going to be worked on. Obviously we're not going to do two street that parallel or are right next to each other, otherwise they are not going to have any place to park on the last day, so that was the reason for my report tonight is, I met with the contractor today and he's got a little bit more details to work out, but he should be back to me tomorrow, if I get the letter out tomorrow, it will be mailed out Monday. That letter will detail the exact days that each street is going to be repaired. We will not do two streets that, for example, we won't do Orchard and Leonard at the same time. We'll do them on two different days. That way the people on Orchard can park on Leonard when Orchard is being done and vice versa. It will be the same way with Broerman and Imwalle, and so on throughout the City. It's going to take two or three days to do the final coating. The final coating is when you can't park on the street and you can't drive on this final paving. You have to

let it sit 4 to 6 hours before you can put vehicles on there. So it's an inconvenience for one day but it will only be for one day.

Mr. Meier – I would like to announce to everybody that on Wednesday, August 9th at 7:00 p.m. will be the next CIC meeting here in Council Chambers. People are welcome to come to that meeting. If after the meeting anyone has any questions or comments they can write those down and they can show them Mr. Weidman, myself, Jennifer Vatter, Mr. Schildmeyer is on the committee and we'll be glad to take them back to the CIC and get answers or comments to the people that would like to have that.

Mrs. Brickweg – For those that were not able to attend last weeks COW meeting, I would like to express my huge disappointment with the Administration and some Council members with the handling of the resigning of the two probationary Police Officers. I understand the confidentiality agreements that were signed with the two officers, but I do not understand why Council was not informed. I do not agree with Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Burkhardt, Mr. Meier and Mr. Zix that Council does not need to be informed of situations such as this.

The main point I want to express tonight is that Ms. Hausfeld and myself just wanted to be told the truth at last weeks meeting. We felt as Council members we should have been informed and not have been told of this situation through rumors from the citizens. In no way were we trying to continue the rumors, as so many Council members and Administration insinuated at the meeting. I do not agree with Mayor Estep that we need to grow up and move on. I think working together means communication with each other and keeping each other informed.

Mr. Estep – I would like to follow up on that. We did mention We agreed that this situation with all parties involved to honor the confidentiality, that's how we avoid law suits. You have mentioned, Peggy, that in the past the bad track record with the City losing law suites, I want to remind you that this Administration, since we've been in place, has never lost any law that has been initiated and I'd like to keep that record spotless. This is one way to do it, when you honor, when you make an agreement in Executive Session to keep something in confidence, you keep that agreement, you honor it. I don't think that you were trying to keep rumors going or anything like that, if that was insinuated I don't know how you got that out of that but, in Executive Session, when we were in Executive Session, that was not one of the six topics we came to meet with in Executive Session. We just didn't want to continue this and I just want to make a point about taking people growing up, I did suggest that the fewer negative remarks we send out, the fewer times we visit that website with negative information about our City, we can heal and we're all going to work together and move our town forward. We've made a lot of progress and I'm proud of the good work that Council and this Administration has done together. I would like to see it continue. We've moved forward and do good things, which I continue to see and hear from a lot of our residents. We need to discontinue the negativity and discontinue those emails with City business with our names on them. When that stops, things will be a lot better. I never want you to quit talking to anybody, I encourage, I admire your energy and I admire the way you do get involved and the way you do stand up as well as everybody on Council. That's what we were elected for and that's what we're all here

for. There are situations that we can't discuss in a public forum. Not only due to the confidentiality of the risk of litigation but as a courtesy to the people involved in that situation, I don't think a public forum is the place to discuss everybody's personal business. If it was insinuated differently, I apologize from my end, let's continue to work together.

Ms. Hausfeld – I do have one comment, for those of you that weren't here, I'm the one that brought it up, Mr. Stuchell, because I was told we were going to go into Executive Session, at least that is what I thought he said. I, as a Council member just, I do not want to hear or listen to rumors. I just wanted to know the truth and that's the only reason I brought it up to go into Executive Session. Yes, I agree with you, we don't need to talk about it in a public forum, John or Mr. Stuchell, but I do believe as Council members, that we do have the right to be informed of important issues, and I believe that's an important issue, losing two officers. We're the ones that are going to have to appropriate more money to two new officers. There is, it is the citizens tax dollars that are being spent and I got home, I did not bring this up to go through any rumors or anything like that. I am the first one to tell you that I will work with anybody, I just wanted, I thought as a Council person I deserved the truth from the Administration. Maybe I suggested Executive Session, maybe that was the wrong thing to do, but as the Administration, I do think you guys could have called us, informing me and just told us what was going on so that we didn't have to listen to all of the rumors and that is the only reason I brought it up is to get to the truth and so that we as Council members knew the truth, not to spread any rumors, not to talk to people about it, but as Council members I do believe we deserved the right to be told the truth.

Mr. Estep – As I mentioned earlier, at that meeting Patty, and after the meeting, I don't think it is our job to call each Council member on every appointment and every resignation. The truth is two officers resigned and the reason we don't call on some things is we don't want to throw gasoline on that fire. There was nothing to discuss in a private setting, again due to confidentiality. Two officers resigned and that was it and that's the truth. And as I mentioned, the rumors, you're going to hear rumors in this town we know that, and as far as the rumors, that phone works both ways, call me, call another Council member and I will be glad to share with you at any time anything that I feel is appropriate and won't get the City into litigation.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mr. Estep, you weren't at the place where I did go to the person that I thought would be able to tell me the truth and I went to Mr. Stuchell, sorry Mr. Stuchell for bringing your name up again, and I was told by him that at COW, he was going to ask for Executive Session about telling the Council members, and that's the only reason I brought it up. Then the meeting was almost over and there was no mention to go into Executive Session to inform us. I just asked the question of, Hey, what's going on, aren't we going into Executive Session for this? That is what I thought and that is what I was told.

Mr. Estep – I didn't know that part Patty and there must have been some miscommunication between you and Stuchell that I wasn't aware of. I didn't know if he told you that, and if he did maybe it was just in some twist

of sentences there, but I think Jonathan is well aware, and he has done a good job with maintaining confidentiality on a lot of things.

Mr. Stuchell – Mrs. Howell, yes I understand there was a miscommunication but I also in the meantime after consulting legal counsel, that we needed to maintain the confidentiality, and we had to stick to what I emailed the Council members as to extent of what could be discussed. I had to maintain that and that is where I stand. Again, regardless of what was said or the intention of the Executive Session could not go into details any further, the fewer people that it is talked about with, is the best that we can possibly do. We do not want to affect the livelihood of these two young individuals and we're going to leave it at that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did not bring this up to rehash it. I just wanted to get the point across because yes it was insinuated and it was actually stated that we were trying to spread rumors and I just wanted it known that is not what we were doing. You also said, John, at the last meeting that maybe you should have made a phone call. And I thought that was nice when you said that and that's all we were asking was a little bit of common courtesy. That's it. I understand you're not going to call everybody for every little thing. This was pretty major, and for people who weren't supposed to talk, it's pretty obvious that people did not keep that agreement, that's obvious in the City now. I would like to thank Ed for answering the questions, I did not ask anything about the case or about the officers, I just was asking basic questions, I wasn't going to break any confidentiality agreement with what I referred to, did he have an attorney, if he was asked to resign, I don't want to get into that. But it was basically, it would be nice if a Council person could be informed and no we did not get an email until I sent the first one. Jonathan, maybe you were going to send me one that day. But it was like five days went past and people kept asking and it does look kind of bad for a Council person when people call the house and you have no clue what is going on. Something that big. I don't want to get into rehashing it. It will just be nice if in the future for us to open up the communication a little better. That's all.

Mr. Stuchell – The timing of the notification could not have been any different. Had I informed you any earlier it could have jeopardized the situation. It had to be done after the fact, I could not have informed you any sooner than what I did. It had the potential to jeopardize things. I had to make that decision so you can hold me accountable, but that is the way it had to be done.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Asbach – Next week at the COW I would like to discuss the possibility of changing the last COW for this month since there are five Thursdays. I would like to change it from the 31st to the 24th. I would just like to have that on the docket.

Mrs. Brickweg – I received two correspondences, I would like to take the time to read them. The first one came from Kacie Harrison, this is what she wrote me.

Peggy, as I am sure you already know Chili Time lost one of their employees over the weekend who was really close to the younger people in St. Bernard. My friend Dave Thompson who is in the United States Marines and he wrote this about her. If it is possible could you read this out loud at the next Council meeting to make people aware of how important Nora was. Life cut short

To Nora

Today I got some of the most horrible news that I possibly could have gotten. A waitress from my home town died. You might say what is a waitress to you? She was the world. Only a block away from my house back home is quite possibly the greatest restaurant ever.... Chili Time. Those of you that know of it love it. It's the only place that is open 22 hours out of the day and no matter what time it is you can always get what you want, breakfast is always great anytime of the day, time burgers are spectacular, cheese coney's are wonderful, double decker sandwiches take your breath away, grilled cheese, three way, and the cheese fries are to die for. Since I was a little boy this was always the place to go. Get done with t-ball...go to Chili Time. Just finished your first band concert in fifth grade...go to Chili Time. First date: a movie and then Chili Time. Any event, special or not, it always seems to end up at this wonderful oasis just up the street from you. Ever since I can remember, heck even from my dad's youth, there was the waitress that always greeted you with a smile and made your day. "Hop in the car Dave, we're going to go to Chili Time and see Nora." Weird phrase for someone that's not family, but really she was. Its funny when my favorite dish changed she always still knew what my "usual" was. This little woman with curly red hair and her tiny little apron approaches your table with all the joy in the world. The instant you laid eyes on this woman that was as thin as a twig, all your troubles just disappeared. Even if they didn't she would listen to you when no one else would. I remember back in high school we would go up there after a party or get together and somehow teleport to Chili Time and there she would be..."where's the party at' She'd say. So sweet and so caring. She didn't have any kids of her own so we were her kids. She was the best second mother anyone could ask for. Nora had a true passion and loved every one of us. She watched us grow up, graduate high school, go to college, or even to the military like me. For us that are in the military and grew up practically in chili Time, she really had a special place in her heart for. In fact after I graduated boot camp I actually called Chili Time.. asked for Nora, from South Carolina mind you, and told her all about it. How she lit up with the news that I had made it fine and was going to be home soon. At first chance, I got to Chili Time and gave her a big ol' bear hug. She told me stories of all her "boys" as she called us and where everyone was at in the world and what they were doing and what branch of the service they were in. She wrote them letters and sent them care packages and did just the sweetest things she could possible do for us in her own special way. She really dug a place out in her hearts that she fit so comfortably in. I really can't explain to you how much this lady had an impact on my life, but it is everlasting. I write this right now with a tear in my eye for I know that she is a huge loss in our lives. She was a true lady, and I am truly and deeply going to miss her.

Dave Thompson

Dear Peggy Brickweg

I am writing this letter in regards to Officer Shane Moore who did an amazing job in retrieving my stolen purse.

On Sunday, July 16th my family and I were swimming at the St. Bernard Pool. We had been there all day enjoying ourselves. At approximately 1645, I noticed that my purse was missing. I went to Nancy Franz, the pool manager and reported my purse being stolen. I then notified the St. Bernard Police Dept. Officer Shane Moore arrived within minutes and collected the information regarding the contents of my purse. Officer Moore advised me that I needed to contact my bank immediately to report my credit and debit cards as being stolen. Since I live in Delhi, I went to my sister's house which is on McClelland and made the calls. At exactly 17232 I was on the phone with Fifth Third Bank and they advised me that my debit card was used at the United Dairy Farmers in St. Bernard at 1706 and at La Rosa's in St. Bernard at 1719 which was just 4 minutes prior to the beginning of my conversation with the bank. My sister Shawna immediately called Officer Moore to advise him of this information. He quickly arrived at La Rosa's but the suspect had already left. Officer Moore spoke with the employee at La Rosa's and they advised him that she should be coming back to pick up her order. Officer Moore then went to the United Dairy Farmers to gather the information he needed and waited for the call from La Rosa's that the suspect had returned. The suspect did return to La Rosa's and Officer Moore was there in a matter of seconds to make the arrest.

I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation to the St. Bernard Police Department. Due to the diligence of Officer Moore, what could have been a costly and complicated matter was averted. He managed to get the suspect into custody literally within 1 hours time. My family and I would like to thank him from the bottom of our hearts. You should feel very proud to have Officer Moore on your police force.

Thank you,
Tracey Cron

Mr. Meier – During the break I had a couple things happen and I would like to relate to the people and they are good examples of why our family lives in St. Bernard. I would like to thank Lt. Mike Simos from our Police Dept. One morning as I was pulling back into the driveway there was apparently there were two small children that were visiting some relatives, it was early in the morning, they had gotten out of their house and they didn't know what house they needed to go back to. So he came and he took them by the hand and carried the one little guy and they found the house and returned them to where they needed to be. The most important parts of this City and anybody that ever has any medical conditions you know that those guys are always there. They are as professional a group of people that you could possibly have. Also with the Service Dept. we found out at the COW that they are very capable men with their budget with their retirement of one their members and because he wasn't replaced right away there was enough funds in their budget, they were able to actually hire an extra part-time person this summer to help maintain the City and it has been noticeable that one of the canal beds and some other areas, the grass has always been taken care of and I would like to thank them for doing that. And lastly I would like to tell the citizens, if you haven't been out to the pool yet, this is truly one of the jewels of this City, our family has enjoyed it all summer long, the Recreation

Dept. has done an outstanding job. Anybody can have their children in swimming lessons that is just an unbelievable job by the people that put that on. Again, my heartfelt thanks to everybody in Recreation Dept., thank you to the Service Dept., to Firemen and EMTs and to our Police Dept., these are some of the reasons why this is such a good place to live.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – I have several things, I probably won't remember them all. Maybe Mr. Meier can help me on this. Mr. Meier the property down at Nu Maid the sign that's there, that Neyer, is that the same Neyer that is doing the work over there on Tennessee near the White Castle? The other thing before you answer, the property, and this probably won't be you, it would probably be the Mayor, the property that is sitting down there, we're talking three, five years and we're still sitting on it. I'm wondering if there is anything that can be done for that, everybody is saying, we need a Library. The situation we're in today in St. Bernard we've got enough problems with things coming towards us from Avondale and Bond Hill and Winton Terrace. This lady that we invited here not too many years ago, its probably been two or three, one of her comments was, it would probably be a nice spot for a regional library. That's what we need is a regional library now to bring in more problems. We got enough now, we can't handle them now so a regional library, and I don't know if you can envision this, but I certainly can. The Hamilton County Library isn't going to build a \$3,000,000 library 4700 people. So we're going to have to keep our eyes open if this does happen we could have another houseful of problems in addition to what we got. The other thing, the Safety Director at the COW, I suggested that the Police Dept. needs to be communicating more with the citizens of St. Bernard, if you watched the news, it was on Wooster Pike, it was, know your policemen. Over in Newport, I think it was, the policemen got together, know your policemen. There is a lot of activity in St. Bernard that I hear, and its not all rumors, maybe its facts, and the people that live in the area that the rumors are about, nobody knows about it the people that are on the other end of town know everything about it. and my suggestion at the COW meeting is to get the police dept. involved with the community. if something goes wrong in my neighborhood, let me or a half a dozen people in my neighborhood know, we would be able to keep our eyes open and maybe it's a robbery over there in a dim lit driveway, maybe we could keep our lights on keep our garage doors closed. During the day if you are in the back yard, there are so many things that they could tell us, but we don't even know the things that are going on so you wait until you get hit in the head, so we had a couple of them here a few weeks ago. So nobody knows anything and I think the Police Dept. and I don't know if you have approached the Police Chief to talk about this and I think there is a big need to talk about this for communication, and to tell the public so we know what is going on before we could get in a bad situation.

The other thing, and this is for the Service Director, I'll pass this on to everyone, this morning about nine thirty, I went up to Chalet Village, I frequently go up there, and the street flusher was coming down the street and all of Chalet and Heger was done and it looked really nice and clean, my second trip that day was around two o'clock and you couldn't see the side walk from Ross Ave. because the first house on Chalet had about 3 feet of grass out into the street. He completely covered the sidewalk and threw

their grass out into the street and that had to be the cemetery doing that. I think that they need to learn how to take care of that kind of property. We grew up and knew how to take care of all those parks and the people that live in Chalet take care of their property, you don't see any of that, but for some reason, the cemetery, they just blow it were ever they want, it was nice and clean and as of right now the sidewalks are loaded and the streets are into the curb now and I think a letter needs to be written to them to clean up their act.

Mr. Meier – Mr. Miller, I'll try to address a couple of things. From my understand there are at least three different Neyer Companies that do construction so I don't know if it's the same company or not but I know there are at least three different Neyer companies independent from one another. They all have the same name, to be honest with you I can't keep them apart, one from the other. Secondly you caught us on the library, I think that the problem with the library are people on the out side not on the inside so I always enjoy talking with you because it's a good discourse but I think that when the day comes we'll get the library, I think it will be advantageous for the people who use it and use the facilities. If there are problems with people hanging out on there then that's a totally separate issue that can be handled much like handling the issue down at the Shell Station. But I know that my kids used the library at lot this summer and, yes it was pretty popular during their reading club thing that they had running from the beginning of the summer. There were actually quite a few kids that were down there. And the one comment that you made about when you were talking about the interaction with the police and keeping lights on. That's probably one of the single most important things that we can do in the City is that make your streets and your houses, if you light them up you'll have a lot less problems with people hanging around that you don't want hanging around. I learned that when I was working with a neighborhood association in Dayton when I was still working up there. That's one thing that they always stressed, keep your lights on at night, it makes your street look inviting, makes people drive around, think about moving in, feel comfortable in wanting to be on the street, so I think that is one of the single most important things that we can do in the City and its not going to cost us anything.

Mr. Stuchell – I'd like to respond to Mr. Miller. I had not forgotten about some of your suggestions from the last Council meeting and I have not have had a chance to follow up with you personally, this last week we've been rather busy but the day after you did make your suggestion I did talk to the Police Chief. They are good suggestions and we're going to work on ways to better communicate with the residents when we are able to. We also do have the ability from the police station to put out calls to specific streets and particular residents, recorded messages, in relation to particular problems that might be happening if we're not able to physically visit each resident and we discussed ways to better utilize that system. But yes, I did take your suggestions to the Chief and we will work on that and I did appreciate you bringing that up.

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Miller, you made me think of an idea, I was reading the paper which I'm sure a lot of people have, about the "citizens patrol". It was how they had their big week this week and I noticed it was Avondale,

Bond Hill, Paddock Hills, Lincoln Heights, it was all these areas around us and we weren't part of it. And I thought, well we're having a lot of problems too and I think Mr. Zix was going to look into that. I really think something we probably should look into because I think people will volunteer and even if its small to start out I really think that's something we might want to address and maybe that would help a little bit, because everybody else seems to have it but we don't. So if you mention this to the Chief, I would be more that happy to help.

Joan Ronnenberg, 4217 Sullivan Ave. – Regarding Chief Moeller, he came to the Senior meeting the other day which was wonderful, and talked to the Seniors about problems that are happening throughout Hamilton County, just wanted them to be aware that these people could come into this City. They are called the “gypsies” or something. They are being very polite and trying to get into the homes and they are getting in their homes and then doing some stealing. The Chief talked to the people and told them some things to be aware of and things not to do, like sit with them and let them be in your house. Done let anybody in your door. But I thought that was pretty great that he came and talked to us because then we were able to ask some other questions and he answered them too so I was glad of that. The other thing John at the meeting the other night you showed a brochure and should the people be aware that you are doing something like this?

Mr. Estep – I believe she is talking about the brochure I presented to Council. It was sort of a rough draft and we got some other feed back from people about maybe using more or different pictures of the swimming pool, maybe identifying some of the picture on the brochure. We need to add a phone number for every dept. in the City. So its still in the final stages, Ms. Ronnenberg, I think we're going to have enough money to get about 1500 of those printed and again I'll get them to Council and if you have any suggestions Council or the citizens here, let me know if you have some other ideas as to where this should go and how this should go. I've already spoken a lady, she's in charge of a dept. at Children's Hospital and she's going to contact the marketing division over there and we're going to make some inroads there as well as the universities.

Mr. Stuchell – I would like to respond to Mrs. Brickweg. The citizens are definitely our eyes and ears and we are very fortunate to have such great response time with the fact that the citizens do see a lot of activity where we can't be. And yes I do agree with the thought of maybe having some organized effort, however, I would not encourage a group of residents to go out on patrol on their own at this point. I would like to look into that idea where we could look at possibly forming a group that would actually have training. We don't need an organized militia going around but its not a bad idea that we have an additional set of eyes around town is not a bad idea but we definitely need to look at that in an organized effort under the direction of the Chief. I will look into that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I was just thinking, if you'd like, I'm going to be with my uncle tomorrow night, he is in the College Hill one and apparently that's a very active watch so if you didn't mind, if I could give him your phone number. He might be able to give you some contacts because he's been in it for quite a while. Maybe that's a start.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – What I see is happening here its possibly with the Schell deal. The City of Cincinnati put a lot of extra police officers on in the troubled areas down there down town and now they are shifting and the Sheriffs dept. has thrown in I don't know how many extra officers, quite a few, sheriff's people down there and I see it that if that activity can't be stopped that a lot of that activity is being pushed northward and the way I see it is we're as close north as you're going to get. So you know a lot of that activity is going to be a lot greater than it was in the past.

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes, one more thing, I think it was Eddie's idea about contacting Hamilton County Sheriff to see if they could help us with some patrols down by the Shell station. Just a friendly reminder.

Mr. Stuchell – I talked with the Police Chief immediately following our meeting and I did bring that up, but we are going to work with, that's not a bad idea and maybe we can look into that, but there is a proper channel to go through and we do have a good working relationship with District 4 and District 5 and we would definitely be stepping on their toes at this point but I think if ends up being a continuing problem where we find that we need to ask for additional man power or resources that might not be out there, but we're working with District 4 and District 5 and that seems to be keeping the problem under control for right now but, no, I didn't ignore the problem, we have to work with the proper agencies before we go above them, just to maintain the proper relationship.

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

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW will be Thursday, August 10th at 7:30 p.m.

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