

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, September 21, 2006.

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, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix. Mr. Burkhardt being absent.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – St. Clement Festival was held at the pavilion this past weekend. The Service Dept., Police and Fire Depts. played a major role in making this a successful event. The Fire Dept. displayed the Smoke House at the festival to focus community awareness on fire safety. The Police Dept. provided security to ensure a safe environment and the Service Dept. provides all equipment setup and tear-down. We were able to extend Dial-a-Ride's hours to transport residents to and from the festival largely due to the generosity of Council. I want to extend my personal appreciation to everyone that supported this event and in making it successful.

The St. Bernard Senior Citizens Picnic was held under the pavilion on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006. We had a good turn out and a beautiful day. Service Director, Joe Kempe, Fire Chief, Steve Scherpenberg, and Police Chief, Steve Moeller served as grill masters for the picnic. Mary and Linda Carberry helped serve food and the picnic planner was Glenna McCarty. There were door prizes for all the seniors and plenty of good food. This is one of my favorite events to attend each year because it gives me a little time to spend with some of the people who make St. Bernard a special place. Thanks to everyone that took time out of their busy day to help with this event and to all the seniors that attended making my lunch break so enjoyable.

As the weather begins to cool the City Hall staff begins planning the community Halloween party. This year it will be held on Tuesday, October 31. Children should begin gathering at the pavilion for our annual costume contest at 5:30p.m. Costume judging will be at 5:45p.m. We'll have prizes for the costume winners and candy for all children. St. Bernard's Trick or Treat will be from 6 to 8p.m. and houses receiving children are asked to turn their porch lights on at dusk.

The printers have completed our order for the new brochure and they are now available at City Hall. Within the next few weeks the material will be made available to local universities and hospitals promoting St. Bernard as the convenient, safe, and congenial City that it is.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – Reports for the City's investments and accounts have been distributed to Council and the Administration.

Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 27, 2006. As discussed at the COW, this Ordinance makes small appropriation adjustments for Civil Service and City Hall, moving \$2,700 from promotional tests to polygraph tests and \$1,000 from City Hall supplies and incidentals to stationary and printing. This Ordinance also decreases the appropriation for swimming pool supplies in the swimming pool fund by \$3,000 with a corresponding appropriation increase to building maintenance swimming pool in the general fund.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – Tonight I actually bring good news to Council, I know we've all been waiting for this, but we have actually extended an offer to our new HIP inspector and he has accepted that offer. He is not here tonight, I plan on introducing him to you next week but he is Mr. Walter Moeller of Tower Ave. here in St. Bernard. He is a licensed electrician and an inspector as well as experienced instructor. He brings a wealth of experience and we look forward to having him on board with us. We're hoping to have him employed with us actively within the next week to two. I'll have a definite for you next week.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – TransSystems and the Ohio Department of Transportation will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2006 from 4:00 to 8:00 in the Main Hall of the Municipal Building. The purpose of this meeting is to present their recommended plan for the expansion of I-75 from the Paddock Rd. Interchange to the Harrison Ave. Viaduct. This will be the only meeting place for all the municipalities affected by this project. The expansion project will have an impact on the City of St. Bernard, so I encourage all interested citizens to attend. There will be plenty of personnel and printed material to help explain the expansion and address any questions or concerns.

Gerry Wiedman and I attended the Public Library Presentation before the Hamilton County Budget Committee on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006.

In summary, since 2002, the Library has operated at a budget level of approximately \$48 million and, for the last three budget years, has been mandated by the State to operate at a frozen level of \$48,307,419 (2004-05 level). If the freeze is not extended after June, 2007, the Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF), which is the Library's main source of income from the State, is estimated to be at \$51,598,691.

At this meeting, the Library asked the Hamilton County Budget Committee (and subsequently the State of Ohio) to accept their budget proposal of \$58,750,000. This budget amount allows the Library to continue with planned capital improvements (such as the St. Bernard Library Building) and necessary operating funds to maintain existing buildings and restore lost hours of service.

There are three budget figures to understand and what they could mean for St. Bernard:

1. Best case scenario – the Library receives from the State their request of \$58,750,000 and a new Library will be built in St. Bernard (probably in 2009).

2. The next scenario – the State mandated budget “freeze” at the 2004-05 level ends after June, 2007 and the Library is granted a budget of \$51,598,691. This allows for an increase of \$3.3 million which would most likely be spent on maintenance improvements at current operating branches. That means no new Library will be built in St. Bernard in the near future.

3. Worse case scenario – the State extends the mandated budget “freeze” and the Library will continue to operate on the budget of \$48,307,419 and, again, no new Library will be built in St. Bernard in the near future.

Two other points of interest concerning St. Bernard were made.

1. In the \$58 million budget is additional funding of \$715,000 (up from \$650,000 in 2006) for the new Library building in St. Bernard, as a result of increase construction costs. This additional funding brings the total cost of a new Library building in St. Bernard to \$3.6 million.

2. It was stated by Mr. Moran of the Library’s Board of Trustees that a new Library will be constructed combining Bond Hill and Roselawn branches. This is being accomplished through private funding. After the meeting, I asked Mr. Moran if a Library were to be built in St. Bernard, would it be a regional area Library. He said there are no plans to close any Libraries around St. Bernard (i.e. Elmwood) and St. Bernard would not be a regional Library.

Based on the Library’s presentation, the Hamilton county Budget Committee unanimously approved the \$58,750,000 budget for 2007-08. The Library’s next hurdle will be convincing the State to accept this same budget of \$58,750,000 in the spring of 2007.

Finally, attendance and receipts for the swimming pool both increased this year. The number of passes sold in 2006 was 488 and the amount collected was \$26,250.00. Resident daily attendance was 819 and the amount collected was \$5,261.00. Non-resident attendance was 429 and the amount collected was \$3,088.00. Total attendance for 2006 was \$15,349 and total receipts from passes sold and daily attendance was \$34,599.00.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends the passage of Ordinance No. 27, 2006.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – Absent.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – No report.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00p.m. downstairs in the Council Chambers Meeting Room to discuss the vehicles in residential areas. I would also like to be put on the COW agenda to discuss this Ordinance with the rest of Council.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – No report for Business and Industry, but I did want to make an announcement since taking over this

position in Glenn's place. Glenn had a project that he worked for to Make a Difference. I believe it happened every October working with the Senior Citizens in which they collected canned goods and passed them out among some of the needy throughout the City for, I guess it was both Thanksgiving and through the Christmas Holidays. I was asked to take up this project and work with it and I told him I would be happy to and we'll get that together. I think John has some information about it and I would like to see that if you do have anything, if not, we'll get together and talk about it. We're planning in about a week or so, putting a flyer out to the Senior Citizens on just how that can good operation works, it will be similar to the way it worked last year and there will be some give aways and some ticket drawings and things like that, it sounds like a good program and a fun program so we will be getting it together with the Seniors and look forward to putting it together through the whole month of October.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – I want to remind everyone that there will be a Public Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. in St. Bernard, at the Municipal Hall to present the public with the assessment of feasible alternatives to the I-75 Highway expansion project. Stefan Spinosa from TransSystems attended the COW meeting last week and informed Council and the Administration of the two options. Hopefully many of you can attend this meeting because a lot of information that could have a large impact on our city will be presented. The first option for the highway expansion is the one that was presented at the last public meeting. This option would consist of adding the new lanes West of the highway. It would reduce the sharpness of the curve from Norwood Lateral and not affect Ross Park and most of Clay Street. The City would lose the Service Dept. Building and a few business properties on Oak St.

The second option would move the new lanes slightly to the East of the highway. It would keep the sharpness in the turn from Norwood Lateral and keep all of the business and the Service Dept. building in tact. This would however take away a substantial amount of lower and upper Ross Park, three houses on Clay St. and possibly the skate park.

As you can see by the two options it is very important for the citizens to understand the options and to communicate how they feel at the Sept. 28th meeting. If you attend the meeting please pick up a comment card and fill it out. They are looking for our feedback on the two options. Our feedback does not guarantee that they will choose the first option, but it may help. I have also signed up to be on a new committee to evaluate and formulate recommendations for bridges and noise walls, lighting needs and landscaping along the highway expansion. This committee will not start meeting until January of 2007.

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

Committee of the Whole

Sept. 14, 2006

1. Council approved the minutes of the Sept. 7th Council meeting, 6-0, Ms. Brickweg was absent.

2. Council met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss pending litigation.

3. Stefan Spinosa of ODOT presented two options for the I-75 expansion. These two options will be presented at the Sept. 28th public meeting. Construction for this project will start in the year 2011.

4. Mayor, John Estep, no report.

5. Auditor, Walter St. Clair

A. Council voted 6-0 to put an ord. on the table for next Council meeting for adjustments in the Civil Service and City Hall line items. In addition, an increase of \$3,000 to Swimming Pool Maintenance and a \$3,000 decrease to pool supplies.

6. Director of law, Edward Geiser

A. Ed will have the final draft of the ord. for newspaper racks ready for the next COW meeting. Ed also brought Council up to date on the three offenders that live within 1,000 feet of a school. Two have left and the last one has been told by the courts to move.

7. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell, no report.

8. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Joe informed Council on the Library budget meeting and we should know something by spring of 2007.

B. Council voted 6-0 to go into Executive Session following the meeting to discuss contract negotiations.

9. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, absent.

10. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Hausfeld, no report.

11. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach

A. The bids are out for the demolition of the Schlanser property and they will be in at the end of the month.

12. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.

13. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.

14. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg, absent.

15. Serviced, Kevin Meier, no report.

16. Finance, Greg Zix

A. Greg has emailed the budget tool to everyone for this month.

B. Greg asked about the condition of the swing set area at Bertus St. Park. Joe said that the material should be in any day.

C. Greg also informed Council that the Fire Dept. spent \$2,410.00 on a new basketball hoop and backboard. He felt this was not a good use of City funds.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor John Estep and
Fire Chief Steve Scherpenberg
City of St. Bernard City Hall
110 Washington Ave.
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217

RE: Fire/EMS Officer Thomas Lipps

Dear Mayor and Chief:

I want to commend you on employing Officer Thomas Lipp in your department. He was of great assistance to my mother, age 95, when she had a choking spell recently at a restaurant in Springdale. Officer Lipp responded promptly and assisted in removing the obstruction and helping care for my mother. Fortunately, it was a short siege and she was able to continue with her dinner.

Officer Lipps' prompt response when he became aware of a problem situation is highly commendable and certainly very much appreciated by my mother and me.

Having served as a Councilmember and Law Director for the City of St. Bernard some years ago, I certainly am proud to see that you are still maintaining the high standards which we felt were very important to the continued success for our community. With people like Officer Lipp in the service of the City, you certainly have a sound future.

Best Regards,

Kenneth J. Schneider

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

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read tonight's Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0

ORDINANCE NO. 27, 2006, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ADJUST, INCREASE AND DECREASE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No., 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schildmeyer – Just a comment on the Fire House that they had down at the Festival. Dave Holt took myself and my wife and my grandkids and my daughter and son-in-law through that house. I was really impressed at the presentation. This is a really good vehicle, I think as it goes on and gets out to the schools we're going to see that it is really well accepted piece of vehicle that is a good learning aid for the City and I encourage anybody if they do have an opportunity to go through it, just go through it, it teaches old and young, not just the kids, it was a good buy for the City, I can see it used all over in different communities even going out. Just a word of encouragement that if you have an opportunity to go through this house, please take it, there are some small little things you'll learn that you've heard once before but it would be a good recollection to keep it in mind of how dangerous it can be in a fire. They present it very well, it gets you in an atmosphere of a real fire. Please take the advice of the Fire Dept. and if you get a chance go through that vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg - I would like to publicly thank the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful organization and Michael and Kathy Benken from H.J. Benken Florist and Greenhouse located at 6000 Plainfield Road for the free perennials. Since no one in the City responded to me that they were interested in the free plants I went to the event and took home 15 plants for the Chalet and Heger flower beds. It is very nice to see businesses helping out local municipalities. I hope that next year when they offer the same thing that we have a better turn out because they're beautiful free plants that we probably could have used in other places.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – None

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

Mr. Asbach – The next COW will be Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 7:30p.

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