

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2005**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, February 3, 2005.

President of Council, Mr. Curtis Walden – I would like to welcome everyone to St. Bernard’s annual Scout night. The Boy Scouts will be helping us with the presentation tonight. Before we begin I would like to introduce Michael Kalb. Michael is the son of Barry Kalb and our own Councilwoman, Barb Kalb. He is a Sophomore at Roger Bacon High School. He holds a life rank in Troop 354 and enjoys playing underwater hockey. Ladies and gentlemen your President of Council tonight, Michael Kalb.

Michael Kalb - The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk of Council, Sue Kathman – I would like to introduce Ben Gerke, my Scout for tonight’s meeting. Ben lives on Tower Ave. with his parents, John and Colleen. He is a Sophomore at Roger Bacon High School and has been a Scout for approximately eleven years. Ben enjoys everything about Scouting especially camping.

Ben Gerke – Roll call showed that all members were present.

Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes. Mrs. Kalb seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, John Estep – It is my pleasure tonight to introduce William Eads. William is nine years old, in the third grade at Our Lady of Sacred Heart. He is in Cub Scout Pack 354, lives with his mother, Susan Eads, his grandfather, Mr. Bill Moulliet and his sister Jessica. His sports are baseball, soccer and basketball, he has four birds and he likes to play basketball outside in his driveway. His favorite vacation was in Florida and his favorite food is pizza.

William Eads – Good evening and it’s nice to see so many citizens involved with everything taking place. I agree with the suggestion that we should look into building on some of the vacant lots the City owns. I spoke with a builder who said he would be interested in helping the City with this progression.

We met with the Finance Committee on Monday and it looks as if we are close to seeing a final budget. Everyone involved has put in many hours and they will all be happy to see this project completed.

Thank you Mr. President that is all I have for now.

AUDITOR, Walter St. Clair – Representing the Auditor’s office tonight as well as the Law Director and Treasurer is Mr. Kevin Anneken. Kevin lives

at 4260 Leonard Ave. here in St. Bernard. His parents are Cathy and Steve Anneken. Kevin has one sister, Kelly and two brothers, John and Sam. Kevin is in the fourth grade at St. Clement School and his favorite subject is math, good subject for an Auditor and a Treasurer. His hobbies are reading and his Scout rank is Weebeloo, he has been in Scouting for four years. When he gets older he wants to be a college basketball player. He likes to swim, play football, he is involved in track, baseball and basketball. He likes to just play outside. Giving the Auditor's report tonight is Kevin Anneken.

Kevin Anneken - The January Auditor's report is prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report and the report showing year-to-date revenue and expenses by fund are derived from the Auditor's report, and they are given to Council and the Administration.

Payroll for the month of January: \$ 548,954.54

Other expenditures for the month of January: \$ 160,811.49

Total expenditures through the end of January: \$ 709,766.03

Before Council tonight are ordinance numbers 4, 5, and 6, 2005. Ordinance number 4 sets the compensation for full and part time non-contractual employees of the City of St. Bernard. Ordinance number 5 sets the compensation of the elected and appointed officials of the City of St. Bernard. Ordinance number 6 sets the appropriations for the City's expenditures for fiscal year 2005.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Ed Geiser – (read by Kevin Anneken) Before Council tonight is Resolution Number 3, 2005. This Resolution is the second part of the required process to put a 7 mill tax levy on the ballot. The first resolution was sent to the County Auditor. We received the certification back from the County Auditor. This Resolution, after passage, will be sent to the Board of Elections.

TREASURER, Tim Bollmer - (read by Kevin Anneken)

Receipts for the month of January: \$ 1,471,705.80

TAX COMMISSIONER, Sheri Williams – It is my pleasure to introduce my son, Mark Williams, who will give the Safety Director's as well as my report tonight. Mark is 10 years old and attends St. Clement School where he is an Honor Roll student. He is a Weebeloo Scout and has been in scouts for a number of years. He enjoys basketball and soccer and he will try his first year in boys volleyball this year. Let's turn it over to him now.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Beth Luken –

Mark Williams – Officers are attending additional training as part of the Homeland Security initiative. All officers will receive four hours of awareness training in "Weapons of Mass Destruction". At the completion of the training all officers will be issued "Personal Protection Equipment" for use during a WMD event. The equipment and training is paid for by the Department of Homeland Security and all officers will be attending while on duty.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Joe Kempe – William has already been introduced so I will just have him read my report.

William Eads – Mr. Burkhardt, I would like to be put on the next Committee of the Whole agenda to discuss the Beech St. sewer grant and the bids for the purchase of trash bags.

Joe Kempe – Also, I would like to ask Council to go into Executive Session to discuss the Service Contract.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Sheri Williams – (read by Mark Williams). The new due date for filing a City of St. Bernard tax return is April 15.

There is Mandatory Filing for the 2004 tax year. This means that **ALL RESIDENTS** of the City of St. Bernard must file a St. Bernard return.

New forms are available in the tax office. Forms will be mailed out at the end of February.

The tax office has received a number of calls from local seniors about the tax office preparing their returns. To clarify, the tax office will prepare anyone's City of St. Bernard return. We do not prepare federal, state or other local returns.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Stegman – It is my pleasure to introduce John Shipp. He lives with his parents, Jerry and Cindy Shipp and his sister Leslie is off serving our Country. John attends St. Bernard School and is in the ninth grade. John has been a Scout for nine years. This is his fifth year giving my report. John is in the Pep Band at school and his hobbies are building a motorcycle chopper. He is a trained weather spotter and a ham operator. Sports he enjoys are baseball and soccer.

John Shipp – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance 4, 5, and 6 tonight. Ordinance 6 is the balanced budget that the Administration needs and Council wanted. It comes with layoffs if the departments do not come up with pay concessions. The pay ordinance is to pay the Administration positions and part-time seasonal jobs. The Finance Committee met with the Administration on Monday, Jan. 31 to discuss if the Administration had any pay concessions for the budget. The Administration had nothing. We had to put money in the entry test and promotion test line items. The Finance Committee is also looking at putting pay steps in all the Administration positions and part-time positions. We are also looking at longevity pay and sick pay. The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, February 7th at 6:30. This will be a short meeting to go over anymore issues the Finance Committee needs to look at. The Administration doesn't have to be there unless the departments come back with anything. The Finance Committee is also recommending passage of Resolution 3. I will discuss this later.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – It is my privilege to introduce Tyler Papia. He will be representing the first ward and giving the Safety Committee report.

He resides at 104 Martin with his mother and father, Jamie and Mike. He has a brother Mike and a sister Lizzie. He is first class rank, 7th grade at St. Bernard School and he loves soccer.

Tyler Papia - DARE graduation for the 6th grade at St. Clement was held on January 26th. Congratulations to all of those students. DARE instruction for the 6th grade at St. Bernard Elementary will begin this month. Survey forms for the police department were sent out this week. We appreciate everyone's input to help us improve service.

SERVICE, Mr. Wilson – With me tonight is Sonny Rodriquez. His parents are Todd and Julie Meister. He has one brother Wyatt and two sisters, Amanda and Anna. Sonny is in the fourth grade at St. Bernard Elementary. This is his second year in Scouts and he is currently a Weebeloo in Den 2 Pack 354. This is going to be his first time on television, so he's excited. He plays soccer on SAY soccer teams. Last year they made it to the State Championship games. He enjoys playing basketball, play station, baseball and he enjoys school.

Sonny Rodriquez – The service department spotted eight dumpsters and sixteen trucks at residences. 235 1/3 tons of garbage was taken to the landfill. 21 tons of recycling was taken to Rumpke and 494 special pick-ups were made at residences. 200 lbs. of scrap aluminum, 64 lbs. of aluminum cans and 3 1/3 tons scrap metal was taken to Moskowitz. We also had nine quarter tons of cardboard sent to Rumpke and 127 Christmas trees that were chipped.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Schildmeyer – Representing Public Improvements tonight is Mr. David Ewald. He is fifteen years old. David is the son of Ray and Gail Ewald. He has a brother named Daniel. He is a Freshman at St. Xavier High School. His favorite sport is baseball. He has been in Scouting for five years with Troop 354. His favorite pastime in Scouting are these trips but he also enjoys the entire Scouting experience.

David Ewald – The CIC will be meeting next month addressing the Nu Maid property up date, we will have a full report to Council and the citizens on this project, currently the project is in the hands of lawyers for both sides and are working on correct language and agreements for the inducement agreement.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Kalb – Tim Hale will be giving my report tonight. He is 13 years old and in the 8th grade. He lives in Norwood with his parents Tom and Terri, he has two sisters, Maria and Katherine, and four brothers, Phil, Matt, Ben and Steven.

He has been in Scouting for 6 years and is a Star Rank. Tim enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee.

Tim Hale – The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee has received a request to consider a law requiring that cats not be allowed to roam neighborhoods without being on a leash. As soon as I receive the specific information and sample ordinances, we will have a meeting to discuss this subject.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – Giving my report tonight is Alec Musal. He is in the seventh grade at St. Bernard. He lives with his parents, Michele and Brad, brother Ben and sister Katie. His hobbies are basketball and he has been in Den 354 for three years.

Alec Musal – Last week I joined the Community Advisory Panels with The Cognis Corporation and PMC Specialties. Each panel is designed to benefit both the community and the member company. The panel works to improve the lines of communication between the facility and their neighbors. It provides me, as the representative of the Business and Industry Committee for the City of St. Bernard, an opportunity to convey my questions, comments and concerns to the industry. I also gives the industry the opportunity to meet directly with their Council representative. The goal of the panel is to build an understanding between the company and the community. I look forward to meeting with both panels each month. One of the first topics that I hope to address is what each industry requires of St. Bernard's services and how they feel about the possibility of an increase in their property tax if the May millage increases passes. These questions are long over due and I hope to get an answer to them. If anyone has any questions or concerns with Cognis or PMC Specialties feel free to contact me and I will address them at future meetings.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mr. Zix – Tonight representing the fourth ward and lives in the fourth ward on Albert St. is John Brunner, with his mom, Julie and dad, John, brother, Jake and sister, Jackie. He attends St. Bernard School, enjoys playing soccer and his favorite subjects are Math and Science. This is his fourth year in Scouting. He is a Tenderfoot Rank. John enjoys collecting foreign money as a hobby. John has experience as he had the fourth ward duties last year.

John Brunner – For the month of January 2005 the Dial-A- Ride bus had 5413 passengers. Rider ship is up 14% from last month. The medical bus had 77 passengers in January. This is about the same as last month.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Committee of the Whole
January 27, 2005

1. All members of Council were present, and approved the minutes of the Jan. 20th Council Meeting, 7-0.
2. After discussing how to make changes to the charter, Council will talk to the Director of Law and get more information.
3. After a short discussion Council will wait until July and have Ms. Fender come to Council and bring us up to date on the library's future plans.
4. Mr. Zix discussed some ideas with Council on properties that could be developed and new homes could be built and possibly businesses, also

possible sites for senior housing. Greg will continue to look into these properties and report back to Council.

5. Mayor, John Estep

A. John informed Council that Joe is meeting with departments on concessions and stands behind Joe 100%.

6. Auditor, Walt St. Clair

A. Walt reported that the millage papers are at the county. Walt is also looking into the possibility of spreading the payments on the pool over a longer period of time.

B. Walt went over the projections for 2005 that show an 8.6 million revenue.

7. Law Director, Ed Geiser

A. Ed told Council that if the city went for additional mills in the future that the city could earmark them to pay off loans.

B. Ed also informed Council that he would need more money in his professional service line item.

8. Safety Director, Beth Luken

A. When asked, Beth said that she told the Administration that she felt comfortable with 8 firefighters and 3 police officers per shift.

9. Service Director, Joe Kempe

A. Joe read a statement about e-mails and negative statements about himself being spread around the city. Joe felt that they do more harm than good.

B. Joe also went over all the cuts that the service dept. brought that have already been started or will start soon.

10. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams

A. Sheri informed everyone that she has no problem coming to the meetings and that she is available during normal city hall working hours. Council agreed to have her at the Council meetings until the budget is resolved.

11. Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg

A. Peggy attended the Community Advisory Panel for Cognis on Monday and PMC Specialties on Tuesday. She also attended the First Suburbs meeting on Thursday and will report back to Council with a detailed report.

12. Public Improvements, Mike Schildmeyer, no report.

13. Service, Glenn Wilson, no report.

14. Bill Burkhardt, no report.

15. Finance, Phil Stegman

A. After some discussion Council agreed 7-0 to put the 2005 budget on the table for next Thursday.

B. Council voted 2-5 not to add \$173,029.75 to the budget to try to prevent layoffs until after the vote in May, Peggy and Glenn voted for it.

C. Council voted 7-0 to put the ord. on the table for all non-contractual and part-time employees' pay.

D. Council also voted 7-0 to put the ord. on the table to up date the percentages that pay elected and appointed officials so that it reflects a freeze on salaries.

16. Laws, Contracts, and Claims, Barb Kalb

A. After a discussion on the shopping center parking lot, Council agreed not to extend the lease past 2-17 until we can discuss this further.

B. Barb contacted ICRC and the Council meetings will now have a 4-hour time slot to accommodate the longer meetings. Times will be the same except for Sunday will be a half-hour earlier.

17. Highways & Transportation, Greg Zix, no report.

18. Council went into executive session to discuss an offer by the Service Dept., to avoid layoffs. Council came out of executive session and voted down the offer 7-0.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1,15,2005

Mayor John Estep
City of St. Bernard

Dear Mayor Estep,

I would like to thank the city workers for their prompt response to my call for an extra trash pick-up. Part of my shed had fallen into my neighbors' yard and was brought to my attention by my tenant, Rose. She helped me pull the fallen pieces to the curb and I called the City. Since it was early afternoon I was afraid they would not be able to pick up that day and someone could trip over it on the sidewalk. But they were there in no time to pick it up. We are very lucky for the services we have in St. Bernard and it is sad to hear the talk of doing away with any of our benefits.

Thank you,

Mrs. John Brecht
220 Jackson Ave.

Motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

REMARKS

None

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to read the Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO.1, 2005, DECLARING THE OUTDOOR CODE OF ST. BERNARD, DESIGNATING ALL BOY SCOUTS IN THE COMMUNITY HONORARY PARK POLICEMEN AND ASKING ALL OF THE YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG LADIES OF ST. BERNARD TO HONOR THIS CODE.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to suspend with the second and third readings. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to adopt Special Resolution No. 1, 2005. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – At this time I would like to thank Michael for his service as President of Council tonight and to thank all our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who have helped us out this evening. We appreciate them coming down and participating in this portion of government. I hope it is educational for them and it's certainly enjoyable for us. We will take a ten minute recess at this time, I have to leave due to a work commitment at this point and when we resume Mr. Burkhardt will step down and take over as President Pro – Tem.

Meeting Resumed

Motion by Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution #3, 2005. Motion passed 7-0

REMARKS

Mr. Stegman - I just wanted to go over a procedure that had to take place in a timely manner to get this down to Hamilton County. Three weeks ago we put an Ordinance together, a Resolution and ask for the 7 mils to go down to Hamilton County Auditor's office. Within that time frame they have to stamp and approve it and send it back to Council, that's why it is back on the table again tonight so that we can pass this Resolution by emergency to get it down to the Board of Elections. It must be in their hands by February 17th before the close of business day. That is 75 days prior to the election that this has to be so that it can make the ballot. That is why I am asking for it to go emergency tonight. The time frame it is very important that this gets passed tonight.

Mrs. Brickweg – I stated publicly that 7 mils will not solve our City's problem. I have had contact with many citizens in the last few months and

the majority agree, the City must put the amount of mills on the ballot that it needs. Not just what they feel will pass. We need to listen to the citizens and let them vote on the millage. If they vote the mills down then we make cuts. What do we do in the meantime? First of all, I suggest that Council get \$173,000.00 out of the General Fund to help make payroll so that nobody gets laid off until we have the ballot. I really do not think we will be able to pass millage with layoffs taking place. Do you really believe people would vote for any amount of mills when they see the layoffs and then they see all the increased fees for the services. I also would like to ask the City to look into refinancing of the Nu Maid property to a long term bond that can be paid off early.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to adopt Resolution No. 3, 2005 as read. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2005 FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FOR THE YEAR 2005 COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2005. Motion passed 7-0.

REMARKS

Mr. Stegman – The Finance Committee, as I stated in my report earlier, this is to fix the full time and part time employees of the City that are not under contract. This is the pay Ordinance that the Finance Committee is going to work very hard in the next few weeks to put steps in it so that when new people take these positions they don't start out at the highest position. We are going to review the kind of pay that is being paid out as far as longevity and sick pay. Also this is going to be looked at within the next couple of weeks because of the part time personnel for grass cutters. These things need to be looked at to see if they're comparable to the rates out in the market place today and bring them back in line. We will be looking these over, we are passing this because there is other people on this pay ordinance that we need to put in place.

Mrs. Kalb – I have a question for Mr. Stegman. I know we are freezing the salaries of all the full time city employees that are not under contract, have you changed any of the other rates of pay? We did talk about the possibility of reducing some of them, I was unable to make the meeting on Mon., were there any changes made there or are you just going to hold off until later?

Mr. Stegman – Yes, all the employees of the City, full time personnel are on freeze. We are reviewing all the part time. They are seasonal and that's why we're trying to do that in the next couple of weeks before the Mayor has to assign jobs so he knows what the rate of pay is. We are looking at putting the pay back and putting steps into those also. So yes, all those will be cut back and steps put into place.

AUDIENCE

None

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2005 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Stegman – Before the Ordinance No. 5, 2005 is read, this is to fix the Hamilton County Commissioners. After talking to Mr. Geiser, there are a few sections that were left out that I think are very important to this Ordinance to give the meat of what we're trying to accomplish. What we're trying to do is to freeze our salaries, we cannot take a raise or take a decrease in pay at the elected or appointed positions and there are some vital sections that were left out. I'm trying to amend an amendment, before I do that I'd like to table this and bring this back up at the COW and get those remarks put in there and brought back up at the next Council Meeting.

Motions by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mr. Zix to table Ordinance No. 5, 2005 until the proper language can be inserted.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Geiser, I was just wondering if you get a chance if you could give me a copy where it says the Council members that the Council members cannot take a pay cut. I was reading the newspaper about different Councils that did and I was curious as to why we couldn't.

Mr. Geiser – A section of the ORC. It happened on this particular Ordinance, this is the first time it has ever happened. Mr. St. Clair usually prepares the Ordinances dealing with the finances and I usually prepare all the other Ordinances. We both prepared an Ordinance for tonight and unfortunately I was in Court all day, and had to communicate by phone. Walt put together the best of both Ordinances, but there is no language in here that sets the effective date. Right now, this language, if passed, would not be effective not till next year, January 1st. That is why I have asked Council to postpone until the next Council meeting. Unfortunately the other section that I drafted has the language of the ORC in there, I can get it for you, I just don't have it in front of me.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to postpone Ordinance No. 5, 2005. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2005. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2005 TO MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR
CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY
OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR
2005 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to suspend with the second and third readings of Ordinance No. 6, 2005. Motion passed 6-1, Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – I will not be voting to suspend the second and third readings for the budget ordinance. I also will not be voting for this budget. This budget includes layoffs which I feel will not only reduce services but a safety hazard for city employees and citizens. There is a police and fire chief have gone on record indicating the risk of lowering manpower and I feel by approving this budget with the layoffs, we are putting not only our citizens, but employees, businesses and industries at risk.

Mrs. Kalb – I will be voting for the budget this evening. This budget is for 9.6 million dollars which is the figure given to the Administration by Council. I understand how difficult it was for Council and Administration to hold the line on spending this year. It would have been easy to just keep on overspending until the money was gone, but that would have left the city in an even greater mess. I also understand that certain line-items in this budget are subject to change depending on the results of the talks with the 4 city departments, however, I have been told that the bottom line number will remain the same.

I am encouraged by the willingness of the departments to discuss further savings to save jobs in their departments. This entire process has taken entirely too long and has been extremely hard on everyone involved, especially those employees whose jobs are on the line. This budget is just the beginning of a new way of doing business in St. Bernard. We have to learn to do more with less. We need to establish a rainy day fund for emergencies, we need to put together a 3 to 5 year budget projection so we can head problems off before they get too bad, we need to pay down our debts, we need to begin to upgrade the infrastructure of the city, we need to purchase new equipment in the fire department, and the list goes on. This city needs to run smarter with the available dollars. It is going to be a real learning process for everyone, but I think we are headed in the right direction.

Mr. Stegman – This is my first year as head of finance. This is one of the tougher budgets I have had to face. I applaud the Administration for holding a tight line. They were given a task by Council in a budget to withstand and I know there is cuts nobody wants to make here but we have to hold a tight line on the budget and hopefully we can get this city back up and running in another year or two and get it back on it's feet.

AUDIENCE

Bob Hausfeld, 4608 Vine – Barb you just said we gotta get a rainy day fund. You guys have been on Council for how long Barb, a long time. You had a rainy day fund four years ago. Eleven, twelve million dollars, you blew that. Everyone of you guys that have been on Council before other than Mr. Zix is new this year, and Peggy. I hope like (expletive deleted) the citizens get smart and vote you guys out.

Mr. Burkhardt – Mr. Hausfeld, keep it calm, OK. Everyone is high strung, we need to keep it as clean as possible.

Brenda Lozier, 209 Church St. – This is the first time in 27 years that I've lived in this community that I felt compelled to come to a Council meeting.

I wanted to address the millage that you're asking to be put on the ballot. I didn't grow up in this community so I'm an outsider, I'm not a native born St. Bernardian and for a long time this community has not paid the same millage that other people in neighboring communities have paid. I feel like the 7 mils that you are proposing is not enough. It is a band-aid. We need 10 to 12 mils to fix the problem. I do not understand educated people and public service who do not realize and recognize the need. I personally would vote for a 10 to 12 mil ballot because I feel the services are very valid and needed in this community. Ten days ago a coworker of mine had almost a stroke at work. I had to call the paramedics, in ten minutes they were there. Had this been cut and layoffs and they had not been there, she could have died of a stroke, she had a minor stroke, her blood pressure was 200 and something over 144. Had it not been for them being there in ten minutes, they did a fantastic job. I followed the paramedics to the hospital with her to meet her husband. You're not asking for enough to fix the problem. These people are friends and neighbors, they are the people that live in this community. These are the people who we have protecting us. Ask for what we need, be honest with the people, if you're not going to be honest you're not going to get a 7 mil. I will not vote 7 mils because it's not enough. I will vote for 10, I will vote for 12. But I will not vote for 7.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. and Amy Dobby, 220 McClelland – We actually wanted to address Council on Resolution No. 3. Turns out we are not permitted to but thank you Peggy for asking about that. We kind of want to follow up on what Mrs. Lozier said. A few weeks ago there was quite a disparity among you as far as how much millage to put on the ballot in May. You finally agreed on 7 mils. only to hear the citizens and employees insist it isn't enough. You knew it wouldn't be enough to save jobs and some of you even asked for less than the 5 mils that the Mayor had asked for. I don't know how many citizens you have spoke to, but it clearly wasn't enough. In three short days this is since Mon. night, we have compiled 530 signatures of people in this city who are not only going to show up in May but they want to vote for 10 mils. Three days is not enough to get 530 signatures, but we did it anyway. They also all signed to petition Council to suspend the layoffs at least until the May ballot. This is why we chose to get up now before you pass this budget. We know it is a short deadline, Mr. Stegman, we've done the same research, its got to be down to the Board of Elections by Feb. 17th. We know it's a short deadline but these many citizens are telling you, yes, they will vote for it. Yes, they want to be heard, Yes, we have a voice and we want to use it. Please do what it takes because we know it is in your power to do so. There are exactly two weeks left from tonight to get this taken care of. It might take a special session or two but it needs to be done. People want to save their services and they want to save their City. Please seriously consider our petition before you decide how you will vote. I should add, not as a warning, not as a threat, but simply as information, and this is to back up what Mrs. Lozier just said, we didn't just have people sign a petition, we were out in the community talking to people, knocking on doors. We were out there. We got a feel for the City. So many people were shocked, dismayed, and generally uninformed of the turn that this City has taken. The knee jerk reaction that you using to fix the situation, I can tell you personally as well as other signature collectors can tell you, there are plenty of people that told us that they will vote against the levy if the layoffs take place. Again, not a warning or a

threat, just information I feel you should know. Most of the people that collected the signatures do not work for the City directly. We did it out of the concern for the City and of conserving the employees and the services. We did it on our own time and our own dollar. Tonight you have a chance to change your minds and make amends for past hurtful decisions and a chance to help the City. We did our part, we told you what we want, it's 10 mils. It's time for you to do your part. Please don't let us down.

Mr. Stegman – If everybody in the community wants 10 mils, why don't we go ahead and pass the 7mil and in four months from now put the other three or four on. There is a time frame in here that we cannot pull back and take this off, otherwise we will not be able to do it at all. I don't feel like everybody in the community will pass a 10 mil.

Mrs. Chatman – We have 526 signatures that say they will.

Mr. Stegman – Yes maam, I do believe that. I do believe that you went out and did that. I appreciate you doing that.

Mrs. Doddy – In the past at special elections, such as the last school levy where I believe someone got the figure, 811 people voted in the special election for the school levy. That's including people from Elmwood Place. In another past May ballot there were only 600 people that voted. People only vote in these special elections when they care about the subject matter. We got 530. That's in three days. I'm willing to bet we get more in a couple more days. I know it's going to take special sessions. Two weeks is a short deadline but it's not 24 hours. There's enough time for you to hold a special session, have another amendment, have another Ordinance or a Resolution and go to the Board of Elections or go to the Auditor's office. Two weeks is plenty.

Mrs. Chatman – Also, if you say let's put 4 more on in a few months, you people couldn't even vote on the seven, you made it sound like an auction block, what's going to happen when the 4 comes up? Someone is going say 3, someone's going to say 2, someone's going to say 1. It need to be done to save this City and it needs to be done now.

Mrs. Brickweg – When I was approached actually to sign that, I did call down to Robin Sinclair at the Hamilton County Auditors office, no it is not too late. She said it basically comes down to Council and the Administration will have to have special meetings. We would do the same process again, you could send one down for 10 mil and she said you would have up until February 17th to make up your mind if you wanted to send down the 10 mil or the 7 mil. So it is not too late, I did check into that for you.

Mr. Wilson – Is 10 mils enough?

Mrs. Chatman – Is 7? No.

Mrs. Doddy – According to the 7 mils that of yours that you gave and actually I heard that was amended on Monday night. Unfortunately I wasn't there on Monday. Originally with the 7 mil levy and the .1 increase tax

increase, that was supposed to bring in 1.4. That was the original figure, then you amended it. Just increasing the mills to 10, we calculated that's going to bring in over 2 million dollars for the City which is what you're supposed to be short.

Mr. Wilson – My calculations are 1,680,000.00 somewhere around there.

Mrs. Doddy – Does that include the .1 income tax.

Mr. Wilson – No.

Mrs. Chatman – Does it include the \$400,000.00 that Mrs. Kalb found to put back into the budget?

Mr. Wilson – I'm just going by the millage.

Mrs. Chatman – Does that include the \$400,000. that Mrs. Kalb found, the million from reserve, the .1 from the increase in taxes plus an increase in millage. You have these avenues, there is no need to lay a soul off in this dept. in this City. There is not a need. The money is there.

Frank Mayborg, 4327 Greenlee Ave., - I got a couple of things to say, I really think these two women up here should have a (expletive deleted) of a good hand applause because they know what they are talking about. You people up here on the Council members don't and I'm excluding and Mrs. Brickweg. And I tell you one thing, if they put a 10% on the ballot I'll vote for it on one condition. You other five resign because if you think I'm giving you more money to spend and you blew 12 million dollars in four years, you're nuts. I'm not. You are. There are other things in this so called budget you're passing that I would like to address right now. One thing is the water aerobics. Four thousand dollars. You know how long it takes a guy, a policeman or a fireman to work to make 4 thousand bucks? When you put somebody in a swimming pool down there and flutter her hands or his hands and he gets \$4,000.00. That's stupid. Then you got another thing on there, the C-9 Trust Fund, which you guys got a Federal law suit against, which I am one of them, against you. I was told that the reason that law suit was brought about was that they were not getting anything from the retirees, how could they give them the money? Now, I don't knock senior citizens, I am one, but you got a thing in there \$7500.00 for senior citizens. What, can you answer me can you get from the senior citizens? Mr. Schildmeyer? I want to know what you get from the senior citizens that you don't get from me as a retired member of the police dept. of St. Bernard?

Mr. Schildmeyer – What do we get from the senior citizens?

Mr. Mayborg – Right.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I think just the friendship and love that St. Bernard has for it's senior citizens.

Mr. Mayborg – Don't you think I love the people of St. Bernard?

Mr. Schildmeyer – I certainly hope you do.

Mr. Mayborg – You know it you're my neighbor.

Mr. Schildmeyer – That's right.

Mr. Mayborg – Now why penalize me and not penalize them?

Mr. Schildmeyer – I don't feel like you're being penalized.

Mr. Mayborg – You're giving them \$7500.00.

Mr. Schildmeyer – They use it for their activities, that's exactly what they use it for.

Mr. Mayborg – Mr. Geiser, aren't you the one that says that you're not getting anything from the retirees? You can't give them that money in the C-9 trust fund.

Mr. Geiser – It was illegal because they were no longer employees with the City and you're giving them benefits that would be against the public trust.

Mr. Mayborg – Why, is a senior citizens an employees of the City or a trust or something? Are they?

Mr. Geiser – They are not employees of the City but like any other expense, recreation, anything else you're providing a service to them. I'm assuming, I didn't appropriate the money but that is what I would assume it is for.

Mr. Mayborg – Don't you think that after 30 years, on the police force for 32 years, which I had, I'm entitled to the same thing? I don't want \$7,000.00. I just want to pay my bills. We got a woman that's a retired fireman's widower that has to file bankruptcy because of you people. Now I think you should really smile. She's filling bankruptcy. Don't you really feel good about that? Can I ask all of you that? Want me to call you by name?

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Mayborg, I am not allowed to comment on anything on the C-9 trust fund because I'm married to a firefighter, otherwise I would comment.

Mr. Mayborg – Mr Schildmeyer?

Mr. Schildmeyer – Frank, I appreciate you're comments.

Mr. Mayborg – Mr. Wilson? You aren't going to believe this, but he's my nephew.

Mr. Wilson – By marriage, Frank.

Mr. Burkhardt – Frank, your need to wrap it up your 5 minutes were up a while ago.

Mr. Stegman – The water aerobics that Mr. Mayborg just brought out. There's a few line items that are in this budget because it's money being

brought into the City through the General fund for activities that are being paid into the General Fund by the public. There are several ladies and gentlemen of the community that pay funds to the General Fund for these water aerobics. They are increasing the cost of that to try to make sure it's a break even situation. That's why \$4,000.00 is in the budget because once a bill comes in you need a line item in the budget to be able to pay the expenses.

The problem that we have is that our revenues of this City are coming in at 8.2 and 8.6 for the last several years and we're spending 10.5 and 11 million dollars to keep on providing the services that we are now trying to cut. Now we're trying to bring revenue back, with the millage, to offset these costs so that we can try to keep on providing services without having to dig too deep in everybody's pockets and make sure that we can pass the millage. To sit up there and say this Council or myself has spent the City broke is ludicrous. All the people of this town want to keep the services of the City and that's what we've been spending the money on.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like it to be put on the COW that I would like to have job description. I tried to pass on three businesses that want to move into town and no one would call them back. I would like to know who does what and who I will recommend different things to. Every time I ask nobody tells me who to go to and I find it very frustrating when I'm trying to help bring in revenue and phone calls don't get returned.

Sue Estep, 4546 Lawrence St. – I would like to address the Council, the firefighters, the police, the service dept., and the citizens of St. Bernard. After watching the last Council meeting on cable, I became aware of the behavior or certain individuals in our community. I personal thought it was very unprofessional of a police officer to imply that he would seek to destroy someone else's job opportunity and give out false information about a school system. I assume this was said to keep certain individuals from doing the job they are required to do for all of the citizens of this community. Also, a Council member has seen fit to give false information about the school system. I assume just to muddy the waters more and make this a bad situation for all involved. The school system has nothing to do with the budget of this City. As I sit back and watch this behavior of not only the police, Council member and also the firemen in the back ground making comments while others speak, I cannot help wondering what our citizens of this community think. There are five thousand people in this City. I feel most citizens would be hard pressed to vote for a tax levy of any kind when they see how the behavior is of the people of the depts. that work for them. Everyone in the community knows the many benefits they have received by living here, such as Dial – a – Ride, free garbage bags, too many things to list. There are many benefits to being a City employee. You have a job with the City, you have been paid very well for your services. The time has come to look to the future, we have overspent. No matter whose fault it is, we have overspent. Council and everyone involved must show the citizens that they are doing everything possible to cut back before asking for a tax levy. The average citizen makes a salary of \$37,000.00. I do not believe that they should be asked to shoulder a tax they can't afford. Other cities also are in this position. What makes our city different is that people have lived generation after generation in this town. It becomes harder to make

decisions because you know everyone, you know their children. The cuts should be made and they should be made with considerations for all citizens involved. No one likes layoffs. I do not think that anyone on this Council goes home at night and says, Yea, I laid someone off. I think it's a very hard decision. I think that everyone here should show respect, even if you don't have, that's what I'm talking about, there's no reason to sit here and make comments to people, if you have something to say to me, say it to my face. This is totally ridiculous. We all live in this community together. Nothing is going to get solved by everybody sitting down here screaming out things in the back ground and accusing people of things they didn't do or telling people that you're going to do something about the school system, they have nothing to do with this. I just wish that you would all take a look at what you are doing. As a citizen of this community I have a hard time watching this on TV and looking at everybody and thinking that, what are you doing? Something has to happen here, there has to be a good budget and whether there is layoffs and that is what has to happen then that's what has to happen. I've been laid off too, it's not easy, it's not easy, but some times things have to happen and you know what if we get back on our feet maybe there's a possibility that St. Bernard will be the same again. You can't have people who make \$37,000.00 a year shouldering a 10 mil tax levy. I don't believe that's necessary.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just about the school system, I do have plenty of information that I got from the website, I did talk to the superintendent of the schools, if you would like a copy of it that's fine, the main reason it was brought up is I had people in my ward asking me about it because they were concerned. If the school was going to go for more millage, how much they could afford between the City and the school and so they do go hand in hand. As far as the 10 mils, 7 mils or 12 mils, I basically am just saying, what is the correct mils and let the people vote.

Mr. Stegman – Thanks Sue for your comments. I would also like to at this time to apologize to the people in the audience for my behavior a few minutes ago and I wanted to make sure I said it before I forgot. I apologize.

Isaiah Thomas Newberry – I don't live in this community, sir, I spoke to the Chief and spoke to some of the officers. I've told them that we don't need to lay off no employees. We do not. Who's going to protect the community and who's going to protect the City of St. Bernard? If they lay off the employees, that means Norwood will have to take over, but St. Bernard does not want that. We do not need to lay them off and we need to let them stay where they belong. If you lay them off, who's going to drive the rest of the Fire trucks, drive the ambulance, and drive the police cars? These folks here are old enough to be my grandparents, old enough to be my grandfather. It's about respect in order to get respect you have to give respect in order to get respect. That's what my grandfather told me before the day he died. We have to protect our people and protect our communities. We do not need to lay them off. May God bless you and God keep you.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm not sure what time is appropriate, but I feel like we did not give Mrs. Doddy or Mrs. Chatman, we did not even answer them, I would like to make a motion to start another resolution for 10 mils.

Mr. Burkhardt – There is already a motion and a second on the table.

Mrs. Brickweg – After that, I would like to do that.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to adopt Ordinance No. 6, 2005 as read. Passed 6-1, Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Burkhardt – At this time I would like to give the Service Director a chance to read a letter that he wants in the minutes.

Mr. Kempe – I would like to comment on some statements that have recently been made at Council meetings and through emails about me.

I know I am a public servant and I certainly expect criticism for decisions that have to be made. Most of the time, when a public figure has to make decisions, it is a no win situation – you can't make everyone happy or someone is going to find fault in some way. I don't have a problem being criticized, I may not like it, but it is going to happen. The problem I have is the viciousness with which the attacks are made. The criticisms aren't criticism, they are attacks and I feel it is very inappropriate for another public official to behave in that manner. In some cases, it is actually unethical. I have differences with others in the City, but I do not attack them via emails and send them out to half the City or make malicious statements in a public forum. Once a statement goes out publicly, the perception of that person is immediate and no rebuttals or statements to the contrary are going to change that. That is defamation of character and is uncalled for.

I also want to clear up the list that Jerry Shipp and the Service Department presented to the budget committee last year. The following items have either been started or will be initiated in 2005 and were already figured into the budget numbers for 2005.

The 2 mil rollback of 330,000 was voted on by Council in 2004 and began in 2005. Soft Billing of \$22,000 for auto accidents began in 2004. Rental Fees for Halls and Park Shelters of \$32,000 began in Jan. '05. Business trash pick up of \$58,000 began in November, 2004. The Fitness Center savings of \$27,000 in combination with the Dial –A-Ride reduced schedule savings of \$196,000 will begin on February 28, 2006. Pool passes will be increased in 2005 with increase revenues of \$21,000. Sports sign up fees will start this year by the Recreation Dept. Dial –A-Ride prices were increased in July, 2004. The appropriation of \$30,000 for Lifeline has been eliminated for 2005. Bertus Park pool will be closed in 2005 for a savings of \$10,000. Reduced staffing and operation of the municipal pool will result in savings of \$40 - \$50,000 in 2005. Co-pays and increase employee contributions to the City's health insurance plan is currently being worked on by the Health Benefit Committee with potential savings of approximately \$100,000. The sale of 318 E. Ross is close to being complete. The 4 mils on the ballot will actually be 7 mils. The retirement of 4 Service Dept. employees will happen in 2005. Milt McEneny's position at City Hall has not been replaced for a savings of \$39,000. The reductions in Civil Service budget of \$10,000 is reflected in the current proposed budget. Reduction in Service Dept.

summer help or outsourcing the grass cutting in the parks will be going out for bids next week. Trash bags may be purchased by the City depending on bids, but will not be distributed for free. Maintenance of electric and HVAC work done in house have saved up to \$20,000.

There were two items – Fees for spotting dumpsters of city trucks overnight and special pick ups – that were originally to start in 2005, but have been put on hold by the suggestion of the Service Department.

Some items not figured into the 2005 budget numbers but have or will be started are:

Tire changing on most city vehicles will be performed in house for a savings of \$7,700 – the equipment was purchased in December, '04. Limbs and trees picked up by the City will no longer be taken to Mt. Airy Tree service and will be disposed of in house for a yearly savings of \$5,000. Water in the garage and Dial-A-Ride has been discontinued. Sale of City cars will be sold in sealed bids within the next month.

Energy audits, checking phone bills and Nextel phones have also been suggested by Jerry and the Service Department. These are excellent ideas and will be taking place.

The point I'm trying to make here is that many are claiming nothing has been done with this list, when in fact almost everything on the list has been instituted or will be started when appropriate. A lot of the above ideas came out of the budget committee, but many of the ideas came from the Service Dept. They are excellent ideas and will be utilized.

Finally, there is the issue of volunteering time or taking Comp time for the snow removal of the big snow storm in December. Taking comp time instead of overtime is an option the Service Dept. already has. They choose whether they take comp time or get paid overtime – they do not need a special agreement to the contract to do that. Volunteering time for work performed is a different matter. Originally, I felt all the employees had to do was simply not turn in their time for the overtime hours worked and the time would be voluntary. I was incorrect in that assumption. A public employee cannot perform contract work on a voluntary basis. He or she can, however, pay back to the City the amount they were paid, if they choose to do so.

Ms Luken – No one ever wants to see another person, especially someone they know, lose their job. For more than 4 years, I would come to Council meetings and routinely address Council with my concerns that the funds were running out and questioned what plans were in place to address this concern. Routinely, my questions were left unanswered. Unfortunately, my concerns have come true. In 2004 we were 2.7 million dollars in the red. The 2005 fiscal year wasn't looking very promising either. One of the proposed budgets, with no layoffs, had the city losing another 2 million dollars in 2005. The budget currently being proposed for adoption still leaves the city 1 million dollars in the red for 2005 and that is with layoffs. City Council has agreed to being 1 million over budget in 2005 because there is hope that if the property tax increase and the earned income tax increase are passed this May, the city will have approximately 1 million in

additional revenues for 2006 which would lead to a more balanced budget for 2006.

This current Council and Administration are finally making some of the very tough decisions which will put this City back on the right track financially. We've been on the track of overspending for far too many years. I realize these words bring no comfort to those who have received notice of being laid off or to those who have had a reduction in rank which decreases their annual income. From a personal standpoint, it wasn't a decision I took lightly.

When I was appointed to this position, I was hoping that the toughest decision I would be faced with was whether or not to place a STOP sign at a certain intersection. I certainly hadn't planned to make reductions in crossing guard hours, eliminating all overtime in the fire department and now faced with the decision to lay off employees. These decisions were based strictly on our financial crisis.

Mr. Burkhardt – At this time I also have a letter from the Principal of St. Clement School addressed to me.

Dear Mr. Burkhardt,

I apologize for not coming in person to address my concern about a statement that was made at last week's meeting. However, after being informed that the meeting tonight was going to be extended, I was reluctant to attend since I have surgery scheduled for early tomorrow morning.

At the meeting last week, a resident asked a question about property taxes, how they were used, and he questioned the amount of money that was provided to the school district. In answering the citizen's question, the Mayor indicated that the St. Bernard real estate tax is the main source of income for the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District. In the course of his answer, the Mayor also made the comment that a lot of the money that goes to the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District actually goes to St. Clement and Roger Bacon in the form of auxiliary funds that pays for special services such as a psychologist, speech pathologist, special tutors, etc. I feel that this left citizens with the impression that taxes that are collected from them from the City of St. Bernard are used to help support St. Clement and Roger Bacon. This is totally inaccurate information, and that is why I felt it important to be present at this meeting to correct that misinterpretation.

I have verified with the Assistant Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Adele Iwanusa and the Ohio State District Coordinator, Mr. Fred Ross, that **NONE** of our school funds come from any taxes collected by the City of St. Bernard. Our auxiliary fund money and our cost reimbursement money are disbursed by the State of Ohio and come from State funds, such as state income tax, sales tax, and the lottery. No funds that St. Clement or Roger Bacon receives are derived from the citizens of St. Bernard. Actually the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District receives between 3-4% of our State allotment to administer our State funds. So they, in fact, receive money from our coffer rather than the other way around.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify this misunderstanding, and would be happy to discuss this further if you feel it is necessary.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cathy Stover
Principal

Mr. Estep – I did try to get a hold of Mrs. Stover, today, she was in Mass early, she did return the call and we did straighten that out. I guess it was construed as money generated in the levy for the public school goes to your parochial or private and that's not what I meant. The money that goes for auxiliary services only comes through the public school in that district. The public school is the fiscal agent that handles those finances and it is flow through funds that go through the public school. It's not monies generated in a levy for public school, there is separation of Church and State and other things, if that is what someone thought that I said or if they thought that I was raising money at the public school to support St. Clement, I support St. Clement and Roger Bacon to the fullest, I attended both of those schools, but in no way did I mean that.

Mrs. Brickweg – If anybody is wondering, I am the one that sent out the email, and I was going to comment tonight but I got an email from Mayor Estep thanking me for not commenting and bringing it up last week so I thought that's what we were going to do but I guess I'm wrong.

In the email I basically gave dates of when we were at finance committee meetings when the Administration was told to bring numbers and the numbers weren't there and there was even one meeting when Phil gave a budget, at a Thurs. night meeting to be looked at for the Monday night meeting and Mr. Kempe you showed up and you said you had not even looked at it. That is what it meant. You emailed me back and you asked me to send your comments out to everybody I emailed, I did that. So I have nothing to hide. I am not, I find it unprofessional when people come to meetings, especially meetings that are that important, where peoples' jobs are relying on them and the citizens' services are relying on them, to not be prepared. Mr. Estep asked the question if I would speak like I do in front of my children. I went home and asked my children that question. Both of them wanted to come to speak tonight, but I told them this was not the place. They know their mother does not lie, their mother says it the way it is and they never have to question me, they are very proud of me. I find it very ironic on Saturday my father called me up because he, my father and mother are on my email list, under God, they are the most, they are the main person I have to impress in my life so you better believe whatever I put in email I want to be able for my mom and dad to look at it. My father called me just to tell me how proud he was of me, that I speak the truth and I don't worry about who is related to who or what. He gave me probably one of the biggest compliments because I get very frustrated and I think sometimes I'm not making a difference and he said, Honey, you're making the citizens of St. Bernard wake up and pay attention, come to meetings and watch it on TV. I do not lie in my emails, if you want to show me facts that you say are

not true I would like to look at that. But that was the reason that I didn't comment because I was thanked for not but I guess I was wrong.

Mr. Estep – I did send Peggy the email, and I complimented her on her professionalism she showed last week. The comment I made about somebody being proud of what they said or did was directed, I was answering a comment from somebody at the podium and I stopped because there was a remark hollered out of the stands. It wasn't directed at you. It was directed at whoever made the comment. I simply said, would you act this way if your child was sitting behind you, because that is what I told them in my explanation. When kids are sent to me the first thing I'll ask them sometime, what you did or said, would you have done that if your parents were behind you. It's a very simple question, it was directed at them, not you.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to go into Executive Session after the meeting. Motion carried. 7-0

Mr. Schildmeyer – At the COW I did read a letter that Kim Fender faxed to me regarding the situation of the library and where they stand and how the date will fall out into May to revisit the program that's put out by the State that is holding things up. I want to make sure that is submitted to the minutes so that the citizens can view that. It was sent to us and the Mayor back in November and I asked Kim to forward that letter to me. John did bring it to Council at that time. It is a good statement of the situation that the library is in. They actually had to add more money to the cost of the building of that new building in order to make up the difference on the years they have been delayed by the State. It is up to a 3 million dollar building, now and I do want the citizens to be aware of that. November 18, 2004

The Honorable John Estep
Mayor, City of St. Bernard
110 Washington Ave.
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217

Dear Mayor Estep:

As we prepare to enter the next State budget cycle I wanted to contact you concerning the St. Bernard Branch Library project. Following is some background on the project as well as an update on the current status of this project.

In 2002, the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County was forced to postpone construction of the new 9,000 square feet branch library in St. Bernard because of a drastic reduction, 10%, in Library funding. Unfortunately,, the funding situation has not improved and in addition to postponing construction of new facilities, the Library has been forced to reduce operation hours and staffing 10% across the system.

Despite this reduction in funding, the Library has held onto the capital dollars put aside for the St. Bernard construction – more than \$3 million rather than using these funds to offset lost income. Although funds to

construct a new branch library are available the projected increase in operating expenses cannot be funded through our current budget.

The Library receives 95% of its funding from the Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF). The LLGSF is funded by personal income tax collections in Ohio and it was the drop in these collections, coupled with a freeze in funding enacted by the legislature that resulted in the loss of income. Currently, the freeze remains in effect so any increases in the collections are not distributed to public libraries but remain in state funds. The FY 2006-2007 State budget will be adopted by July 1, 2005. This budget is the next chance for public libraries across the state to see the freeze on funding lifted and growth in income restored.

Library plans continue to include the construction of a new branch library in St. Bernard, once funding levels will allow for the Library to responsibly meet the increased operating expenses that accompany a larger facility.

We do appreciate the generosity of St. Bernard in donating the site for the future St. Bernard Branch and plan to call on the citizens of St. Bernard to assist the Library in getting the funding freeze lifted in the next State budget.

Sincerely,

Kimber L. Fender
Executive Director

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Wilson to put a 10 mil levy on the ballot in May. Motion failed 4-3. Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Stegman, Mrs. Kalb and Mr. Zix voting no.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Out of respect to all the citizens and the industry in this City I voted no.

Mrs. Kalb – Last week at COW we were discussing expanding the amount of time that the ICRC give us to televise our meetings. Currently we only have a 2 ½ hr. block. We would like to expand it to a four hour block. There was a question of whether or not we would have to change channels, if we expanded it to the 4hr block. It would continue to be on channel 8 or 15 depending upon your package, which is where it currently is. The time on Wed. evening at 10:00 would stay the same, the time on Friday evening at 7:00 would stay the same, the time on Sunday morning would be moved up ½ hr. to 9:30 in the morning in order to be able to give us a 4 hour block to show all these meetings in their entirety.

Mr. Geiser – Just to follow up, Mrs. Brickweg, you asked what section of the ORC that applies to it: Sec. 731.07 of the ORC.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Kalb – Last Thurs. evening, the reason I was late to the COW meeting was because I was attending the annual ICRC meeting at which time they passed their budget for the year and the only real news is that they are going to begin contract negotiation with Time Warner for our next contract. They

have to start that 36 months in advance so that they will be working on that and I will be probably bringing a lot of information as to what as to what changes may or may not be made with our contract with Warner.

Mrs. Kalb – I would like to second that motion given the amount of people here if for some reason though we don't run too late we could revisit that. There are a lot of people here and I'm sure they would all like to talk and in an effort to give everybody time to do so why don't we try one trip for five minutes and if there is time afterwards we can always extend it.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to let everyone speak for 5 minutes and then revisit it after everyone has had a chance to talk. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Brickweg voting no.

Mr. Stegman – I'm not trying to stop people from talking, I'm asking that everybody has an opportunity to talk at least one time before we start going back and forth, back and forth over a 10 minute period.

AUDIENCE

Rodney Chatman -4265 Redwood Ter., - I'm quite sure that there are plenty of citizens here who would like to address some of what has taken place tonight, especially in regards to the vote that had went down. To be fair I have also have come to these meeting and spoke a lot so I'm going to relinquish a lot of the time that I would speak to them and let them get their voices heard so that you can understand, this is not just the officers and firefighters and service dept. members who are on the bubble. This is the voice of the people. Before they speak, I would like to make sure that everyone takes a note of what occurred tonight, I think we really should make a big deal of the young people who spoke tonight. When I'm in the class rooms with them, that is one of the things I encourage them to do is to step out, be different, have your voices be heard. I was really proud to see a lot of the students that I work with on a day to day basis get up there in front of cameras, ICRC cameras, news cameras and family and friends in a very intimidating environment. Get up and speak and represent themselves very well. Hopefully the support system that they have here, that you guys make a big deal of what they did tonight.

Brenda Lozier, 209 Church St. – As I said earlier, this is the first time I've spoken at a Council meeting and I have a lot of things I would like to ask questions on. I'd like to address the Council and the Mayor. I don't know who will give me answers to these but I hope all are listening very intently and that someone can give me complete answers. First of all, I address the issue on the millage, I appreciate the letter that we got today from the Mayor and from Mr. Kempe about the proposals for budget cuts. I did have some questions. First of all, on the Dial-A-Ride I noticed the time changes. I always felt that the Dial-A-Ride service was a service offered to everybody in the community, not a certain group of people. This, and I realize you're trying to save money, but you need to revisit this. I've worked in the public schools for 21 years and there are a lot of parents whose children depend on the Dial-A-Ride to get their children to school and from school. We live in a very busy community with very busy streets, very busy crossings and people are using our main thoroughfares through here, Tower Ave., Greenlee Ave.,

Ross Ave., Mitchell Ave., and these kids are put in a position a lot of time where they can be in an unsafe environment. There are people who come through our community on a daily basis looking to pick up kids and I think you better reconsider this. We don't need to have a service that's only going to serve a certain population or group of people in this community, it should be, it's paid for by the tax payers, it should be offered to all of the tax payers.

As far as the fees for the trash pick up and the dumpsters for the businesses and schools, that should have been instituted a long time ago. Like I said I was raised in a rural community and we paid for all of our services and this should have been done a long time ago. There's a lot of good things done on here. I also feel like that the medicare bus medical bus took 77 people to medical facilities this month. I don't know what it cost to operate that but that sounds like a pretty good service that a lot of the people need. Is there anyway that that can be reimbursed by medicare or medicaid? Is there a way of keeping that service and getting a reimbursement for that? I also wanted to address the City and say as a wife, my husband lost his job after being with a company for 23 years, he was in his early 40s. That was totally devastating emotionally to a man who had to provide a job for his family. He comes into work and finds out he has no job. Who had been loyal to his job and he found other work but it changed him and it was a very difficult time for 5 years. There was a great deal of difficulty that we went through emotionally and financially and we're still trying to recover nine years later from the devastation it caused our family. I'd also like to remind our Mayor, and I would like to do it in a very respectful way, that when his job was on the line with the school district 5 or 6 years ago, he asked for consideration in the fact that he had a family to provide for. And that was taken into consideration and I would like him to do the same for these, is it 10 or 11 people, I'm not sure that are being laid off? Did we have an exact number, do we have 10 people being laid off or is it 11, I've heard both? Can someone answer that?

Mr. Estep – I believe it's 10.

Mrs. Lozier – I heard it was originally 11 and then it was changed to 10. I also would like to say that in behalf of officer Chatman, I don't know a lot of the people in politics because I've stayed out of the political arena, but I have had an opportunity to work with him at school and see him in action. I believe he is a very fine officer and I do not understand why this community would drop a DARE program where it involves the children in the community being involved with the police dept. and the people in the community teaching and educating them. It is a very important program, if any of you Council people could come to one of our DARE graduations, you would see what an awesome program it is and how they love. I understand that officer Chatman has a lot of special training as a hostage negotiator, which I think we should be really proud of, we have somebody on our police force who is able to do that and another thing, I have never talked, this is

Mr. Burkhardt – That is over five minutes. That is the rules we need to go by to give everyone the opportunity to speak.

Mrs. Lozier – Evidently, you do not want to hear from a resident of the community.

Mr. Burkhardt – We will, we will.

Mrs. Lozier – I had about one minute left on my statement and if you don't have time for that.

Mr. Burkhardt – I'm sorry I have to keep it to five minutes to be fair to everybody.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to address a couple of her questions. The one question on the medical van. We bought that with Grant money to use as a medical van. Will we not get penalized for that since we're not going to be using it anymore? I remember it being argued about a year ago, and we had a special Grant. Now we're not going to apparently use it. Are we going to get into any trouble for that? Has that been looked into?

Mr. Kempe – I'll have to check into that.

Mrs. Brickweg – The second thing she just said is Mr. Chatman getting laid off, I remember when we were going over the budget we received a check from the State for DARE and did we cash that? And if so, what do we do now?

Mr. St. Clair – Yes, we get a Grant. It is in the budget.

Mrs. Brickweg – If we're laying off the DARE officer and we're not going to have DARE, do we have to send that money back to the State?

Mr. St. Clair – I don't know. It actually hasn't taken place yet and it depends on how much money is there. It is supposed to pay the officer's salary in the DARE Program so if there's money left and officer Chatman is not there then we'll have to look into it.

Mr. Estep – I would also like to address some of the things she brought up. On layoffs, my father worked 17 years in Auto Lite, they closed the doors, 13 years in another company, they closed, he spent 30 years, two layoffs. It is devastating to your family when we lived on the second floor above the shoe store down on Vine St. Going back to the DARE, I personally spoke with Mr. Chatman this week and complimented him on the professionalism I see him show every day. He does a great job with the kids, I'm not against the DARE Program and I told him I wasn't against him. It's very vital, it's something that is great to have if you can afford it. This is not about Rodney or me or DARE or anything, it's about having money to afford a program. Again, you can ask him, I saw him personally and made sure that I told him that. He does a great job with the kids it's not about Rodney or DARE.

Peggy Deutch, Imwalle Ave. – If there is a grant to pay for the DARE Program already in place isn't it paid for? What is it you're saying that you can't afford?

Mr. St. Clair – The grant does not cover the full salary of the officer. We use that money to pay his salary until it's gone and then he is paid out of the regular police line item salary. It is in the budget for \$22,340.00.

Peggy Deutch – Mr. Estep, I would like to address this to you. As a former teacher I would just want to give you a little advice about how you answer the question. You don't start an answer with, I believe, unless you are just making a guess. I believe you do know how many cuts there have been, 10 or 11. So you don't answer with, well I believe, you say I know, OK. It's just very frustrating in the audience because we think, now wait a minute, he knows that, why is he saying I believe?

Mr. Estep – I said I believe because at the time there have been 10 notices sent out, there is a possibility of 11, so I believe there is 10 there could be 11.

Peggy Deutch – Well then that's the answer you should give, I believe there's 10 but there is a possibility there will be 11. That is the correct answer, OK?

Mr. Estep – I'm sorry I wasn't specific enough.

Peggy Deutch – Just be very specific because we are all very, very concerned and we don't want general answers, OK? The other thing I'd like to say, I don't think that the people that are being laid off want the pity from the citizens. A lot of people are saying, well I was laid off or my husband was laid off or someone I knew in my family was laid off and it's very one that got laid off. But if they're laid off, does it affect every citizen in the City? I had my 9 year old come down with a disease this year, I would have never predicted that, none of this can predict whose going to need their services and the service not be there. This doesn't just affect the family, I'm sorry that they are being laid off too, but that's what it's all about, it's not just those families that are being affected, it's every citizen in this City. You don't know if it's going to be you. You can look in the mirror and not know. Are you the one that's going to have a fire? Are you the one that's going to need a paramedic when they're already out? You don't know who it's going to affect, you don't know if it's going to be you. OK, so it's not just about those families and those families are friends of mine, but it's not just about them, it's about you, OK? And the other thing is, just like I don't think the layoffs should take place without every stone being unturned, I don't think you're going to pass 7 mils or 10 mils unless people believe that every stone, that no stone has been left unturned. Council meeting after Council meeting, people are talking about ideas that they've brought forth, Peggy's talking about phone calls that were not returned, with ideas that she had for business. You know when you hear those things people are thinking, now wait you're not doing all that you can right now, and they're not going to give you any more money. So I believe that no stone should be left unturned before you do any cuts, no stone should be left unturned, you should let people know that you have looked into all these different ideas so that they will realize that millage is necessary. The people I've talked to have said, I won't vote for any mils because I don't think the City is doing what it needs to do first.

Sharon Walterman, 536 Rose Hill – I would like to preface my statement by saying that I greatly admire those in the Administration and on Council who have kept their level of professionalism in the face of ridicule. Mr. Estep, Mr. Kempe, you give credibility to the saying “turn the other cheek.” Mr. Zix, you also have shown great diplomacy in dealing with issues that are presented. To all members of Council, it takes a quality of self assurance and maybe even sadistic tendencies to place yourselves in what I consider to be vulnerable positions.

With that said I would like to explain my reason for being here tonight. I will be the first to admit that there is not a political bone in my body, although, I must admit that my interest as of late has definitely been piqued. I have watched on cable our Council meetings and have attended my “first in a lifetime” Committee of the Whole meeting. I don’t claim to know the logistics of running a City. I am not here to ridicule, to bash. I come with no agenda. What I see is our City on the verge of crisis – if we’re not already there. Our money is dwindling and obviously has been for quite a while. I agree that somewhere along the line someone must have seen that. It didn’t happen overnight. What has taken several years to break will take several years to fix. Fixing it seems to be where all the animosities lie. Regardless of how we have arrived at where we are the problem needs to be solved. Numbers need to match. Lay off appear to be inevitable. To those of you who have never faced the loss of income due to illness of layoff or injury, it is not a pleasant experience and can be quite literally life changing. I know this because my family has lived it. And to those of you who now face it, it is also not the end of the world. Life continues as new decisions are made and new paths are followed. Beyond our financial woes I see the bigger crisis is being the decline of a society. Our society being the City of St. Bernard. Politics can be cruel and never more so than now. When we forget how to treat each other with respect, even in our differences, we lose a battle much bigger than keeping our City running. We lose the battle to indecency and ignorance. On both sides of the coin there are people whose credentials and judgments and comments and character are being attacked, most of it by rumor, and most of it by exaggeration and most of it unfounded. My hope is that we all survive this storm somehow with our souls intact. I truly believe that the people who have to make these agonizing decisions in our City do not do it with glee. And that all citizens of St. Bernard who will feel the cutbacks at one level or another do not plan to hold a celebration at their induction. Less police on our streets is something I personally hate to see happen but there then lies opportunity to compensate by forming community watch programs. Let’s be committed to helping rather than hinder. St. Bernard has changed, but that doesn’t mean it has to be for the worse. What it does mean is that it’s time to deal with the reality of NOW. Please cease the hatred that seems to be brewing. Continue to speak passionately but respectfully and cling incessantly to the desire to return our town to the glory it so richly it deserves.

Amy Doddy, 220 McClelland – I’m going to keep this short because I already got up, even though it was before the motion to limit it to one, so I am going to try to keep it short. I just want to ask Mr. Schildmeyer why, you said out of respect for the businesses and the citizens, well I can’t really speak for the businesses, but I was kind of goaded into being, Angela and I were kind of goaded into being the face of the petition and I’d like to think I

could speak for those 530 people to say, how are you respecting us in voting against 10 mils on the levy.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I do respect all of the signatures you've gotten. I voted that way mainly because there are a lot more people in this City that we haven't heard from. There is a lot of industry in this City that this millage will affect. If it is too high, they need to make decisions if they are going to stay or they're going to go. That's the main reason I voted no. It is a thin line, it's a rough line we have to choose here. If we go too low, we're not going to catch the whole drift of all the money we need, and if you go too high you're going to affect industry decisions in the future. That is why I voted that way.

Amy Doddy – Anybody else that voted no, would you care to explain your decision to vote against the citizens, I mean like I said when Angela and I got up we said this is only 530 signatures, that's 10% of the population of St. Bernard, it's almost 20% of the voters. We only have 3,000 registered voters in the City. Like I said, 3 days, 530 signatures is a lot in that short of time, we'd be willing to get more and we also would like to think we are showing you that we're willing to campaign for the levy. But we brought our own conditions, so if anybody would care to explain why you voted, please, we would appreciate it.

Mr. Zix – I too voted no, and the reason I voted no was many citizens that if we go too high they won't vote for it. I think we have to take a balance and it's a risk that we're going to take if we go too high and if we lose, we're really in trouble then. I was the one that made the motion for 5 mils, I felt it was there. 72% of this tax base will come from industry and that's a big affect on industry. We know that, we've seen it, we've seen our industry diversify and downsize, that's why we don't have the money and I think we have to respect that. I think it's a balance in the middle that we have here and I think we really need to work hard, I think we need to join arms together, I think we need to get this passed. I really appreciate some of the comments we've heard saying we have to quit the animosity, the fighting among us, we need to join arms, we need to get this passed.

Mrs. Kalb – I agree with Mr. Zix on most of his comments, I too was for the 5 mil originally, my whole purpose going into this was to do something realistic that I thought would pass. The comments from the majority that I have been getting are that they will not support anything that is too large and last fall I believe the numbers were, oh I'm sorry Mrs. Deutch I shouldn't have said, the numbers that I heard were 36 levies were on the ballot, 8 passed, the highest was 6. something and the average of the 8 that passed was 4.6. I am concerned about passage, my concern was to try to put some millage on the ballot that I felt had a realistic chance of passing. That is why I voted for the 7 and that is why I voted against the 10.

Mr. Stegman – I also voted no so I would like to give you my comments. I also echo what my 2 colleagues have just said. Also, I want to see this pass because if it doesn't we are going to be in worse shape, just for the 7 mils we're asking. Everyone says the 7 mils is not going to pass, so if 7 mils isn't going to pass, why would 10 or 11. I stated back when the Mayor had his public address over there to bring everybody together, I publicly came

out and said I would give 6 or 8 along with the 2 I had already given, me personally, that was my comments, would give that, but I have to sit up here and listen and talk to other community members and residents and hear what there feeling is, I just can't go and vote for what I want to see on the ballot, I have to consider all the residents. I have talked to other residents and they're telling me that 7 is going to be a hard number to pass. It's not because we're laying people off, it's because 7 digs down deep into their pockets. It does, when you don't pay it and all of a sudden you already hit them with 2 mils, now you're asking for 7 more, which is 9, then you're putting a .1 tax percent on, you're really digging. I think 7 could pass and I think we need to turn the City around, the way this City operates, we need to make some adjustments, we need to make some changes and start looking at things differently. I think that's the path we should go down and that's the reason I voted no.

Mrs. Brickweg – First of all I guess the one question I have when we say that everyone is worried about the industry. Nobody has even spoken with the industry. I have been trying to make some calls and talking to them. That amazes me that you have companies I called, there's PNC, P&G, I went to their meetings, Cognis has, one of them has big ammonias, the other one has chlorine, I talked with the head of the safety at P&G and he said they're going to have a large problem, they're going to file something against us when we go below minimum manning. It amazes me that people sit up here and say that they worry about the industry when no one has even tried to contact the industry. That would have been the first start, if we're worried about how the industry is going to feel and then I do know some people came from P&G and talked, apparently somebody from the City called and got them reprimanded for even speaking at a meeting. We're asking industry, I know we got a letter from the phone company saying about the police. I think we would have been better off, if we're that concerned about the industry, maybe sending a letter out and asking the industry, that's why I have it on, I mean it's too late now, but I have it on the agendas for the two meetings to ask them about millage and what they would be willing to pay for the services they want, but that is something that probably should have been addressed a long time before now. I'm only going to read, I sat down and I did have a couple of questions that I'm thinking, and I'm not even going to read these, but I kept thinking, what happens if the 7 mils fails, because I'm going to tell you that from talking to people they are telling me that if we lay people off they are not going to vote for the 7 mils, so one suggestion that I do have is the Finance Committee keep meeting with the Administration and you better think about what we're going to do when the 7 mils, if it does fail. We cannot wait till May and then watch it fail and then go now we got a problem. If it took us this long to even agree on the 7 mils I guess we better start looking at every scenario, if it fails or if it passes what we're going to do with it. But the main questions I have is I wonder how we chose the layoff. I'm told we prioritized, I would love to know how we prioritized. I wonder if we have a big snow fall and the service dept. down to 3 men being laid and 4 men from attrition, how they are going to handle that. I wonder if we have a fire and we don't have enough men to go to the fire and they can't go in the building, how we're going to handle that. I wonder when there's a wreck up on the highway or someone is given a DUI and there's no back up or a bar fight

with no back up, how are we going to handle that. I know everybody says we prioritize but I would love to see how we did prioritize.

Amy Doddy – Mrs. Kalb, you said that you looked at other communities that had not passed levies and I appreciate that you were doing the research but I kind of think that's almost comparing apples to oranges because so many different communities around here have different levels of services. They also pay different amounts of millage. I actually got off the Hamilton County Auditor's website what sort of millage all the different communities pay. We're still paying the lowest per capita for the highest amount of services. One of my family members I was with last night, we're spoiled, well maybe we are, but that's what we're coming to you to say, we're willing to pay, I'm looking at houses. I'm getting ready to move out of this City. I know you don't want to see that, I know you don't want to see that, I know I'm going to pay more taxes than I do here, everybody can say that, taxes here are ridiculously low. I had hoped that by bringing you this petition we would show you and not just tell you, yes people will vote. We have people that said they will vote. We practically did your work for you. We did the leg work. I just don't understand what else we could do, short of showing up at the ballot which we can't do because it's not May. Also, Mr. Stegman you did say that you kept hearing that it wasn't going to pass, it wasn't going to pass. All I heard was it wasn't going to pass if the layoffs take place. I never heard anybody say, no I'm not voting, well no I think about it I did hear one person say that he wasn't going to vote for 7 but that was actually at a Council meeting so, everybody else that I spoke to, everybody else that we all spoke to said, if the layoffs take place I don't want vote for 7, but I want to vote for 10 to keep the City.

Linda Carberry, 631 Woodside Hgts. – I have been very interested tonight during this meeting tonight to see all the note pads and figures written and being brought to the podium, yelling at Council blaming the Council members for the fix the City is in. Let's turn it around, it's not the fault of all these people on Council. Where have all of you been? I have been coming to Council meetings for five years. There has been many, many times when there have been two other people in here besides myself. Now, you're doing the leg work for Council, you're doing the petition, you have figures and all the answers. Now, whose fault is it?

Frank Mayborg, 4327 Greenlee Ave. – One thing, John the Mayor, you sent that card about what you people would think about a tax increase, what was the response, how many people.

Mr. Estep – I think there were around 500, I don't have the exact figure.

Mr. Mayborg – How long did you let that go, 2 weeks, 3 weeks?

Mr. Estep – Something like that, Frank, we were trying to get an idea from the people, just sort of the pulse of the community. We didn't base our decision on that by any means.

Mr. Mayborg – My dear friends up there, you two lovely women, in three days how many did you get? 530 in three days, and you give them two weeks and you said 7%, they're saying 10 or 12%. What do you guys need,

hearing aids? Is that what you need? I'll buy them if you need them, I'll pay for them out of my pocket. You people better wake up and that woman, and I agree with her, I been here many a meeting when there's only two and three people here, it's good to see you people come out because it's your community, but speak up and tell them, you're dumb. I'll tell you and I'm not afraid to tell you, but I will vote for a 10 or 12 mil, but don't have no layoffs. I don't care what it is, Mike you're the one that says out there at Miami Margerine property, it's been six months for five years. Right? We're going to know something in six months for the last five years. You're not going to tell me if you leave, you lay off anybody, police, fire or anything else, you not going to get anybody to go out there. There fire insurance and police insurance will go sky high. With everybody else here will be the same way, your house insurance is going to go crazy. Why don't you people get up and talk and tell them what you think, I'm not afraid to get up and tell them what I think. You got to get up and tell them what you think and they will listen to you because if they don't, November is coming up, remember that.

Doris Burkhardt, 14 Bertus St. – Wed. at the Seniors Citizens Meeting about six representatives of the Fire Dept. were there. Some were retired and some were still working. They were talking about the 10 mil levy. After they spoke for about ½ hr. they sent papers around and all the papers I saw had not one signature on them because the Senior Citizens that live in this City, the majority of them, cannot afford that much of an increase on the house taxes. If they rent, their rent will go up because the owners will want to make up their difference.

Bill Ungruhe, Ross Ave. – It has been good to hear from various citizens saying we need to work together and to keep it professional and I appreciate everyone that has said that tonight. We've been saying that for quite a while and everyone has worked hard to try to fix some of these things. It looks like a fax, you know we got the letter so there are layoffs, there are reductions in rank and nobody likes that and I've been through those before so I understand that and that's hard but we've all wanted to place blame and I've got a brother-in-law that sits up there and we've talked about this but I don't think anybody up there intentionally wanted to go ahead and put the City in trouble or in harms way. I think everybody that lives here and lived here for generations and has been neighbors and goes to church together, really cares about this City and loves being here and that's good and we need to keep that focus in mind and I agree we need to keep that positive motion so we can make effective change and go on from here. It's tough, I don't like seeing good officers leave, just things to keep in mind and I know these facts have been passed on and again in this town you don't know what facts get passed to who but right now I've got 4 officers that I supervise that are out on medical leave. One more than likely will go to medical retirement. The others will be back at some point. I've got another officer that's got a medical condition that's on hold, needs to have surgery. That's 4 in addition to the 3 that I'm losing March the 4th. That's just something to keep in mind which is something that we're going to have to figure out how to provide that service and that protection to you. I don't think that anybody, and we've done a lot of getting depts. against each other and all that and I'm glad that's gone but I've heard comments that it's not all about police and fire and all these things and nobody's saying that it is. The only

thing we're just trying to hype is just like when the President talks about keeping the country safe, we need to have soldiers to go ahead and be out there on the front line so that's what we provide. We're not here to collect money, yea, fortunately we make more money than say the average income in this town, but at the same time the average person that lives in this town doesn't go out and maybe doesn't come home to their kids the next day. I think the income that we make is well earned and I would like to see that not minimized by some people. I would like to see the Council and the citizens take the following steps to secure our future: 1. We need to continue to work on those revenues, talk to the businesses. As I drive on night shift I see a lot of empty businesses on Kiley and other locations in town that the average citizen doesn't see on the main thoroughfares. We need to fill those and to be talking about those. I see those as positives steps in areas that we need to look at. I believe that we also to stabilize our personnel. Nobody's happy where we're at, so let's learn from that and grow from here. The only way to do that, I believe, and this is my personal opinion, is to have a City Manager, a Chief Financial Officer and those positions that are within the City that take care of the City's business whether that be taxes etc. have some type of stability, make them Civil Service positions, so that regardless of who's in the political office that the business of the City is taken care of with people that have the ability to stay in those positions and learn those positions. Again, I'm not placing fault with the people that are there, you know, you say that somebody should have raised the flag and we should've seen this, well people A. Haven't been trained, B. I know, it took me a good three years before I really knew what I was doing as a police officer and probably another two years before I felt that I was effective and those of you that are in other industries would probably agree with that. If we are constantly changing say political parties, say every 4 years or whatever and we are using those as political appointees, how are we benefiting the citizens? I think part of that is why we're in the boat that we're in is how we're set up and maybe we can look at maybe a positive thing to go ahead and change that and stabilize those positions to give us continuity so that we can make those smart decisions, informed decisions and be able to take care of the City which is our primary thing. The other area that I believe that we should be looking at is the amount of rentals that within. I believe at one point we were 5 to 10% rentals and I believe that number now is getting closer to 50 and I can probably say just looking at the statistics that I look at on a monthly basis in the police dept. we probably spent about 85% to 90% of our policing with that 48% of population, not putting down people that rent, but a lot of those people that rent do not have ties to the City, do not keep their property up and maybe aren't as interested in what we're doing or maybe not even pay taxes up until now which we're going to start collecting which I think is good for the services that they receive so I don't want to place all people that are in rental property in that boat but I see a significant amount of people that we're dealing with that we have continual problems with in that area and that's an area that I think perhaps that we need to go ahead and look at. Last, but not least, I had thrown out an idea that Cincinnati has been doing on empty houses that are in the community, we talk about cutting the grass etc., they have ordinances with their housing dept. where they actually charge a fee to have those houses kept up to code so they're not a fire hazard and also charge those people for having the eyesore of an empty house within their community and perhaps we can look at that as additional income again, trying to look at a positive avenue to go

from there. The only last thing I'd like to say is we need to continue to talk, to make informed decisions, to not make decisions in a vacuum, I still believe that we're doing that, I still believe we want to try to do something in the police dept. but we can't even get numbers as to what we actually need, we're told \$247,000. and then we look at a budget and maybe there's something less than that so we had a union meeting where we couldn't even decide what concessions we could make because we don't have those numbers. We've asked for people to come to our meetings and they weren't there, so we would just like to keep the communication going and work together.

Norman Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – I just want to go over some of the things that we talked about at the last meeting. The first off of my list is the Library. Mr. Schildmeyer mentions that all the time that we're going to get this now, \$3 million dollar facility which is really something that St. Bernard should really be proud of. After attending this meeting where this woman came from the Hamilton County Library and put it in the read between the lines form, this isn't going to be a beautiful St. Bernard Library, it's going to be put in St. Bernard and it's going to be a regional Library and if you look at the geography around it that's what regional means to me. That beautiful \$3. million dollars that the Hamilton County Library didn't just pick out St. Bernard with our 5,000 residents that your good people will put a \$3 million facility in there for you. I still think we need to get the ground back, it's a taxable piece of land that we can put something on to draw revenue on. That's where we're hurting, we're hurting for revenue. The second thing is, and I've heard this probably for 3 to 5 years, the Nu Maid property, we're talking these people, we can't disclose anything until some contracts are arranged and it goes on year after year after year and nothing's happening, nobody in the City even knows what's happening because we can't get any answers. I think we need to bring out to the public that what we're doing is a piece of property that nobody is even looking at, if it is who are we looking at to talk to, we just don't have any information on another \$2 million project. The other thing I wanted to talk about is and I went to the school board meeting this past week, at the last meeting and it bothered me because I worked under a union contract, the police dept. worked under a union contract and at this last meeting a union man here was pushing into the school business. A union man always protects another union, not to dig into the unions of the school, they got a professional teachers union the same as the fire, the same as the police so I think I was wrong that this got into the school system. The school system was very unaware of what was going on here that night because it seemed that some of the contacts were made against the school tax levies. It is no business of the City of St. Bernard's budget to talk about the school tax levy in conjunction with the City budget. There's no comparison there, it don't even belong in the conversation and I think that was wrong. We had a lady here tonight explained it pretty clear. The other thing I talked about the last time was the parking lots and I've been looking around and within about a 3 block area we've got 8 parking lots on Vine St. and then I got into the ball diamonds, we got 4 ball diamonds, then we get into the play parks, I mean we have 7 play parks along with the big park. We just laid off an awful lot of City workers, the Service Dept., we laid an awful lot of them off and all of this ground has to be maintained. A ball diamond in the summer, there are kids on them all the time, the play ground even though they are closed they have to be

maintained so we've lost a lot of people on the Service Dept. and these things are going to go down hill. The other part of it is that all of these parks, today with the people in society, you can't leave your children go to these play parks anymore. We just lost a little girl this past week, somebody apprehended her, she was going for a roll of paper towels for her mother. The mother's of this town can't send their kids any more like we used to go to a play park. It's not safe even to go that far so what we've got here on Baker Ave. within a block of the major park of the City, a \$2 million facility and we've got a 150 ft. frontage for home building, that 150 ft lot is equivalent to 3 lots. Park Place, again, is a play park that we've done away with, it's within a walking block of the major park again that we have and there is 135 ft. frontage on that which is the equivalent to two homes, we went onto Leonard Ave. and on Leonard we've got 100ft frontage on a parking lot. That parking lot's got 150ft frontage on it and it sits down there that we could have 3 homes on there. The park at Franklin and Tower, that's got an 80ft. front on it 200ft deep. We could put a home on there. And it goes on and on with, this is the property that the City of St. Bernard owns and I think the gentleman here might know, the property down on Chalet, there's a large park there, a green area, and I don't know, it strikes me in the back of my mind years ago when that was developed that there was a clause in the contract that they couldn't build homes on that where the park exists now. So there's another, if we get rid of the park and build back to back with existing homes there's another 7 home sites. And as I look at this, the private property of Manthey that went out and we've got an East Ross Ave. lot that we talked about.

Mr. Burkhardt – It's been over five minutes, can you wrap it up?

Mr. Miller – OK thank you.

Mr. Zix. – Some of the property things that we talked about last week, Mr. Miller, at the COW meeting, we are investigating some of the frontage, we have to look at some of the plat books, to see if the rules do allow us to build on the parks, we understood that we were trying to find out about the Heger St. park, we're trying to find those plats with Hamilton County, that actually say that in there. We are trying to move forward with some of the frontages to present it to Council. Some of the ideas were Tennis Ln., you could approximately get 5 to 7 houses back there, it would be pretty tight at 7 but there is also, as the Mayor said some look at that area for Senior housing along with Bertus St. park, you still keep a nice green area and have a small park but use a lot of that space for homes also. Yes, we are looking at that and I appreciate that suggestion.

Mr. Estep – Just to follow up on that, I did contact the guy that built the homes, if you could think back at what it looked like at Tower and Mitchell, with the old building that was burned down at sat there and we finally leveled it and the guy that built those homes and developed that, he said he would be more than glad to talk with the City about developing some property with us.

Angela Chatman, 4265 Redwood Ter. – There has been a couple of comments tonight that the school tax levy or the school issue and the City issue should never be intermixed. I am a tax payer. I pay for both. Both

come out of the same household budget, mine. A comment was just made regarding the fact that a union rep says something that was out of line or was incorrect. We've admitted, that comment was not made as a union rep. it was made as a citizen, which is rightfully so. I will be at every school board meeting, I will make it known what is going on. 2.1 now, I guess will be for the City tax dollars, I just received my property tax bill. \$706.00, most of it went to the school, I believe. I will say that, yes, it is together because you're talking about the tax payers money, period. One last comment, if people want to say well so and so said such and such, read your minutes, get your facts straight before you make a comment.

Bob Hausfeld, 4608 Vine – I would like to ask the Safety Director or whoever can answer this, are we paying for our safety dept., are we paying money to the county for dispatching as it is now? Will we get so many dispatches through them for the money, for the license, for the radios all that stuff, I'm just trying to figure it all out?

Ms. Luken – To my knowledge, and Chief Moeller you can help me out here if I'm incorrect on this, we are paying \$12,000.00 a year to the County for radio service yes, but not for actually using the dispatchers, but for the service.

Mr. Hausfeld – I guess the Fire Chief can help us out here. I was told that we pay \$12 to \$15,000 per for the Police and for the Fire and for the EMS and I was just curious, and with paying that licensing that also gives you so many dispatches per year. If you go over that it might cost you a little and that's why I was just curious. Anybody that has any idea of what's going on, I was just curious.

Mr. Estep – I was told by one of the fireman, who is a lot more knowledgeable about this than me, you're right, Bob, all three of those bills, one for EMS, one for fire, one for police, \$12,500 for each license and it, I think there is a number 800 and something calls you're entitled to and anything over that it's \$14 per call or \$14.10 it comes out to. I'll try to get more information, Steve Moeller did send me some information on that and we are looking into that.

Mr. Hausfeld – I appreciate that, so I mean you're under the understanding that it's only 800 calls?

Mr. Estep – I'm not sure 800 is the right number and know you divide that \$12,500 by a certain number that goes into that, I don't have the facts, the numbers in front of me, it's somewhere around that, and any call that is charged to that above that is somewhere around \$14.10. I can't recall the exact number.

Ms. Luken – I have that information, I don't have it with me, but I would be more than happy to give it to Mr. Hausfeld.

Mr. Hausfeld – I guess what I am getting at is, the Fire Chief can speak up if he wants, I was told that a few thousand calls per the dept. , I'm sorry 1400 not a few thousand, 1400 or so, I was just curious because that per dept. x 3, I was just curious because John, you made the comment that if the dept.

heads had their budget now, their budget, they should run their dept. and if that meant that they're already paying for dispatching, so let's go to the County, that might save one officer to have on the street to protect our streets and that's all I'm getting at. That's why I want to find out what the exact numbers of the dispatching is. Secondly, Mr. Zix, I will tell you my father was interested in the park up at Heger Dr. a few years back so I didn't want him getting behind the wheel so I drove him downtown, he wanted to go down to the County Court House, so we did pull that deed a few years ago and we didn't understand the whole deed so we talked to the clerk down there and he reviewed the deed. He's not an attorney, but he told us that there is no restrictions on that land up there to build homes, just so you know that because that is a possibility to expand St. Bernard. One last question I have, I hear the layoff letters are starting to come out, I haven't got mine yet. I'm furious, I mean I have no doubt that mine is coming, where is the 10 is it 10 layoffs or 11 layoffs now that's what I'm just curious? And you can say "I believe" because I don't really, I just want a guess.

Mr. Estep – Thanks for that, Bob. There were letters sent out 3 to the police, 4 to the fire and 3 to the service.

Mr. Hausfeld – OK. I was just curious. With four to the fire, that's going one above the other two depts., which I'm not, I don't have a problem with that, that's your decision, I was just curious, one is that's getting rid of the full time inspector that goes into the chemical plants around town that have all these dangerous chemicals that Peggy tried to talk about. But again that's your decision, I guess the thing that baffled me tonight is, I was under the impression that one person at City Hall was gone. It appears that nobody is gone there now and I was just curious.

Mr. Estep – We treated City Hall like we did all the other depts.. We came up with a number and we didn't go to the depts. and tell them to layoff people, we gave the number to the person in charge of their budget and if they met those numbers there would be no layoffs. Unfortunately, every dept. is tight. City Hall, we met today, we have something in the works that could result in no layoffs and if it doesn't come there could be a layoff at City Hall as well.

Mr. Hausfeld – Did they get their letter, just in case?

Mr. Estep – It's a little bit different situation with every dept. You follow Civil Service regs with certain depts. in City Hall it could be an appointed person.

Mr. Hausfeld – OK, I appreciate that. One last thing because I hear comments coming from the audience over here and I have been out looking for other jobs and I actually, well I have been out looking and I'm sure a lot of these people have. Whether you want to deny it now or not, I think the feeling on Council is that the Fire and Police and even the Service Dept. is overpaid for what they do. I will tell you that new dept. that I've been looking at, another dept. that I know a friend of mine is going to, there top pay is \$60,000. I'm guessing our pay, Police and Fire is probably about \$50,000, \$55,000. and that's an average, that's not counting the overtime, the overtime isn't our decision, that's the Administration that they want to

pay it or not, but all I'm saying is our salaries are right in line with everybody else's, they're not way above like some people want to believe or whatever.

Kerry Meyer, 4411 Kemper – Just what Bob was talking about, about the City Hall employee not being laid off. Did I understand correctly that the dept. head got a number like the other depts. got a number or did the employee get a number and they made concessions to meet that?

Mr. Kempe – We met with City Hall, just like we did with the other depts. and they are working on coming up with concessions. It hasn't happened yet, but they're working on it.

Mr. Meyer – OK, then why did the other depts. get letters and that person not get one? The one that was supposed to be gone from City Hall that's not, why, how did that happen, I guess is what I'm getting at?

Mr. Kempe – Say it again.

Mr. Meyer – The person that was supposed to get laid off from City Hall, didn't. When the number was 11. What did City Hall do different than the other depts. to prevent that from happening?

Mr. Kempe – That person didn't do anything different, it's just the rules with the union and the Civil Service jobs, you have to follow different procedures. So she or he or whoever is going to be at City Hall is an appointed position and you don't have to give that kind of notification in advance.

Mr. Meyer – I guess the City Hall, like the other depts. will have the chance to make concessions to save that job if they don't come up with that money, then that person will be gone, because of the rules the letter will be coming later. OK

Mrs. Brickweg – What is the number for City Hall to cut?

Mr. Kempe – About \$100,000.

Butch Bauer, 150 Delmar – First, I would like to thank Peggy for saying something, I think this is the fourth time I've mentioned it here. No one from this City has contacted industry and businesses on an official basis and asked for an official response from them as far as what their financial future looks like, what services and requirements they have of the City to provide for them nor how the increase in millage will affect them. No one has done that. This at least the fourth time I believe I have mentioned this and it's never been done. I'm glad to hear Peggy say she'd like to see it done and she can't get any answers. I think it's important. I hear all kinds of comments that industry is going to move out if we do millage or our guys alone have said industry is going to be upset because they're going to lose services and they are. That is the stories I'm getting. I'm not the person that can go to industry and ask them for an official response to how they feel or what they want from us. Somebody in this City needs to do that, it's a very important question that needs to be asked to every industry and business. Second of

all, the City needs to learn to do things differently and make adjustments, I agree with that, our budget is shrinking, our revenues are shrinking and our budget is staying about the same, but you have to consider when you make adjustments how it affects the overall dept. the overall City, the services you are providing, and to my knowledge, I see no consideration on that. They take 3, 3, and 4. No regard for what services they are still going to provide and what services they're not. What they are going to be able to do for citizens for this community. Dial –A –Ride is being cut to the bare bones, I think the ridership is going to be down so low it's probably not going to be a viable entity in a year. Is that a plan, I don't know? I hope not, because I think it is a valuable service like all the other services this community provides. To say we need to make adjustments, I agree, but we need to consider what each adjustment we talk about making, what effects does it have. I haven't heard anybody really sit down and discuss with the fire dept. how losing 4 men is going to affect the ability of us to provide adequate fire protection to our residents and to our industries. To my knowledge, the only information that's been got on that is information that Scherpenberg has proposed to you or handed to you guys and I don't think any of you really read it enough to understand it. Another thing I would like to talk about was, there has been some rumors around town that the fire dept. the service dept. the police dept. have been doing nothing to cooperate with this City to help get them through this, well I think that needs to be addressed. That's pretty much completely inaccurate. I think all three depts. have offered all kinds of solutions, all kinds of different ideas and I grant you some of them just aren't going to work, I realize that. Last week, the Fire Dept. was given a proposal by the Administration that if we cut \$392,675.00 out of our salary line items, we could save the 4 people that were going to be laid off. That's pretty important to us, 4 people means a lot to us when we're running at bare bones when we make a fire run. That's the number we're looking at. We have been looking and we continue to look at it. We've been going over numbers and different aspects looking at different ways that we can possibly do this. That works out to be about to be about \$16,000. a man, they have asked us to cut and what I've gathered the other depts. have been asked to cut about the same amount per man and I say to you, the Council members and the Administration of this community. Where's your \$16,000? Be our leaders, show us that this community is as important to you as it is to us, because whether you realize it or not, while we all work here and we all rely on the City for our income, it is also our homes, it is also our families who are there unprotected and it means as much to us as it means to every other citizen in this town. If you want us to save this City on the backs of these three depts. and you want to sit there and do nothing it's just not a good way to be a leader. Step up, show us that you're just as serious about it as we are. We're looking at the numbers, we're working on things but I haven't ever heard any discussion other than, well Council can't take a pay in cut, or cut pay because it's an Ordinance that can't do that in the year their working. Well you know what, I think it was suggested by Mr. Kempe tonight that the Service Dept. write their checks back to the City. \$6,000. from 7 people up there starts a long way. Gets a lot done. I'm not trying to be nasty, I'm trying to make a point that you want us to do all this, it's three depts. that are really being asked to make these cuts. I know everybody has had some wage freezes, items have been removed from their budgets but you're wanting us to carry the brunt of it, we're only about \$6,000 out of the \$10

million dollar budget we operate on. Sorry \$6,000,000. there's another \$4,000,000 in this City's budget I don't hear any cut coming out of.

Sheri Williams – I did contact Procter and Gamble and I got a response back from the Associate Director of Economic Development there and basically they feel confident in our Administration and in Council that they will make the right decision for the City, whether that is the millage or a reduction in services. They have made a stance, whether you take that as political or not. That is their stance. They are confident that we will make the right decision.

Eric Scherpenberg, 142 Church St. – Unlike Mr. Hausfeld I have received my layoff notice so pardon me if this is a little bit negative. First thing I want to talk about is, I applaud the three members that stood up and actually supported this 10 mils and for the four that didn't apparently you've never even spoken to the industries so. I would like to know your reason again for not voting for the 10 mils.

Mr. Schildmeyer – When you put that much millage on the ballot, the decision that industry could make in the future could be detrimental to the City. Nobody gave us any percentages or anything from the industry but it's a large nut to crack if you're going to put 12 mil on there and 72% of this tax base comes from industry as Mr. Zix stated before, to give them the understanding that yes, we're trying to help the City out and work things through but if it's going to affect the industries outcome and their bottom line, they're going to make decisions too, they have to. Those are my concerns.

Mr. Scherpenberg – While we're on the topic of industry, since you're the representative of the CIC, are you familiar with the concept of tif district, a tax increment financing district?

Mr. Schildmeyer – Yes, sir.

Mr. Scherpenberg – Is there any reason we haven't done that for this million dollar lose we've been taken around town?

Mr. Schildmeyer – I believe that there is some talk of that in the CIC for the development of the properties. I don't think there have been any decisions yet because the contract has not been signed.

Mr. Scherpenberg – For the audience here that is not familiar with the concept of a tif district, it allows you to take a piece of geography, let's say the Nu Maid property, or OLA. It allows you to take the taxes collected off the houses or whatever business is being built there, and instead of the taxes going to the schools or the County of where ever else it goes. It goes into a special fund that allows the City to recoup it's loses for acquiring the land, demolishing the property, sewers, whatever. While we're spending millions of dollars out of our General Fund for these pieces of property like OLA that we've taken huge loses on, we could be recouping some of this money that's now going to the schools and to the County. I think that would be a good idea for the Finance Committee or the CIC to look into.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Thanks, Eric, you're absolutely right.

Mr. Scherpenberg – Another thing, you guys passed that 9.6 million dollar budget and I guess that was a success for you since it has taken until February. I would like to talk about some affairs that have happened. First one, let's talk about campaign promises. I know I've brought it up before, Mr. Estep, that you promised in your campaign not to cut, no layoffs, police, fire, and Mr. St. Clair seemed to take offense to that saying that we can't hold you to your campaign promises, Mr. St. Clair, you were the Auditor while Mr. Estep was campaigning, were you not?

Mr. St. Clair – Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Scherpenberg – Do you consider yourself pretty much informed on the City's financial status?

Mr. St. Clair – Yes, I do.

Mr. Scherpenberg – I find that inconceivable that at a point in Mr. Estep's campaign you never once talked to him about the current status of the City's finances.

Mr. St. Clair – Yes, I believe the status of the City's finances was in our campaign literature where we showed that the City was continuing to spend more than it was taking in.

Mr. Scherpenberg – So why did the Mayor tell us that he wouldn't lay anybody off if he clearly knew the financial status he was coming into, why did he promise the police and fire and services that he would not lay them off.

Mr. Estep – I made the comment, it's in writing, that was one of my goals. Had I known that this City was in as bad of shape as it was, number one, I probable wouldn't have ran for Mayor. Number two, I shouldn't have said it and it was a goal and a promise I couldn't fulfill. I tried very hard, we put in a lot of hours, Eric, and I think we've been beating that horse to death, at quite a few Council Meetings now. I think your answer has been given several times.

Mr. Scherpenberg – Let's talk about another campaign promise, City Manager. When are we finally going to get someone qualified to run this City? We got this "good ole boy" patronage system of putting people in very key positions in this City debating on, or depending on who you know or where they were in the Party. I think it's about time we get a qualified City Manager with a degree in Public Administration to begin running this City professionally and without bias.

Mr. Estep – After we won the election, the first thing that I thought we could change was instead of putting the 'good ole boys' system and whether it's 'good ole boy' system here before us or whatever happens. The first thing we did was take resumes. We formed a committee to do interviews and we crossed Party lines in some cases to try and help people who needed help and I took a whipping from my own Party for doing that, trying to help some people who needed a hand. When we interviewed people for this job of

Service Director, Joe Kempe was by far, that we thought, the most qualified, college educated, business background and I stand by him 100%. He's done a heck of a job. As far as a City Manager, if that's something Council wants to look at in the future, that's something that I think would probably be good for the City. I think that's one of the problems we've had in this City for 100 years. People can't do exactly what should be done because maybe they're afraid to lose a vote or offend a family member. Tonight I'm sitting across from my first cousin, he's on one Party and I'm on the other. Those things do come into play. As far as getting a City Manager next week or anything, personally, I don't know a different strategy a City Manager would use in the situation we've had recently that Joe Kempe hasn't fulfilled. He's negotiated contracts, he's done the budget, that shouldn't even be his job, I don't know when the last time is a Service Director has done a budget. He's put in more hours at budget meetings and Finance Committees, COW and Council. He's learned a lot about the planning dept. of this City. He's very qualified and for the situation we're in I don't think we can get anybody around here, especially, to do a better job. I support Joe 100%.

Mr. Scherpenberg – Do you have a degree in Public Administration?

Mr. Kempe – No, my degree is in Economics.

Mr. Scherpenberg – I guess maybe I want to talk about some of the successes, I know everyone can say I know someone who's been laid off, but I doubt anybody is in the same position as us. I'm not in officer Chatman's position, he just bought a brand new house in this City. Everything that we have is tied to this City. I have a mortgage payment that I'm not going to be able to make and my house is in this City, and I'm not going to be able to sell that house given the way houses are selling right now. As far as your successes, you're letting go your youngest workers who do the bulk of the work for the least pay. You're effectively getting rid of what remains of the young middle class in this City. It's going to be gone. You're undermining the safety of all your residents. If anyone is interested, 142 Church St., it's up for sale.

Karen Scherpenberg, 112 Delmar – I love this City, I think when I'm one of the last 25 people in this City, I'm going to say, I love this City. I don't really have the answers, I see you guys up there frustrated, I see the Administration frustrated, I see why these people these employees are frustrated because I don't know I hear a lot of, what is the Administration doing for cuts. I'm not even 100% sure as far as their own cuts, what is Council doing? I know there is no place to lay blame for all this. I know that Glenn has admitted, well I'm blind sided, Barb, has said I know we're spending more than we're taking in, I just thought the money would always be there and nobody else wants to say what happened with all this. I love my seniors, everybody here knows, I love my seniors, but I love them as much as my school kids that we're getting ready to lose in the mornings, I love everybody and I know the seniors are upset that we need new taxes at all. I don't know what would happen if they raise taxes here, would it be more or less going to Elmwood? I don't know what Elmwood taxes are as opposed to our taxes. Where we could keep our services here for more taxes, and I don't know what they are in Elmwood. I'm just trying to prove a point that if you want to keep the services and I really hate to see, and it's not

because of my son, I hate to see anybody laid off in this City because they're going to leave. They're probably going to leave and we're losing all of these good families when Peggy has suggested putting another \$100,000. in there just for two months. I'm just afraid that nobody's going to vote for this levy with all these layoff and all these cuts in Dial-A-Ride and everything else that you're doing. I feel like you're on a suicide mission and it breaks my heart, it truly breaks by heart.

Norm Miller, Washington – I just wanted to finish up on what I was talking before. The City of St. Bernard has to be built on a young population, whether it be very young, or people getting married or in their 30s or early 40s. That's what is going to build this City. As I was talking about these lots available, if everything was perfect, we've got 25, 50ft. lot parcel in St. Bernard, if everything was perfect, these belong to the City and if we take the privately owned lots that are available, maybe not for sale but possibly someone could look into it, we would have a 32 parcel for home building. What I am saying is that if we took 32 homes and everything was perfect and put \$100,000. home on each one, the gross tax revenue and that would be an awful lot of money, based on \$100,000. gross. I think what I was getting out of it, property that is owned by the City, and a mention was made of a builder that we have here that is tickled to death to build homes, even if we gave the property that belongs to the City to the builder for a dollar, he would take full responsibility, the utilities would have to be added or the site plans have to be added, it would cost the City practically no money and he would be on a restriction to have a taxable home on that lot within six months. Instead of worrying about where all the money's going, let's find out how we can make some more money. This would be one way to make it. I don't propose, lot of mention was made for a Senior Citizen home, this town isn't going to grow anywhere on senior citizens. I'm a senior citizen, I'm 76, if I got five more years, I'll be happy. This town isn't going to grow on me having a nice home. It's going to grow on young people and to get young people in here take your property and not put it out to block senior citizens, I agree senior citizen for a senior home or assisted living, I'm a senior and I'm not going to give up my space to go into an apartment and I believe most senior citizens in this town feel the same way. We like our space and if we can be at home, we'll be there, not in an apartment bldg. where you can open a window and feed the birds. We like our property. I think you could at least use the City lots which would be 25 in total if we use the Chalet property. We've got 25 50ft. lots available. Build single, one or two family homes on these, not apartment buildings, property owners so that the people who buy these and build these homes will have something to look forward to the future, they'll have a home that'll be paid for, it'll be brand new. Lot of people say, well if we build a senior home we'll have space available, the seniors will sell their houses, well I don't believe that. I believe that if we would bring all young people in instead of buying this senior housing for a hundred or a hundred and a quarter, whatever they charge, then have to put another thirty thousand in to renovate it if you're lucky and can do the work, then you're up to huge amounts of money where I think it would invite young people if we would build a single family home that they would become a private home owner of a new piece of property and not something that's 75 to 100 years old. I think to create the revenue I think there's a lot to be looked at in St. Bernard and I went around and there's over 1000 ft. City owned frontage, road frontage for building homes,

that's how many is here. That's what we own and they're play parks and again I reiterate that the young mother or father isn't going to let his little ones go down to the play park any more because it's not safe. We used to do it years ago. We'd leave in the morning and never come home, but that's not society today. I think if we look at some of these City owned pieces of property, let the builder commit himself, no committee to the City other than a dollar he bought it for, put a six month limit with heavy penalties if he don't finish it and that would be a taxable piece of property in six months.

Brenda Lozier, 209 Church St. – I just wanted to finish my comment about the DARE program in the school system. I've never talked to officer Chatman about anything and the comment that I wanted to finish up with was, the importance of the DARE Program for the kids in our community, what it teaches in them and instills in them and a lot of those children, I've worked in the school system for 21 years so I have a little bit of an idea of where some of those kids come from and what they're lacking and one thing I wanted to say also about officer Chatman, that, I want this to be said respectfully, and taken respectfully, he is our only African American police officer that we have and with the community that we live in we need that representation with the community and the neighboring communities. We also need to keep our other officers as much as possible and I have never talked to officer Chatman about this but I'm grateful that we have a man with his quality and his background on our police force and I've seen him work in our community with our people, he works well, people like him and I would like to see all of our police officers and all of our service dept., I have friends that I have worked with, a friend of mine, Mike Arens, left our school district to work for the City, he's going to lose 150 some sick days when he's laid off. This is a man that is in the middle of his life and it's going to be difficult to find a job and to support his family and I thank you for the time speaking tonight, if I seemed disrespectful I apologize to anyone that I seemed disrespectful for. This wasn't easy for me to come here tonight. I wrestled for about two weeks I wrestled about coming and voicing my opinions because honestly don't think, and tonight I feel it was reaffirmed, that the voice of the people is not really taken into full consideration. The minds of the people in this City and the people who are holding the positions of power, their minds are made up ahead of time. Everything is preconceived and pre - decided and I've seen that before in other situations and circumstances and I don't know about you but I think 500 people who signed a petition in 3 days is a lot to consider.

Mrs. Brickweg – I want to just give a comment as a citizen. The one thing that I'm not hearing a lot of, and I'm going to be honest, I'm scared to death and I don't know how nobody else in this room is, is property value. I'm not from here, I'm from Western Hills, and let me tell you, the property value there, it goes up and it keeps going up. When I met my husband, he said we'll be lucky to get a house, because they don't even put a for sale sign in the front yard, they go that quick and his mom offered to let us buy her house from her, so I'm very lucky and I'm very lucky in the neighborhood I live in and I know that. Kurt and I made the decision that we were here forever, like he says our plots are right in the back yard over the fence, so we're here, but I go home after these meetings and I think who is thinking what? I'm scared to death of the property values. There are so many houses for sale. Now the services are going down, I'll tell you, I tried to figure what

my taxes would go up if it was at the highest and it was four maybe six hundred dollars, but I'm going to tell you, I'd find that money in a year because my property value is going to go down a heck of a lot faster than that and I just don't understand why nobody can actually see that point, besides the safety, besides the services, my main investment is my house and I would bet the majority in this room, it is your house. So when you talk about losing money, when the property value starts going down like the neighborhoods right around us, that's exactly what's going to happen and that is what scares the death out of me and that's one of the main reasons I ran for Council because I thought I want this community to survive and I can sit up at that podium and talk all I want but as my husband says you got to get voted in to have a voice and I just wish people would consider your property value and your house when you are thinking about this.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Just a comment, Peggy has been following up on houses for sale, I did look it up on the internet just yesterday, there are 29 single families for sale in St. Bernard and there are 4 two families. I think there is maybe 4 or 5 of the apartments down at Chalet that are up for sale also.

Mrs. Brickweg – From what I hear there will be 11 more or at least 10 more.

Mr. Zix – At this time I make a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I'll seconded that.

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Stegman – The next COW meeting will be Thurs. Feb. 10th, at 7:30p.m.

Council went into executive session.

Council returned to Council Chamber after executive session.

Motion by Mr. Stegman, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to accept the St. Bernard Service Dept. tentative agreement. Motion passed 7-0.

Motions by Mr. Stegman, seconded Mr. Zix to adjourn the meeting.

Motions passed 7-0.