

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2007**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, March 15, 2007 in Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed that all members were present: Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix.

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

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR- Mr. Estep – We will make our selections for summer jobs within the next two weeks from the applications we received through March 14. The only position still open to applicants are the lifeguard positions. We would like to have a few more applicants to ensure we have adequate coverage for vacation schedules and any unforeseen scheduling challenges that may arise over the summer.

The annual St. Bernard Easter Egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 7 at Vine Street Park. To the newer residents of our community, this is a fun event and the kids really enjoy it. At 11:00 A.M. the Easter Bunny will ride around town to hand out candy to the children. By 1:45 P.M. we arrive at Vine Street Park where we take time for parents to take a picture of their children with the Bunny, so don't forget your camera. At 2 P.M. the Easter Egg hunt begins. We have the area broken up into five age groups so every child has an opportunity to find some eggs or win a prize. We end the event by giving each child a chocolate bunny. So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 7 for the annual St. Bernard Easter Egg Hunt at 2 P.M. Sign up for swim lessons, and swim team, are open until May 3<sup>rd</sup>. For children that are 5 years old by July 1, 2007, tee ball sign up is open until May 3<sup>rd</sup> as well. Details are on the City's webpage or refer to your Winter Newsletter.

On a side bar, I got a call today from Ms. Cheryl Wickersham, talking about Senior Housing. I just wanted to know if Council was still in favor of that or not in favor of it. She's willing to come down and give a presentation. She would like to come before a, probably a COW about 7:00, early April. The applications for this, the deadline is May 25<sup>th</sup> she said. So the sooner we get some, and we're still working on the other end of this side, I know you can't make a total commitment but I just wanted to keep you up to date, rather than go into a lengthy Executive Session, especially when there's a basketball game on tonight, but just to let you know where I am with this and she's going to send us some more brochures and if you have any questions is you want to relay them to me between now and then I'll be glad to forward those to her so she can answer them ahead of time.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – Reports for the City's investments and balances for our various bank accounts have been distributed to Council and some members of the Administration

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – Before Council tonight are a number of new Ordinances. Ordinance No. 11, 2007 is an agreement between the City and the County for a joint construction and improvement of Spring Grove Ave. Ordinance No.12, 13 and 14 involve the adoption of the new residential enforcement code. No. 12 adopts the Ohio Administrative Code and sends us an application to the Ohio Board of Building Standards. Ordinance No. 13 seeks permission and authority for us to enforce it here in St. Bernard and No. 14 actually amends our Codified Ordinance sections to seek those changes. Ordinance No. 15, as requested by Council, is an amendment to the Community Reinvestment Area. This is a repealing of Ordinance of Ordinance No. 31, 2006 and amending that and reinstating a whole new Ordinance to make the changes.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – (read by Mr. Kempe) Hamilton County has joined the State of Ohio in designating March 25 – March 31, 2007 as “SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK”. The Hamilton County Emergency Agency is sending information pertaining to Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week to all newspapers, radio and TV stations. The purpose of this notice is to assist communities in promoting citizen’s awareness of severe weather safety and the precautions to be taken to try to minimize the damage from hazardous occurrences. The following emergency communications and warning systems will be tested in Hamilton County during this awareness week: the Hamilton County Disaster Radio Net and the Emergency Alert System. All local schools are encouraged to conduct Tornado Safety Drills during this week. To obtain additional information please refer to the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness web page at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe - I recommend adoption of Ordinance No. 11, 2007 authorizing an agreement between the City of St. Bernard and the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners for grant monies in the amount of \$75,000 relative to the improvement of Spring Grove Ave. Spring begins next week and with the warmer weather soon to follow, I would like to remind all residents about the City’s policy on yard waste and tree limb pick up. Please place your yard waste to the curb by 7:30 A.M. on the first pick up day of the week only. Place all yard waste in open containers or bags and make sure only yard waste and no trash is in those containers. When placing limbs out to be picked up, please cut and bundle those limbs in a manageable size.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee would like to recommend the passage of Ordinance No. 11, 2007. Also, everybody did receive in their box and electronically the budget tracking tool for February, 2007. I’d like to thank Joe, the Service Director for kicking off the budget preparation season for ’08 by asking the department heads to start preparation.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – The police report for Feb. 2007 – As warmer weather arrives we remind everyone that our children are becoming more active outdoors. Motorist should be aware of increased pedestrian traffic as well as children on bikes. Please take that extra step when driving through our neighborhoods to watch out for the kids.

Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Officer Luken for his quick work on the vandalism on Greenlee. Within a week the kids were caught and the vandalism was repaired.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – Recently the CIC held a meeting and I think that certainly nobody is satisfied with the progress or the lack of progress on the Nu Maid site. What we're going to do is, we're going to have a developer come in and meet with us, just kind of give us an update on the state of the economy so to speak for commercial and light industrial. We've got a little bit of information back that in Cincinnati the people that have businesses tend to want to own their property rather than leasing property in the model that we developed with the developer that called for leasing property. We'll take another look at that. Also, to date, the company that has shown the most interest in that site has been for the most part, trucking companies and, the reason that we've not brought anything back to Council is that the thought of 18 wheelers and their trailers up and down Vine St. is not anything that would be desirable for the City or for the residents. We will be taking another look at the status of everything, where we're at, where we need to go, how we need to get there and when we have that meeting set up we'll announce it to everybody so that they can come in and members of Council and any interested citizens can come and attend that.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – The Committee recommends passage of Ordinances No. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 this evening.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – I talked to Bob Sautell this week, First Safety Bank President and St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce President. Bob has been very busy with the banking business the last couple of months. He hasn't found too much time to work on the ideas that he has for the Chamber but has found time to attend the last meetings of Dr. Romanos' presentation and he's looking forward to the next presentation regarding the development of the City and Vine St. property. I'll be visiting other businesses throughout the City, new businesses and old businesses, I see the Mr. and Mrs. Brickler are in the audience and they have a business up on Vine St. I'd like to get up there and talk to them, find out a little bit more about their business along with the business over on Greenlee Ave., I think it is a portrait studio that is being opened up by Tricia Hackney. She's not ready to open yet but as things develop I'll be reporting those businesses back to the citizens.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – Since this is the last Council meeting in March I want to remind everyone about the I-75 expansion public meeting on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be presenting the expansion plans from the Western Hills Viaduct to the Norwood Lateral. The meeting will again take place here in St. Bernard from 4:00P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Main Hall of the Municipal Building. This again will be an

open house style meeting and people can stop in at any time. There will be plenty of personnel present to take comments or answer questions and display material, including a traffic simulator, showing the new designs. I also want to remind everyone to keep the ideas coming for our Clean Up St. Bernard Day. Clean Up St. Bernard day will take place April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to noon.

I have received a few ideas such as:

1. Cleaning up the flower boxes around St. Bernard Square and planting flowers.
2. Painting benches and picnic tables
3. Clean up the skate park and get rid of graffiti there.
4. Clean up Girl Scout Lane
5. Clean up along the fence line by the bus lot.

Please pass on any ideas you have. Like I said last week, our Service Department does a great job with the daily cleaning of our City so maybe we could use this time to take on a big project. I also want to invite any school and church group that would like to participate to call me at 242-5183 or email me at pbrickweg@yahoo.com

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

**Committee of the Whole  
March 4, 2007**

1. Council approved the minutes of the March 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, 6-0.
2. The Finance Committee made the following recommendations:
  - A. That at the end of 2007, the department head longevity be done away with and the Code Assistance Officer, Fire Chief and Police Chief have their pay increased by \$4500.00
  - B. That the salaries and benefits for City Hall employees stay the same.
  - C. That the Dial-a-Ride employees do not receive longevity pay.More discussion will follow.
3. Gerry Wiedman asked Council for three ordinances that deal with the residential building codes. Council voted 6-0 to put the ordinance on the table.
4. Law Director, Ed Geiser
  - A. Answered questions about adjacent and abutting properties to the Bertus St. Park.
5. Service Director, Joe Kempe
  - A. Asked Council to pass an ordinance that would call for an agreement between the City and the Hamilton County Commissioners for grant money for the Spring Grove Improvement Project. Council voted 6-0 to put the ordinance on the table.
6. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach

A. Discussed Ord. #31, 2006, the community reinvestment area ordinance and Council voted 6-0 to put a new ordinance on the table and repeal Ord. #31, 2006.

B. Informed everyone that the next CRA committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the conference room.

C. Made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and possible purchase of property, Motion passed 6-0.

7. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer

A. Said that he is going around town trying to talk to businesses and encouraging them to join the Chamber of Commerce.

8. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg

A. Asked Council if there was interest in taking part in the Great American Clean-Up, and Council agreed to participate on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

9. Service, Kevin Meier

A. Asked if at future COW meeting, we could discuss the City buying up run down property and having Cincinnati Housing Partners pay the City back when the house is sold, plus interest. This will be talked about at an upcoming meeting.

10. Council met in Executive Session to discuss litigation and possible purchase of property.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Asbach  
Acting President of Council, Pro-Tem

**COMMUNICATION – None**

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Meier to read tonight's Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

The Second Reading of Ordinance No. 7, 2007

**ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2007. REPEALING THE CURRENT CHAPTER 739 OF ST. BERNARD'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND ENACTING A WHOLE NEW CHAPTER 739 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to suspend with the third reading of Ordinance No. 7, 2007.

**REMARKS**

Ms Hausfeld – All this Ordinance is doing is taking our soliciting and canvassing license Ordinance that was dated back in 1933 and 1957 and updating it to the present time. Just taking out the horse and buggies and putting in the new stuff.

Motion to suspend with the third reading passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adopt Ordinance No. 7, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2007 AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD AND THE BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF SPRING GROVE AVENUE FROM SOUTH CORPORATION LINE TO VINE ST. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 11, 2007.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – Just to tell the public what this is, the City has received a Grant to pay for the engineering for the project down on Spring Grove Ave. and we have to have an Ordinance for Hamilton County in order to get the grant money.

Motion to suspend passed 7 – 0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 11, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2007 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A REQUEST TO THE OHIO BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS TO CERTIFY THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE RESIDENCIAL CODE OF OHIO, TO EXERCISE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND MAKE INSPECTIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 12, 2007.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so the public knows, pretty much Ordinance Nos. 12, 13 and 14 all go together. Gerry explained this to us last week and basically its just, there's now going to be a new State Code, for residential inspections, before if you had a commercial, if you were a commercial inspector you could go ahead and inspect residential properties but now you cannot so you have to have a residential license and congratulations to Walt who went and passed the test and he's going to be the residential inspector, but basically all three of these Ordinances go so we can start following the new State Law.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 12, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2007 AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING CERTIFICATION TO ENFORCE THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODE OF OHIO FOR ONE, TWO AND THREE FAMILY DWELLINGS WITHIN THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with second and third reading of Ordinance No.13, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to adopt Ordinance No. 13, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2007 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODE OF OHIO FOR ONE, TWO AND THREE FAMILY DWELLINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 14, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to adopt Ordinance No. 14, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2007 TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, TO REPEAL ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE THE ENACTMENT OF NEW MATTER THEREIN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 15, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 15, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to go into Executive Session this evening. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Burkhardt – On the Senior Housing, John, are you definitely going to have her come then in April?

Mr. Estep – Yes, I was going to ask you if you would like to recommend which meeting and they I can tentatively set that up with her.

Mr. Burkhardt – OK. Let's set that up for the first COW meeting in April.

Mr. Estep – I'll have her here at 7:00P.M.

Mr. Meier – Peggy when you were talking about the Clean Up St. Bernard Day, last fall when we were talking about acquiring the Schlanser property

and taking it down, right now it's vacant and just covered with straw, maybe that might be a place that if some of the people that live in that area were interested in doing something to that, either making sure that it's seeded right or if people want to put flowers in there or, I mean it's our lot and the people that live there might be interested in making look a little bit nicer than what it is before the summer gets here and we get some bare earth or mud hole or whatever. I thought we might as well take advantage of it, it might be a good spot to make that neighborhood a little bit nicer if people are interested in doing that.

Mr. Burkhardt – On that same note, Joe, could you have somebody look at that, it looks like it's sinking up there. It might need a little bit more fill.

Ms. Hausfeld – I have one thing for Peggy, Kevin you just sparked a something inside me, something too, you wanted some suggestions, maybe we could put out a little flyer or somebody could visit the Senior meeting and this would be a good way to get in touch with some of our Seniors. Maybe some of them would need a little bit of work done, yard work, whatever, it could be a way to get the young people and ourselves involved with the Seniors and see what we could do to help them.

Mrs. Brickweg – On those two notes, I'll contact who is in charge of the Seniors and take care of that and with the Schlanser property, and since we're on TV and the minutes are going out or if anybody knows anybody, contact me and I'll try and get that group together and get a project started for that property.

Mr. Estep – I don't know if you're doing it this year but do you want to contact the two schools, the Honor Societies that I'm sure that they need some community service hours.

Mrs. Brickweg – I am going to contact them and I did read that at the end, so if you want to tell anybody at the school, if any church group or school group, so they can get the service hours, that would be great.

Mrs. Brickweg – Before I start, just with the Senior Housing, John, I know you said you were wondering if we were interested or not, I am interested in Senior Housing, I guess the only question I had, and we didn't go into a lot of discussion, is if the Senior Housing is tied in with HUD and how many of the apartments would be available and I was just concerned about that and I was also concerned with maybe us having another plan along with the Senior Housing to help the Seniors sell their houses. If they're going to move there, because my fear was with the real estate market being slow here, if some Seniors had their houses already sold if they would get the first dibs so maybe that's another thing we can kind of think about that if the committee try and help them. But I would like more information on the HUD part of it.

Mr. Estep – I think I explained some of that but probably not in detail and probably not as detailed as Ms. Wickersham can. I think she called it a combination, doing the application for it, there would be a 40% for people on fixed income and I think she said 60% would be at market value and I'm sure she can expound on that better than I can.

Mrs. Brickweg – At last weeks COW meeting there was a lot of discussion regarding the Ohio Sunshine Laws and when and if our Council's Committees have to follow them. This was discussed because the Finance Committee had met before the Council meeting to discuss longevity pay and pay steps for City Hall employees. I have been very vocal about this and about how long this subject has taken to be discussed. I would have been at the meeting but I was not notified there was a meeting and that is how this discussion started. Since it appeared there was much confusion over the Ohio Sunshine Laws I took sometime this week to read up on them and how they pertain to our City Council.

There are two main items the Ohio Sunshine Laws governs; they are "Open Meetings" and "Public Records". A lot of the information I am presenting tonight can be found on the Ohio Attorney General's web page. You can also contact them and they will mail the most recent Ohio Sunshine Law book to your home.

Tonight I want to go over the Open Meeting laws so the public knows their rights and so Council and Administration members understand the laws and realize that we have to obey them. I will be brief so if you would like more details please go to their web site or call them at 1-800-282-0515.

The Ohio Open Meetings Act is based on the principle that citizens must be able to observe the operations of their representative government. The Open Meetings Act is intended to require public bodies to take official action and to conduct deliberations upon official business in open meetings.

A public body according to the Ohio Meetings Act is any board, commission, committee or similar decision-making body of a state agency, institution or authority and any legislative authority, board, commission, committee, agency, authority or similar decision-making body of a county, township, municipal corporation, school district or other political subdivision or local public institution or any subcommittee of a public body or any committee or subcommittee thereof.

A meeting is a prearranged gathering of a majority of the members of a public to discuss or conduct public business. Work sessions where public business is discussed among a majority of the members of the public body are meetings and must be noticed and open as any other meeting. The responsibilities of a public body under the Open Meetings Act are:

1. Openness to the public, including allowing the public to tape the meeting. Openness does not require the public body to allow the public to speak at the meeting.
2. Notice of the meeting must be posted at least 24 hours ahead of time.
3. Minutes must be taken at all meetings.
4. Open meetings can still go into Executive Session for the following reasons: personnel, property, court action, collective bargaining, confidential matters (kept confidential by federal or state laws), security arrangements and county hospitals trade secrets. They must announce the subject of the Executive Session and only speak on that topic.

If any citizens feels the Ohio Sunshine Laws are being violated they may file a court action called an injunction, which, if granted will compel the members of the public body to comply with the law. A "knowing" violation of an injunction may result in the removal from office of one or more members of the public body.

I also called the Ohio Attorney General today to verify these laws and to make sure I understood them. I explained that we have seven members on

Council and Committees are made up for three members (which would not constitute a majority). I asked if we therefore had to follow these laws for our committee meetings, since a few on Council did not feel they needed to. They explained that yes we have to follow the Ohio Sunshine Laws for a few reasons. The committees are made up of elected officials and there are a total of three per committee, so if at least two members of the committee show up they have a majority of elected officials for that committee. They also explained that the laws sides with the public and if there are any questions the public most likely will win. They did suggest that our City develop a procedure like most communities have. A procedure for everyone to follow when they have meetings. Such as when and where to post the meeting, the requirement of minutes and where to have the meetings. I would like to make a suggestion that we have this on the COW meeting agenda next week and work with Ed on Open Meeting Policy.

Mr. Walden – I don't want to speak from the Chairman's seat but there have been a number of changes I'm aware of that have been enacted recently to the Sunshine Law and I am going to be attending a seminar on that on March 28 and I will certainly share the materials I get at that seminar with Council.

Mr. Zix – I did also do some studying and most probably on the same definitions that Mrs. Brickweg studied and talked to the Attorney General's Office also. They had seen it from a different end. 1. There was a notice given and you didn't receive it and I apologize about what happened there, maybe I suggest we could have somebody look into your email package and we'll get that fixed. The interpretation I understood from them was that the decision-making body of the committee, I think that's what we keep hearing, it's the decision-making body of the committee, and that group is not the decision-making body of this Council and that's how it was referred to me, so I think you're right, I think we should discuss it at COW. The intention there was not to hide anything from anybody, as I just said, we can have the committee meeting and not let anybody speak, and we can do that too. The intention wasn't there; the notice was put out from my intention as a courtesy thinking that I didn't have to notify people. It was put out as a courtesy and if you didn't get it there was a malfunction in the system but I think it would be good if we talked about it in detail because I think we have a lot of definitions, how we read them and Eddie can work with us and help us get on the right manner.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did look into it Greg, I wasn't going to bring it up tonight but I talked to the people that handled the email of our City and there was nothing ever sent. I don't really want to get into it, they looked at the server, Patty never received one and I never received one but really I did talk to them and there's actually something in here about a decision-making body that it doesn't matter if you're going to take a vote or it's just a recommendation we still have to follow the Ohio Sunshine Laws and just as my recommendation, the people deserve to know what we're speaking about, it would not kill us to put up a 24 hour notice and tell them when our meetings are and let them attend. That's not even going with the law, I mean it is the law and we have to follow it, but common courtesy to the people that elected us is to let them know when our meetings are and let them attend.

Mr. Zix – I'm not here to be hateful or anything, I tried to put that notice in your box, I sent it to you I sent the email; if they didn't receive it maybe we have to have somebody check it because it sent from my computer. I put the notice in there, I'm not here to be hateful about this decision or anything that happens in this City. We'll discuss it at the next COW.

Mr. Estep – This might be a good time, maybe we could ask Joe or somebody to look into a sign, some sort of signage like they have at the high school and have something more permanent so it's viewable, so they don't have to come in City Hall and see a little pegboard, something that looks very presentable and very professional for the City. Maybe we could get a cost on that and if Council would approve that, maybe we could move forward and have something very attractive out there for our citizens.

Ms. Hausfeld – Greg, I can understand where Peggy is coming from because like I talked to you before the meeting tonight. It's funny how we, I've gotten all your budget tools and I even brought the paper work to show you, but that one particular meeting, we did not get and I won't go into it anymore but I just wanted to let you know, I mean, if you're sitting in our shoes, it is a little weird that we received the other notices but we did not receive that notice and that's all I want to say about that.

Mrs. Brickweg – I also talked to Glenna and she said she is more than happy, if anybody has a meeting she said it was nice of you to give her at least 24 hours notice because she does have a busy schedule but she said it's very easy for her to post it on the internet. So she said that it would be a very easy option that we could do and she'd be more than happy to do that.

Ms. Hausfeld – One more thing, when I first took office, I don't remember who told me, but the one thing that I do remember that it was plugged into my head is, before we had a meeting, we should always announce it and I've always tried, and I've had lots of meetings this last year, I've always tried to announce it at Council so the public knows and then at least that way, we can discuss this next week but at least that way you're getting it out on open Council floor where the public has a little bit more of a heads up as far as what's going on.

Mr. Zix – Sitting from my seat, Patty, it looks like another witch hunt again. From what Eddie said last week, I didn't think we had to have a notice, that's why I said it would be good to discuss it, I tried to send it out as a courtesy, its always been my understanding you don't have to send a notice out. I sent it out as a courtesy, we'll talk about it next week.

Mrs. Brickweg – It's not on a witch hunt and I'm tired of that. OK, we'll just let it go, it was a meeting that I would have really liked to have gone to since I'm the one that's been pushing to get the Finance Committee to at least meet and discuss it, so to not be included in the meeting was a little frustrating, but Greg I don't know who you talked to but I got plenty of names and plenty of numbers and we do need to abide by this law and if I remember Eddie even said we need to abide by it but we need to have a policy to go along with it and a committee is made up of three members and if two show up, the lady even went into detail she said we were lucky she said, its lucky that we have that many members she said because it makes it

a little easier to have seven members on Council, but she specifically said that. A committee is made up of three members and the nicest way she put it she said, you're all voted in, you're all elected officials, you all work for the people so there really shouldn't even be something to think about, she said you should automatically just do it. You should invite the public to your meetings and leave it at that. She also suggested what Patty said is to make it a little easier to have a place to post it but to make sure that if you know there's a meeting to go ahead and say there's a meeting at the Council meeting but then she also suggested that if we had a problem with letting people know that we try to have our meetings on the same night as the Council meeting and that way the public knows there's a meeting going on that night, these were just a few of her suggestions, but she gave me her phone number and she said if we have any questions I can feel free to call her.

Mr. Zix – That's why I think we need to talk about it next week. I get a different interpretation from the Attorney Generals' Office and a different interpretation when I read this, and again it was still my understanding that we didn't have to put a notice out, so yes I do think it's a witch hunt.

Mrs. Brickweg – I would just like to ask Mr. Geiser if he can give us an opinion at the next COW what he feels on the Ohio Sunshine Laws so we have our own attorney's opinion on that.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Asbach – Something came up in the discussion last week at COW and it jarred my memory, might have been on some of the clean up stuff, if we could discuss it next week at COW, Joe I don't mean to put you on the spot but I don't know if JMA does it or if you go out, if we could look to see if there's any grants for replacement of like playground equipment or anything, through the State, recreation or whatever. I know that piece of equipment down at Ludlow Grove is ancient, I mean its been there for years and years, its probably the only piece of wooden equipment that we have left and if memory serves, somebody was complaining about that at one point, that its not in the best of shape that if we could possibly get some money through a grant or something and replace that, it might dress up that park a little bit.

Mr. Kempe – I can probably answer your question now. The grant application that we applied to remodel the bathrooms down at Vine St. Park is what we're applying for. JMA, Jennifer Vatter is doing that application, money in that fund in very limited, probably less that \$100,000.00 for the entire County, so we couldn't apply for it this year anymore because we've applied for something else. OK, now if we want to do it again next year, but it's quite frankly it's going to be pretty slim we may not even get the grant we applied for, just because there's just not that much money in that fund anymore.

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't know if this is even possible and I can do some research after tax season but what about a grant, and Bill was just saying that the equipment down there is equipped for children with disabilities, maybe there's something out there like that. Maybe there are some grants that could help offset the cost of some equipment but like I said, after tax season

I'd be more than happy to have some spare time to look into it, but maybe that's just an idea we could think about.

### **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Joan Ronneberg, 4217 Sullivan Ave. – Quite a while back it was discussed that we put a sign somewhere on the expressway that says, 'if you lived in St. Bernard you'd be home by now' or something like that and I've said this to a couple of people and they don't even live in our community and they said that sounds fantastic. I don't know if we can look into that, but it might be a thought, it's clever and maybe we would pick up some people to move into our City that way.

Mr. Burkhardt – Due to there being five Thursdays this month, the next COW will be Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30p.m. Remember that's the same night as the I-75 meeting so you can go to that and then come here.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

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