

Ordinance also provides for additional appropriations to Fire Dept. Equipment for the purchase of additional radio interfaces for their self contained breathing apparatus. This appropriation was covered by the receipt of a Grant from the United States Fire Administration. I would like to be put on the COW agenda to explain the receipt of money from the Dept. of Homeland Security and the necessary authorization and appropriation for the disbursement of that money.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – No report.

TREASURER, Mr. Sipe – (read by Mr. St. Clair)

Receipts for the month of February: \$ 698,164.35

Receipts for the year through February 29th: \$ 1,403,843.24

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Chatman – Welcome to all the Scouts. First of all the St. Bernard Firefighters each completed 33 hours of training in the month of February. The training was in the areas of:

Blood Borne Pathogens
Personal Protective Equipment
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and
Engine Operations

The St. Bernard Police officers have two officers in training to become certified Taser instructors. Those officers are Lt. Ungruhe and Investigator Matheson.

The police department's web site is now functional. The problem with the java buttons making the site difficult to load have now been corrected. Related to that, the police department is seeking input on the delivery of their services. They do this approximately every three years. The short survey can be accessed from the department's web site, www.stbernardpolice.org and is linked to the City's web site. For those who would like to complete the survey and do not have internet access, hard copies of the survey can be picked up from the police station and City Hall.(click on citizen survey link in the blue area on the left side of the home page)

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Schrand – I have a communication from Michele Balz of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District.

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District announces the reopening of our free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program on Saturday, March 1st. Should any Hamilton Count resident ask you where to dispose of hazardous products, like paint, automotive fluids, pesticides or fertilizers that could be dangerous to dispose of in the regular trash, refer them to this program.

In 2008, two household hazardous waste drop-offs are open from March 1st to November 22nd at two locations. The hours of operation are:

Central Drop Off

4650 Spring Grove Avenue

Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Tuesdays: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Northern Drop Off

10163 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Wednesdays: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(Closed March 22, May 24, July 5, August 30)

The District appreciates your help in promoting this program to Hamilton County residents. Information is also available on their website at www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org or through their Hazardous Waste Hotline at 946-7700.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – (read by Mr. Burkhardt) I would like to remind all residents that when you file your 2007 taxes for St. Bernard, to please remember to attach a copy of your Federal 1040 Income Tax Return. Only the front page of your federal 1040 tax return is required. We must see Federal Form 1040 Lines 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 21, all other lines may be blacked out if so desired.

We have received a large number of returns that do not have the 1040 included.

I attended the quarterly meeting of SWOTA (South Western Ohio Tax Association) this past week.

At the meeting, a speaker updated the group on pending legislation both at the state level and Federal level that may impact tax departments.

I will update council at the next COW regarding a federal bill that could potentially have significant impact on Ohio municipality's ability to tax workers within their jurisdiction that are not permanently employed in their city.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. They discussed holding off any consideration of non contractual pay increases till negotiation with the fire department are further along. We also met with representatives from Sweeney Cartwright Company to discuss bond financing for community improvements. After a lot of discussion about different types of financing and investment opportunities, Sweeney Cartwright Company agreed to come back with recommendations and a financial model that would display how this type of financing would best fit the city's needs.

Also Walt St. Clair passed information to me from a presentation on investment banking from 5/3rd securities. When I receive the information back from Sweeney Cartwright Co the Finance Committee will meet again and discuss both options.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – Tonight I give you Ryan Crank. He is a 10 year old that lives with his family here in St. Bernard. Ryan is a fifth grader at St. Bernard/Elmwood Place School. He likes to play basketball, baseball and ride his scooter. He also likes magic and he wants to be a magician when he grows up. Mr. President I give you Ryan Crank.

Safety Committee report read by Ryan Crank – Warmer weather is just around the corner and with warmer weather comes more pedestrians on our sidewalks. The Safety Committee would like to remind everyone of a few general safety tips. Always walk on the sidewalk. Always cross at marked crossings or intersections. Look both ways before stepping into the street. Always assist small children when crossing. Obey the walk lights or crossing guards. Try to wear bright colors. Try to make eye contact with an

approaching driver to make sure they see you. Be sure traffic has stopped in all directions before crossing.

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – The service department report for February 2008 is as follows. There were 17 trucks and 11 dumpsters placed at residences along with 74 special pickups, 198.46 tons of garbage were taken to the landfill. There was 19.9 tons of recycling material, 6.6 tons of cardboard, 280 pounds of aluminum 5100 pounds of scrap metal along with 17 appliances. The city received \$1461.25 for recycling in January 2008. I would also like to thank Walt Moeller and Elaine Sipe for supplying council with the list of properties that the City owns.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – Tonight we have Scout Austin Miller with us. Austin is a fourth grader at St. Bernard Elementary and has achieved the rank of Weblo. Scout Miller will read my report this evening. Austin Miller – The Public Improvements Committee would like to invite interested citizens to a meeting next Thursday evening at 6:30p.m. in Council Chambers. We will discuss forming neighborhood social agents who will help improve our city. Some subjects to discuss are a home improvement contest, organizing a watch program, later this year, the possibility of making a vacant city lot into a scenic garden lot, St. Bernard Day at the Zoo, and a St. Bernard Day at Coney Island. Please take the opportunity to become involved in your community.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – It is my honor to introduce to you Mr. Stephen Hale. He is a twelve year old. His parents are Tom and Carrie Hale. Siblings are Tim, Catherine, Benjamin, Maria, Philip and Matthew. He home schools. His Scout level is Second Class. His hobbies are reading, ultimate Frisbee, he plays the trumpet, he is very proud of that, especially, and he enjoys camping, and he will present my report. Stephen Hale – A Laws, Contracts & Claims Committee meeting will be held March 27th, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. before the COW meeting.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – I would like to introduce my scout tonight, Tim Hale. He is in the eleventh grade at St. X high school. He has been a Scout for nine years. He has four brothers and two sisters. His favorite hobby and class happen to be the same thing, Art. Representing Business and Industry tonight, Tim Hale.

Tim Hale – The St. Bernard Vine St. Business Assoc. met Feb. 13. Dr. Romanos from the University of Cincinnati School of Planning presented his students' economic study of our City. He discussed our strengths and opportunities, weaknesses and threats facing our City. He reviewed many of the ideas for the revitalization of St. Bernard. Dr. Romanos informed us that he would propose a joint project from the Schools of Planning and Architecture to come up with an Economic Development Plan and Architectural design for Mitchell Ave. from I-75 to Roger Bacon stadium during the Spring Quarter. Students will study the intersection of Vine and Mitchell Ave. and come up with some ideas that the City of St. Bernard and North Avondale can work together and fix up the corridor and create a gateway for both St. Bernard and North Avondale. He feels the revitalization in order to work for the City has to include the Mitchell Ave. corridor.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – It is my pleasure to introduce Chris Hamlin. Chris is a sixth grader at Elmwood Place. His favorite sport to play and to watch is football. He and I are going to tag team tonight, he broke his glasses and he didn't want to wear my purple ones. We will be doing this together.

The Highway and Transportation committee met on February 13, 2008. Several proposals were submitted for increasing the Dial-A-Ride hours and reinstating the Medical Bus. The added cost for the increased services was also presented. Ideas were discussed as to how we may off set the added cost of the additional Dial-A-Ride and medical bus hours.

Presently, a draft of a final proposal made by the committee has been submitted to the Mayor for his consideration. Since our budget has already been approved for the year, the additional money should be deducted from other line items within the budget and transferred to the transportation and fitness center department budget.

Prior to presenting the proposal to council, Mayor Burkhardt has requested a meeting with the Dial-A-Ride staff. I have notified Dial-A-Ride staff of this request and currently this meeting is being set up.

The highway expansion open house was held on February 26, 2008 at the municipal building. Sound walls are proposed to be built along I-75. I have had several citizens on Broerman Ave. contact me with concerns that they have read and heard that the noise level actually increases for those people living above the sound walls. This would include people living on Broerman Ave., Tennis Lane, and Moeller Ave. I have asked the Service Director to contact the individuals associated with the highway expansion and express this concern. We are currently waiting on a report back from them.

Mrs. Brickweg – (Tim Hale) The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 14, 2008

NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:

1. Approved the minutes of the February 7, 2008 council meeting.
2. Fire Chief Scherpenberg asked council for an ordinance to appropriate \$15,000 from the general fund into the Fire Departments equipment line item. This is grant money the department received from the United States Fire Administration which will be used for the purchase of additional SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) radio interfaces and safety equipment. When the money was received by the city it was put in the general fund so he would like it moved to his departments line item.

Chief Scherpenberg also asked for the general acceptance of moving the St. Bernard Fire Department's primary dispatch responsibility from the Police Department Dispatch to the Hamilton County Communication Center. He provided council with a handout explaining how it would work and the benefits for our city. He explained that by using Hamilton County it would allow for automatic mutual aid if a working structural fire is called in. Currently mutual aid is not called in until the department reaches the scene and accesses if there is a need. Then they call back to the Police dispatch, where they get on

the phone and call directly to other fire houses asking for their help. With Hamilton County tones would be sent out to other Fire Departments the same time they are sent to our Fire Department.

This will not cost the city any additional money. The Fire Department will be sending out a letter with stickers before the change is made to inform the citizens to call 911 for Fire and EMS and to call 242-2727 for Police.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Bill Burkhardt:

1. Dr. Jonathan Singer and Nurse Laura Schmitt spoke and answered questions regarding making the City Nurse position full time again. They explained that the nurse position's hours were cut to part time a few years ago at the same time the city signed a contract for \$5000 with Hamilton County to provide services and to save money. The services promised from the county are not working out and are not cost effective. They both feel the people suffering from not having a full time nurse are the seniors and the children.

Laura explained her many duties and that she is not able to get her responsibilities done with part time hours. She informed council that if the position is full time she would be able to provide both the seniors and children with opportunities to educate them and get the seniors services from agencies, such as Meals on Wheels and services provides by the Council of Aging. She currently sees 45 to 60 seniors a month, with an average of 30 minutes spent with each person. She works at St. Clements School one day a week and helps the others schools as needed. By making the job full time she will be able to do a lot more for many more people who need her service. Bill will look into the cost of making the position full time so council can vote on approving the funds.

2. Bill provided council with the suggestions given from Neil Morris regarding the city's web site. Some of the suggestions were to make the web page visually appealing, branding an identity unique to St. Bernard with a core values mission statement, having links to local business and schools, highlights of city services, etc. Bill will continue to work with Neil and he will be meeting with Al Kanters regarding working with University of Cincinnati students' on the web page. Don Tobergte asked Bill who is maintaining the city's current web site, because it is not up to date. Elaine Sipe is working with S&H Consulting currently to update it.
3. Bill gave council his changes to the hall rental contract for review. Bill wants to get the contract down to one page with the rules on the front and the signature on the back. Greg Zix suggested that the contract clearly states that the St. Bernard resident renting the hall has to be present at all times.
4. Bill asked council for an ordinance to renew Attorney Paul Berninger's contract. His billing rates will be \$185 an hour for general duties and \$200 an hour for litigation. The main reason Bill would like to renew the contract is because Paul is the attorney that has been working on the Fire Department contract negotiations. Renewing the contract states what his hourly rates are but it does not limit the city from using just Paul for legal work. Council approved 7-0 for the ordinance.
5. Bill announced that he appointed Jamie Sipe as the new City Treasurer and Joe Niesen for the Civil Service Board (Jamie resigned from the Civil Service which caused a vacancy on the Civil Service Board).

6. Bill met with Tim Ingram from the Hamilton County Health District to discuss the city's expired contract. He also reported that he attended the Civil Service meeting on Tuesday.
7. Bill reported that he will be meeting with Kate Bedinghaus and the St. Bernard Union Fire representatives on Monday, February 18th at 4:00 PM for contract negotiations.

Auditor, Walt St. Clair:

1. Walt asked council for an ordinance to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund to the master plan for the purchase of property.

Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus:

1. Kate provided council with a handout regarding computerizing Mayor's Court and the Clerk of Court of Mayor's Court. By computerizing, the city can charge \$3.00 per filing in the court and \$10.00 for the work the clerk does. Computerizing the court would help connect both the Clerk of Mayor's Court, Elaine Sipe and Sandy Rapien from the Police Department. The city would have to purchase software to do this, but they could start charging the fees and then use this money to purchase the software. Before the city can start charging these fees Walt St. Clair will need to create a special revenue fund and new line items. Both Kate and Walt will work with the state to do this. Council will wait till they have everything set up to vote on an ordinance to computerize Mayor's Court.

Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:

1. Rodney reported that the St. Bernard Police Department hosted this month's Hamilton County Police Association meeting.
2. Rodney informed council that he attended the Civil Service meeting on Tuesday. He had requested recommendations from both Civil Service and the Police Chief regarding the hiring procedures for Police Officers. He stated he received a lot of helpful information at the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that the Civil Service Commission will get a legal opinion from Attorney Burke regarding what procedure laws should be followed. They are trying to determine if the city would follow home rule law which would require the city to hire from a list of three or state law which require the city hire from a list of ten. Rodney suggested that the attorney get information from both the Civil Service Commission and Police Chief Moeller so he can be better informed of the city's history.

Service Director, Ray Schrand:

1. Ray informed council that he will be going out for bids to purchase garbage bags.
2. Ray gave council a copy of an invitation to a public meeting with the Ohio Department of Transportation. The meeting will take place Tuesday, February 26, 2008 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, in the St. Bernard Municipal Building. The purpose of the meeting is to show the proposed area for noise barriers along I-75, I-74 and SR 562. The meeting is specifically intended for those residents and property owners who would be directly affected and could benefit by construction of noise barriers. They want to gather public input in determining the desire for such noise barriers as well as obtain suggestions regarding the appearance of the proposed wall. If anyone would like to view the exhibits before the meeting they can be viewed at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/dist8/planning/PI%20meetings.htm>
3. Ray asked council for an ordinance to allow JMA to start engineering work for road work on Rosehill and Rosehill Lane. The city applied for a grant in 2007 but

they did not receive it, but Ray was informed this week that there is a good chance the city could receive the money for the project from residual money left over. The cost for the project is \$800,000. It is a matching grant with the city paying \$400,000 and the grant covering the other \$400,000. JMA charges the city 10% of a project for engineering fees, so that would cost the city another \$80,000. Council agreed 6-1 (Don Tobergte, voting no).

During this discussion Don asked if the city was under contract with JMA, to which the answer was no. He asked why the city only uses JMA and never goes out for bids from other engineering firms. Gerry Weidmann, Ray Schrand and Joe Kempe reiterated that the city has been using JMA for over 20 years and that the city has a very good working relationship with them, a good comfort level, which more than pays for itself and that JMA charges the city 10% of a project, but they attend many meetings with Water Works, MSD, etc. on behalf of our city at no additional cost. Peggy Brickweg stated to Don that she also asked these questions in the past and that she asked other municipalities who they used for city engineering and how they long they have been with them. She learned that most municipalities stay with the same firm for very long times, so it is not just St. Bernard that stays with the same firm for many years. Peggy also reported that a lot of municipalities use JMA.

Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser:

1. Ed reported that a big part of his job is “finding people/businesses that fall through the cracks”. He will be concentrating a finding those that should be paying St. Bernard taxes that are not.
2. Ed informed council that many of the city’s tax forms that were mailed out were returned because people had moved. He is looking into creating an Access database to track residents that rent property. Currently it is city law that all rental property owners inform the tax department of who their renters are and all new residents are required to register with the tax department. Ed hopes by using a database, the Tax Department can better track when people move in and out of our city. He did state that he made the decision to remove resident’s social security numbers off the tax forms. He is very glad he did this with all the tax returns that came back to his office. Ed also reported that he is half way through the 2006 business returns that he discovered were never inputted.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck: no report

Public Improvements, Kevin Meier: Kevin reported that he will be having a committee meeting Thursday, February 28th at 6:30 PM to discuss creating a Neighborhood Association. He also asked council to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the purchase of property, council agreed 7-0.

Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg: Peggy reported that she attended the Vine Street Business Corridor meeting on Wednesday where Dr. Romanos gave a presentation to the local business owners. She will prepare a longer report for next week’s meeting.

Safety, Patty Hausfeld: no report

Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus: Cindi reported that her committee met on Wednesday and discussed increased hours for Dial A Ride and bringing back the medical bus. She will work on proposals to discuss at the next COW meeting.

Service, Don Tobergte:

1. Don asked for a follow up regarding the city getting additional bids to survey the Canal Bed property. Gerry Weidmann reported that he is still gathering

additional bids and that he wants to get more information on the current bids to make sure they are all bidding on the same services.

2. Don asked for a follow up regarding tearing down the wall behind St. Bernard Square. Ray Schrand reported that the wall has been marked. This will be on the agenda for the February 28th meeting to discuss if the entire wall will be town down or only part of it.
3. Don stated that he had been asked by residents if the city could make the sand volleyball court at Ross Park into a grass court because of the problem with cats using the court as a litter box. Bill Burkhardt said he will talk to the Recreation Department about this idea.

Finance, Greg Zix:

1. Greg announced that his committee will be meeting Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 PM to discuss the city obtaining bond money for revitalization. Al Kanters will attend the meeting to present information.
2. Greg had on the agenda to discuss the rules of council. He stated that his concerns were addressed and answered at last week's council meeting. Peggy informed council that she will work very hard to get the COW minutes out, at the latest, by the Monday following the COW meeting and she would appreciate getting any corrections of the minutes by the Wednesday before the next council meeting. Peggy will then send out the corrected minutes for everyone to review before that council meeting, in case there are additional changes.

Other Business:

1. Ed Geiser suggested that the city may want to look into having a Police Officer at our Council and COW meetings for safety reasons. He referred to the killings last week at a Council meeting in Missouri and the actions of a resident at St. Bernard's council meeting last week.
2. Jerry Shipp informed council that he is a weather tracker and he explained why and when the emergency sirens are sounded in Hamilton County.
3. Patty Hausfeld asked if anyone knew why the current council meetings were not being shown on cable television. Bill Burkhardt said he would call ICRC to find out.
4. Curtis Walden informed council that he received a letter from Mrs. Castor's family regarding the fire at her home and it will be read at the next council meeting. He also will be giving Gerry Weidmann a letter he received from Tyrone Yates regarding construction grants available.
5. Barb Kalb reminded everyone that next week will be Boy Scouts Night at the council meeting.
6. After Executive Session, Council voted 6-1 (Don Tobergte voting no) for Gerry Wiedmann to purchase of property.

Ordinances and Resolutions for the next council meeting:

1. Ordinance to appropriate \$15,000 from the general fund into the Fire Departments equipment line item and to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund to the master plan for the purchase of property
2. Ordinance to approve Attorney Paul Berninger's contract
3. Ordinance to pay JMA \$80,000 for engineering fees for the Rosehill and Rosehill Lane road construction project

Next Council Meeting: February 21st 7:30 P.M.

This Council meeting was cancelled because of snow.

The next COW meeting was scheduled for February 28th @ 7:30 P.M.

Mrs. Brickweg - The COW meeting of February 28, 2008.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 28, 2008

NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:

1. Tax Commissioner Ed Geiser and Jane Pierman, Tax Administrator of City of North College Hill informed council of many problems in St. Bernard's Tax Department. Ed has been working with Jane and her assistant Shannon trying to get caught up with the 295 business returns he found from 2006 and training at the same time. During this time they found tax returns from 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 that were never entered into the system. They also found reconciliation forms from 2003 and 2004 that were never entered and W2's from business withholdings that had not been reconciled since 1999. To sum it up they have a mess, but with hard work it is a mess that can be fixed. Ed wanted everyone to know the condition of the Tax Department and to let council know the department most likely will need additional money for staffing.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Bill Burkhardt:

1. Bill discussed the city's Codified Ordinance Binders and informed council that the binders are very expensive to keep up to date and that many of the binders have not been updated in the last four years. Bill asked if any council members want to have a binder to let him know. Otherwise they can use the city's web site to view the codified ordinances. The city will keep hard copy binders for department heads.
2. Bill asked council if they had any additional changes to the hall rental regulation agreement. Greg Zix stated he wants to make sure it includes that the resident renting the hall has to be present the entire time. Cindi Bedinghaus who was unable to attend the meeting e-mailed everyone regarding her thoughts on keeping Centennial Hall open to rent. Cindi stated that she felt the reason people were able to get to the upper level was because the elevator was not locked. She does not believe it is fair to penalize the citizens for a lack of accountability in locking down the elevator. Don Tobergte stated that in 2007 Centennial Hall was rented 234 times and the Municipal Hall was rented 518 times. He stated he was worried that by closing Centennial Hall it will reduce some revenue and make it more difficult for residents to rent a hall.

Mayor Burkhardt stated that the hall would not be rented out starting March 1st because the city needs the space for additional offices and storage and he feels in order to make City Hall secure at all times this has to be done. Bill also stated that he feels the city will be able to accommodate the residents with the other two halls.

3. Bill informed council that the Board of Health met and voted to hire the city nurse full time. The cost would be \$44,595 plus benefits to hire the city nurse full time. Patty Hausfeld suggested that we hire two nurses part time to get the work done and the city would save money by not having to pay benefits. Bill will ask Dr. Singer and Nurse Laura Schmitt to attend the next COW to discuss this idea.
4. Bill informed council that he met with Fire Department representatives, Rodney Chatman and Kate Bedinghaus regarding contract negotiations.
5. Bill informed council that Mike Wiedmann will be the new foreman at the garage. He is currently working with Dave Fozzalozo who will be officially retiring in April.
6. Bill and Kate Bedinghaus met with the C9 trustees to discuss third party administration of the C9 trust fund.

7. Bill informed council that Al Kanters is looking into working with the University of Cincinnati's Graphic Design Department to work on our city's web site.

Auditor, Walt St. Clair: Walt informed council that there will be a negative balance in the Master Plan Cash Account. This is on account of council not meeting on March 6th because of inclement weather. This prevented council from voting on the ordinance to transfer funds from the General Fund because of inclement weather.

Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus: Kate informed council that she received information regarding the city computerizing mayor's court and she will distribute the information to council to review and it will be discussed at the next COW meeting.

Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:

1. Rodney asked Fire Chief Scherpenberg to give council an update on Hamilton County dispatch. Chief Scherpenberg informed council that he met with the Hamilton County representatives and the goal is have the Fire Department using 911 by May. He is working on literature to pass out to the residents to inform them of this change. Rodney and Kate are currently reviewing the contract.
2. Rodney informed council that the Police Department's web site is up and running again and that citizens can download the Citizens Input Survey from the site or they can pick up a hard copy from the Police Department. Citizens are asked to fill out these surveys so the department can see how they are doing.
3. Rodney informed council the Police Department has an anonymous phone line to report crime, 860-7233 (safe).
4. Rodney informed council that it looks like the city may be able to use the Call Command to check up on elderly citizens during extreme heat and cold weather conditions.

Service Director, Ray Schrand:

1. Ray informed council that he received an e-mail informing us on how much the city has saved with recycling. (NOTE – I did not get the e-mail, but when I do I will add the information).
2. Ray informed council that he is looking into the removal and replacement of play ground equipment at Ludlow Park. Peggy Brickweg asked for an update on the plans for fixing the basketball courts at Chalet-Heger Park. The work that was done last year was not done correctly and the courts still have major draining problems. Ray said he would look into adding gravel and possibly drains around the courts this spring.
3. Don Tobergte suggested that we use the Service Department to do jobs, such as electrical work at city hall to save money. He also questioned why it cost the city \$5000.00 to change the locks at city hall.

Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser: Ed informed council to spread the word that the tax department requires that individuals filing St. Bernard tax forms are required to attach page one of their 1040. Lines 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 21 are what the Tax Dept. needs to see. All other lines can be blacked out if desired.

Treasurer, Jamie Sipe: no report

C.O.W. Agenda – Page 2

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck: no report

Public Improvements, Kevin Meier:

1. Kevin reported that he will be having a committee meeting March 13th at 6:30 PM. He wants to discuss forming a Neighborhood Association to work on various projects. He also suggested that the city have a St. Bernard Day at the Cincinnati Zoo and/or Coney Island.
2. Kevin reported that at the CIC meeting they voted to replace Tom Kathman, since he retired as the City Treasurer. They chose Mayor Burkhardt for his replacement. Peggy asked Kate Bedinghaus to look into why Gerry Wiedmann is on the CIC board as an appointed/elected official. She agrees he needs to be on the board but he should not be a member of those that are supposed to be appointed/elected members. Peggy did discuss this with Al Kanters and it was suggested she get an opinion from the city.
3. Don Tobergte stated that he talked with three local builders, Tim Hackney, Terry Chin and Chris Hollman who all stated that they would like to work with the city on renovating property, similar as to what Cincinnati Housing Partners are doing now. Kevin stated that they cannot offer the GAP financing that CHP can. Peggy stated that should not make a difference if the city is purchasing property and having it fixed up for re-sale as long as the city gets their investment back the financing should not matter. She also feels it would be better to use local residents who care for the city they live in and want to make it a better place. Don suggested that the Laws, Contracts and Claims work on an agreement that the city can use to work with local builders.

Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg:

1. Peggy reported that she attended the Cognis CAP meeting, the Vine Street Business Owners meeting and the CIC meeting in the past two weeks.
2. Peggy reported she attended the Highway expansion meeting on Tuesday. She explained that according to the new maps the city will be losing the Fire Department building, but this is only the worst case scenario. The final conclusion will be out sometime in May. Bill stated that the new plans also show no residents losing their homes in St. Bernard. Peggy stated that the city sound walls will not be going over the over pass on Vine St. and they do not run along the Fire House. OKI members stated they are too expensive to build there and with no one living there they are not needed. It was explained there are people living at the Fire Department and OKI suggested that citizens fill out the forms requesting the walls continue and it will be up to the Federal Government to see if they will pay for them.

Safety, Patty Hausfeld: Patty reported that she attended the Dial A Ride meeting, the Vine Street Business Owners and CIC meeting. She stated that the CIC will now be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Patty also asked Bill if his assistant can e-mail council members as to when city meetings are so officials can attend them.

Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus: absent

Don Tobergte asked council if it would be ok for him to contact local businesses to see if they have any interest in advertising on Dial A Ride buses. Council agreed for him to do that.

Service, Don Tobergte:

1. Don asked for an update regarding tearing down the wall behind the St. Bernard Square. Ray Schrand informed council that the city will tear down the top portion of the wall and evaluate the condition. If possible he would like to leave the lower part and put a cap on it.

2. Don asked if the survey bids for the canal property came in. Gerry informed him he has four bids, \$5900, \$7750, \$13,000 and \$21,900. It was decided that Gerry will choose the company that he feels will do the best job.
3. Don also asked if council could get a copy of all the property the city owns. Walt Moeller will get council this list.
4. Don asked why Civil Service advertising fees come out of the master plan budget and he was informed that all departments' advertising come out of the master plan. Walt St. Clair said a few years back the city consolidated many line items. Peggy stated she did not like this because it makes it difficult to see if each department is staying on their budget. Walt will bring all the consolidated line items to the next COW to be discussed.

Finance, Greg Zix:

1. Greg informed council that the Finance Committee met with Sweeny and Cartwright to discuss the city's options for obtaining bond financing for the city's revitalization. Peggy informed Greg that Al Kanters stated at the CIC meeting he is going to talk to another company so the city can get more than one set of ideas for financing. Walt St. Clair stated that he is talking with Fifth Third regarding what they could provide.
2. Greg asked the administration to look into simple fixes that can be done to Park Place Park to make it more appealing.

Audience Participation:

Ron Miller asked if the city or the CIC had purchased the KFC property and he was told no they had not.

Barb Kalb informed council that it will be Boy Scouts night at the March 6th council meeting.

Executive Session:

Council went into Executive Session (vote 6-0) to discuss Fire Department contract negotiations.

Ordinances and Resolutions for the next council meeting:

4. Ordinance to appropriate \$15,000 from the general fund into the Fire Departments equipment line item and to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund to the master plan for the purchase of property
5. Ordinance to approve Attorney Paul Berninger's contract
6. Resolution for the Boy Scouts.

Next Council Meeting: March 6th 7:30 P.M.

Next C.O.W: February 28th 7:30 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS

St. Bernard City Council

Re: Phone System, City Hall

Recently I have heard some nasty rumors that our phone system at City Hall has been sabotaged. I'd like to clear up the matter.

For those who are not aware of this, we've had a problem accessing our voicemail messages since the beginning of 2008. Notice I said, 2008. Nothing was done prior to that to wreak havoc on our phones. Nobody from the previous Administration did anything to harm the system.

Before, those of us who work at City hall had been able to keep up with our jobs via remote access to our voicemail messages. For instance, if I wanted to check phone messages for Civil Service I only had to dial the City phone number, key in two numbers, my extension number and password and I could listen for any messages for us. This was great because I work part-time and I was still able to keep the Commissioners updated. It is simply a matter of "something going wrong". When our new Administration began and changes had to be made "something happened", we don't know quite what caused this glitch. I am sure that as soon as the exact cause is determined, the system will function normally.

Linda K. Carberry, 631 Woodside Heights.

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Stephen Hale to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

Members of Council

Because of all the phone calls I have been receiving, I feel it is necessary to explain to Council and the citizens who voted for me the reason for my retirement as Treasurer.

Since August of 2007, I have been battling a severe back problem. I have undergone steroid treatments as well as physical therapy in an effort to alleviate the pain. Unfortunately, at the end of 2007 my health insurance benefits ended and all treatments also ended.

During the month of January 2008 I began to seek new health insurance coverage. Due to this preexisting condition, the proposals I received had five figure premiums with high deductibles and most excluded anything to do with my back.

Because of my many years of participation in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, I was eligible to receive their health benefits. In order to receive these benefits, I had to retire as Treasurer. My benefits began on Feb. 1, 2008 and that became the date of my retirement.

Now that I have health insurance benefits, I can begin treatments again and I feel I can make substantial progress. I asked Mayor Burkhardt to consider this as a medical leave of absence and to reappoint me as of April 1, 2008 so I could fill out my elected term of office. This is entirely legitimate and OPERS has even published a booklet entitled "Returning to work after Retirement." I gave this booklet to Mayor Burkhardt just to let him know that it is acceptable to OPERS. Apparently the Mayor did not want to honor my request after 24 years of service to the City.

I want to thank all the citizens of St. Bernard who supported me over the years. This certainly is **NOT** the way I planned to end my service to the City. I truly wanted to fulfill my term of office. I will always wish the best for the future of the great City of St. Bernard.

Sincerely,

Tom Kathman

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Ryan Crank to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

February 12, 2008

Letter to the city council of St. Bernard Ohio

This letter is to inform The St. Bernard City Council of my last contact with the city of St. Bernard Police Department at the police station. I called the station to get an officer to respond to a truck that had just jumped the curb and had hit and moved one of the poles that the city had put in to keep trucks out of and to stop them from doing property damage. When the officer arrived I told him that the truck had already gone from the scene. The officer went across the street to the business he came out with an employ that pushed the pole up and stepped on the ground around the pole. At that time the officer left.

I believe that after the truck driver could not back his rig onto the business that he was told to leave. After a few days I went to the police station to get the report that officer had made. At that time I was told that no report was made by the officer. The officer was on duty so he was called into the station to talk to me. He said that he did not make a report that there was no damage to report. I told him that there was damage to the truck as well; he said he was not told of any damage to the truck.

At this time with no report written I asked for a copy of the phone log of the call (I have gotten them before) I was told I could not get that, I had to write a letter to the Chief to ask for that.

This is the same old story of the St. Bernard Police of no enforcement or selective enforcement of the Ohio Motor Vehicle Laws again.

Charles Mr. Powell

5161 Broerman Ave.

St. Bernard, Ohio 45217

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Chris Hamlin to receive and file the communication and send a copy to the Police Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

To St. Bernard City Council,

On behalf of the entire Sams family, we would like to express out deep appreciation to the St. Bernard Fire Department for all their efforts in a tragic situation on January 25th. Their professionalism, dedication and hard work was deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Mike Matheson, for his kindness and sympathy in a difficult situation and the rest of the Police Department for everything they did. We also have to mention the Elmwood Place Fire Department and the Norwood Fire Department and all the City workers from St. Bernard who were there to help out. We were truly touched by everyone's efforts. Last but not least, we would like to thank the St. Bernard community for their prayers and support and especially the "family" of Broerman Ave., Moeller Ave. and Imwallee Ave. I can say that neighborhood is a family because I grew up there.

With kindest regards on behalf of the Sams family,

Lisa Wong

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Stephen Hale to receive and file and send a copy of the letter to the St. Bernard Police, Fire & Service Depts. and also a copy to the Elmwood and Norwood Fire Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

BE IT PROCLAIMED;

Whereas, The Meals-On-Wheels Association of America in March, 2008, declares the Sixth Annual "National Mayors-For-Meals Campaign" intended to increase public awareness about the nutritional needs of seniors living at home; and,

Whereas, Wesley Community Services seeks to foster and support the independence, dignity and functioning of frail elderly individuals, including those who are low-income, and who seek to remain in their home for as long as possible; and,

Whereas, Wesley Community Services Meals-On-Wheels annually provides nearly 225,000 nutritious meals, including physician-prescribed therapeutic meals for seniors suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes and renal disease; and,

Whereas, On Wednesday, December 27th, 2006, Wesley Community Services Meals-On-Wheels delivered its 1,000,000th meal since 1999; and,

Whereas, In 2007 nearly 2,500 individuals received one or more services including: Homemaker/Housecleaning, Medical Transportation and Meals-On-Wheels.

*Now, Therefore, I, William Burkhardt,
Mayor of the City of St. Bernard do hereby proclaim
March 17th through March 21st, 2008 as
“Mayor’s For Meals Week” Benefiting
Wesley Community Services*

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Austin Miller to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2008. 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.

WHEREAS, the Boy Scout Program encourages Community betterment as well as individual member improvement; and

WHEREAS, a Boy Scout is a special citizen who knows his duty to his fellow men and will face opposition to do what he knows is right; and

Whereas, St. Bernard youth is interested in a better St. Bernard of the future; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS VOTING;

Section 1. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America’s waters, fields, woods and roadways.

Section 2. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

Section 3. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that the use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

Section 4. I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands and wildlife; and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my outdoor activities.

Section 5. I will observe bicycle safety rules and obey all traffic laws when operating my bicycle or walking through the streets of St. Bernard.

Motion by Mr. Tim Hale, seconded by Mr. Ryan Crank to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – At this time I would like to thank our Scouts and take a five minute break to allow our Scouts to step down from the podium after their fine service tonight and if anyone would like to take pictures of the Scouts, this would be a good time to do that.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to read this evening's Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2008. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 9, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to adopt Ordinance No. 9, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2008. AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PAUL R. BERNINGER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD IN MATTERS RELATING TO LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW AND OTHER MATTERS, SETTING HOURLY RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 10, 2008.

REMARKS

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so the citizens know, his rates are \$185.00 for general council and \$200.00 per hour for litigation. There is discussion that this contract does not mean that this is the only law firm or lawyer that the City will be able to use, but in order to use him, as he is currently working on the Fire Dept. contract, Bill felt it was important for him to go ahead and get this so we could continue to use Paul Berninger.

The motion to suspend the second and third reading passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – Before we go to Old Business I would like to make the motion to lay on the table, Ordinance No. 54, 2007 at this time.

Mr. Walden – And I think you mean to take it from the table, Mr. Tobergte?

Mr. Tobergte – That's what Roberts Rules says to lay it on the table so.

Mr. Walden – Oh, OK. Take it off the table. I understand. We have a motion by Mr. Tobergte to take Ordinance No. 54, 2007 off the table. Is there a second?

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'll second that.

Mr. Walden – Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to take Ordinance No. 54, 2007 off the table.

REMARKS

Mr. Tobergte – Ordinance No. 54, 2007 deals with the Canal Bed, turning it over to the CIC. I'm all in favor of having a public hearing but to me the public hearing would be useless without some kind of a drawing, this way the CIC should have a conceptual drawing drawn up to show the people down there what could be built, where the roads would be, where the walkways would be, etc. It is Council's final decision what would be built down there because it is in the South Vine St. district, so any plans before it could be built would have to come back before Council for approval.

Ms. Hausfeld – I do have one question. Correct me if I'm wrong, weren't we waiting for, as far as a legal opinion, about a park, not a park? The other Council members that were here, does anybody remember?

Mrs. Brickweg – As far as I can remember, I don't think we were, we already got the information, as far as a park or not a park, and that you can't build in a park. I don't know. I guess the question is, do we consider that a park? And I had stated before, no, I do not consider that a park, it's a piece of land down there but I don't remember, I could be wrong, but I don't remember that we asked for a legal opinion on that.

Ms. Hausfeld – Bill, I'm going to put you on the spot because I thought you were one of the ones that took this off the table because you were waiting for an opinion, and maybe I have the wrong person but, I just didn't want to take it off the table if we're still waiting for an opinion and Kate might not even realize that we're waiting.....

Mr. Burkhardt – I don't even think that we've ever talked about getting her opinion as far as a park goes but my recommendation would be to take this to COW, vote to take this off the table where we could discuss the pros and cons and maybe I'll get with Kate and we'll see about getting an opinion, but I'm sure it's going to be a lot of what Ed said but you know whether or not that area is actually a park, that's the question.

Mr. Tobergte – I talked to Mr. Geiser earlier this week and he said that he was never asked to determine whether it was a park down there and you know, me bringing it off the table and if it's a park then we can't build down there but let's at least get the ball rolling, let Al get started on it so that we're not another year or so waiting to see what we can do down there.

Mr. Meier – I would like to formally ask the City attorney for an opinion, I think I have given you some information from last year and part of it was a discussion and the opinion that we had last year was, is it a park or park land? I know it was brought to this discussion before that even though there are not any swing sets on it, the City has maintained that property for years and years and years and the people do use it on a regular basis so I would

like to see that legal opinion and a definition of what a park and park lands would be, the opinion that Mr. Geiser had last year would be that basically, at the end of it, it said that and there were a couple of parts to it, people that live adjacent to it that park or park land, and I don't remember the exact words, but an influential standing, I guess, as far as whether or not that could be developed because it would directly impact the value of their properties, so I guess I would like to see us go back and get that opinion because the last one said that at the end was that they were not certain that if the City would be sued, that the City was able to win that law suit.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Meier, are you talking about the advice that they gave on Park Place Park?

Mr. Meier – The opinion that was given on Park Place was the opinion on parks and park land. It was not address specific. It was an opinion on park and park land. It was very specific that mentioned both of those and in some of the cases that were cited some of them were parks and some of them were park land as well. I think it was some pretty good research and we had a lot of discussions over it and I think one of the reasons that we decided not to do anything down there is that the opinion of the people are down there, the petition that was circulated and the question of the legal standing of whether or not we could do that and if we face those same hurdles in going down and developing anything down in the canal bed there is significant opposition to development down there by the people who live there. They are considered park lands by the people who live there. Kids play there, people walk their dogs there, people walk, it has been maintained by the City for years. It's not a vacant lot filled with weeds. The high school kids that are hired in the summer, they cut that on a weekly basis. They trim it, it's not a vacant lot. It is a maintained piece of grassy land down there. We can't say it's just a vacant lot because its not.

Ms. Hausfeld – One more thing, I am not opposed to building, I am all for St. Bernard moving forward with all of their pieces of property to get things built and move this City forward. My only concern is, I know, and people are saying we didn't, but I can remember sitting up here on Council, and I swear, but I won't swear, but I thought Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to take it off because of a legal opinion and because we need to get public opinion and someone was supposed to be getting a public hearing together to find out exactly, because their was some opposition and instead of them bringing it to Council and instead of us turning it over to the CIC and AI I believe we wanted to have a public hearing just to see what the public, no matter if they lived down there or if they just live in St. Bernard what their thoughts and their feelings were about that particular piece of property. I don't disagree with you, I'm all for moving forward and building and doing great things for St. Bernard but in my heart I know, we asked for a legal opinion and it was taken off the table because of that and the public hearing.

Mr. Tobergte – That was the Dec. 6th meeting I was at when Bill, Mr. Burkhardt, asked to pull it off the table. Basically he wanted it pulled off the table to have a public hearing, which I'm all in favor of having a public hearing but the people are asking me down there, how far is it going, where are the roads going to be, will it affect my back yard, will it affect the park entrance? Nobody can answer those questions until we get an architectural drawing letting people know exactly what Al's thinking, where the roads are going to be, where the houses are going to be.

Mr. Burkhardt – Why don't we do this, at the COW we can discuss this next week, I can schedule a public hearing. I think one of the things Al is going to need before any of this can happen is for the area to be surveyed. We still have to do that so it's at least six weeks out. It's going to take six weeks to get it surveyed, according to the bid, so I would say put it in COW for next week. At that point we can vote to take it off the table if we so desire. It will give me a chance to get a date for a public hearing. It will give Kate some time to look into the legal aspects and then we can move forward next Thursday if everybody agrees.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'm also in favor of bringing this back to the table. I agree that it probably should not be tonight because there are a couple of things that need to be looked into, but I do believe we have to get something started. I have had citizens ask me, they feel that that fell off the face of the earth, and where are we going to go with this and I think we're going to have to come to one decision or another. To get a legal opinion is a good start. To get that land surveyed, we would have to do that so I suggest we go ahead and get this ball rolling.

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – I know there was a looming issue here. I was at the meeting last year, I know it was brought up, I wasn't even the Law Director then, so I know nobody specifically asked me for an opinion since I took office or anything, I just want to clarify. You want a legal opinion on whether its park or park land? Is that the basic question we need to look at? I just want to understand the question.

Mr. Meier – I think we need two things. One, in the Ohio Revised Code, it refers specifically to park lands have to be vacant for a period of 21 years before they can be used or turned over to be developed. Part of that is what Ed brought back last year

Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – Isn't that dedicated park lands?

Mr. Meier – It did not refer to dedicated. I think we need an opinion on that and also a definition on what is a park and park land is as well.

Mrs. Brickweg – Kate, I think the real question would be is what would be the difference between a park and park land. I'm not saying that land would be a park or park land because we have a list here of two or three pages of property of which the City owns. I know we maintain a lot of those. We cut the grass and things like that but we can't consider everything we own a

park land. But we'll know more once she gives us the definition. Just in reference to the public meeting, I would think we would hold off on the public meeting until we have something actually to say to the people or tell the people because if I can see this public meeting now its just going to be people come down and saying they are either for the building or against the building but I kind of find it hard to say you are for or against something if you don't even know what it is, which would also go in the lines with having to survey the property. I am in favor of bringing this back again and voting on it. I agree with Cindi, it kind of got pushed away to the side and no ones been talking about it and like I have said in the past, you know, we might not agree when we get these drawings to build and Council can vote against it or for it, but the point is, we hired an economic developer to come in and give us ideas and we're almost shooting him in the foot not even letting him give us the idea. We might not like the idea and we might vote against it but we at least have an idea. I don't have a problem giving the land to the CIC to get the plan. If we want to put it on the COW, that's fine, but I think we would have to have somebody take the motion off.

Mr. Zix – I've been sitting back listening. Just to understand, I'm for moving ahead with the drawings but some of the questions that were asked tonight, I don't have that Ordinance in front of me, I would like to wait for the COW meeting to review the Ordinance again. I'm for going forward and we have to have something to show the people but I think there are some variables that we could discuss at COW that would help a little bit.

Mr. Walden – Mr. Tobergte I guess it would be up to you it's you motion, if you would like to proceed with the vote tonight or not.

Mr. Tobergte – I guess I'll withdraw the motion for now and just put it in the COW for next Thursday.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I'll withdraw my second.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Brickweg – At the Feb. 7th Council meeting there was a lot of discussion over me reading the COW report. I was instructed by Council to read the report so the citizens' watching on television would know what happened at the COW meeting. I had informed Council that when I read my first COW report as the president pro-tem, it was too long and repetitive and I would change that for the following meeting which I did. The discussion at Council did get heated at times and I want to take this time to apologize for any unprofessional behavior from myself. I believed I was doing the job I was asked to do and when I was interrupted so many times it just got the better of me which is unacceptable and I apologize.

Mr. Tobergte – A lot of residents have come to me and asked me about Centennial Hall not being rented out again. In order to provide a secure City Hall, I'm willing to donate five security cameras and two 24 hour recorders with monitors for the hallway downstairs and upstairs, wherever you want to

put these cameras to be monitors so we can keep Centennial Hall open and available to our residents.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I also have had a lot of citizens discuss this with me about keeping that Centennial Hall in the pool of hall rentals. Again, I sent an email to the COW last week saying that I couldn't make it and I am in favor of keeping that open, I think there is a way to secure that with that elevator and I don't believe that should be taken out of the pool.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to comment on part of Cindi's report on the sound walls. I also received a few emails from residents on Broerman and I did email them back that I was on the committee that we reviewed the sound walls and what they told us is that it is true that if you have sound walls on both sides of the highway there is a chance that it will bounce off and go over the sound wall. These sound walls are only going to be on the residential side which therefore will bounce the sound over to the industry and they said we should have no problem with them at all. I know we can wait for the report but I just wanted to give an update that was discussed at our meeting.

Mr. Tobergte – I guess at this time I would like to ask the Mayor if he would reconsider renting out Centennial Hall again with the cameras?

Mr. Burkhardt – I will look into it Don and let you know.

Mr. Tobergte – Thank you.

Ms. Hausfeld – Last week when there was talk about bringing our health care nurse back full time, one of the things I asked and we are going to be discussing it at COW next week, when the health care nurse originally came to Council or she came to the Mayor, she originally was asking for five extra hours. Since then we are now looking into hiring her back full time with health care benefits and benefits in general. Something that the citizens have been talking to me about, instead of bringing one health care nurse back full time it was brought to my attention that we should look into possibly bringing in two, along with Mrs. Schmitt, or Laura, bringing back an extra part time nurse and some of the costs would be offset by getting prices for the health insurance that it would cost to put Laura and her family or Laura depending on who's all going on her health care insurance, some of the costs would be offset by that. We're also getting back \$5,000 from Hamilton County, in the meantime the Mayor wanted to start her off at a higher salary than what she is making right now, which she would be working more hours. That is something that we are going to discuss next week but Walt, not Walt Moeller, Walt St. Clair, I actually would like that information if I could in my mail box so that I could play with the figures and see which would be more cost efficient for the City. Either hiring a full time nurse, which I am all in favor of having nursing for our residents of all ages because I do believe it's a great benefit but I also believe that we might be able to do it in a more cost efficient manner by doing two part time nurses verses one full

time nurse and we possibly could even have more hours there depending on what the numbers come out. So I didn't know Walt if you had a chance this last week to check into how much the health insurance would actually cost us because you said you were going to put it in our mail boxes so we could discuss it next week and have that information.

Mr. St. Clair – I am awaiting information from our health care, not our third party administrator, but our broker, to provide the cost, the Cobra cost if somebody would leave and what it would cost to remain on the City insurance. If that doesn't happen by Monday, what I will do then is take 2007's health cost for the Service Dept. and City Hall and then divide that by the number of people that are in that line item and come up with an average figure that way if that's acceptable. Also if Council is interested, there will be vacation benefits, obviously, sick leave benefits, all those things, I'll include all that information as well. I'll try to have it in Council members' boxes by Monday afternoon next week if that's ok.

Ms. Hausfeld – Thank you, Walt.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Patty, I totally agree with you, I think that's a great idea to look at that, have two part time positions. I think it's not only going to be cost efficient for the City but I also think it will enhance the efficiency of just the job the nurses do. Basically, Laura can go through all of her hours and what she does with the Seniors, all her home visits, all her paper work. I think everybody will find that it will be very beneficial to hire two part time people so they can divvy up some of those hours. If you're needed to do a few extra hours, if there is something that comes about, then it's really not an extra burden on that full time nurse. They can split it up between the two part time people. Also it gives an opportunity to have some coverage for the time that one of them is on vacation. Now they won't be able to cover everything but I think it will really enhance the efficiency of the care that we give to the kids and the citizens of our City with two nurses. The other thing we might want to ask the department to do is to look at some additional aids, if you will, to help out in some of those circumstances. In my opinion I think what you need in the City as well as like the hospital is, you would need the Director of Nursing to be the overseer but you could perhaps use some aids, you could use some assistants to do scoliosis screening, because I know that's what she does at the schools. They can even do some immunizations. You could even get a couple of LPNs or an LPN part time to help. I think there is a variety of ways that we could probably offer a lot more services and in a timely manner to our citizens with looking at different ways than with a full time nurse.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just so you guys know, I did talk to Laura, last Friday after this was mentioned at Council. She is trying to look at all the pros and the cons, she couldn't find any of the pros right now but she is really looking at all the aspects of it. I tried to explain to her that I wasn't in favor of doing any less for her because I do believe she is very, very well fit for our citizens

and our City itself. I do know she thoroughly enjoys her job which, that shows, because the citizens are the ones that benefit from her caring so much. She did ask me if I had anybody in mind for this other part time position and honestly I don't and I was honest to her, it was the citizens that were sitting out in this audience that when we first started talking about it everybody was just on the band wagon saying, yes, lets hire a full time nurse and I got to admit I was back here saying I do believe we need it because in my job I get calls all the time from citizens that live here in town that I, being the nice person I am, I actually deliver to them if they can't get out, if they have health problems and stuff like that from my job. I believe having a nurse, having somebody that would look in on these people could help out, there's a hundred and one opportunities that they could do. I wanted the citizens to know I did talk to Laura, I didn't have the exact dollar amount for the benefits and stuff because we would be paying out a lot more and I think we could do it cost efficient in a manner that would work beneficial not only for us as the City but it would benefit the citizens even more.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I do want to comment and say that Laura is a fantastic nurse. I don't want her to think at all that to bring in another part time nurse or even to consider in the future to bring some aids in to assist her has any kind of reflection on her skills and her abilities as a nurse. She worked for me at Children's Hospital and I recommended her for this job also. She has great skill levels and she is a great nurse. I just want all the citizens out there to know that we do have an excellent person as our nurse.

Ms. Hausfeld – I actually explained that to Laura, one of the things that she did thank me for is actually thinking outside the box and coming up with a different suggestion, at least to have us look at a different suggestion. That's all I'm doing. I'm not recommending anything one way or the other. Until I get the figures in front of me and know what's more cost efficient. It was a suggestion that was brought to me and I brought it to Council.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I would just like to bring back the conversation and the recommendation I had several weeks ago, an assessment of the City. I would like to reiterate to every citizen and all the workers, city workers in St. Bernard that the intent of that was never to have anybody lose their job. My intent for the assessment is exactly what Ed Geiser brought to the table. I understand last week at COW when he brought Jane Pirman in to help him within the Tax Dept. What Jane did with her knowledge and her expertise showed that there are inefficiencies. We are really behind the times in some of our technology in some of the way that we do our business. He made mention about a data entry person that we don't have or at least the clerk doesn't do that now. That's what I was trying to make my point when I was asking about doing an assessment of the City. We have a lot of people like myself that are baby boomers that are going to be going out into retirement in the next two years, three years, five years. We need to start planning for that now. Rather than say replace all these people as they go out, we've got to start thinking, is there a more efficient manner to use the people to fill in

those roles and not just replace the bodies because there are technologies and things have changed and that is what I was trying to make as my point and why I brought up the assessment. I think a lot of people took that wrong, that I was ready to cut, cut, cut and that is not my intent at all. For nobody to lose their job, in fact, I would envision there would be more workers that are there then we ever had before.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. St. Clair – I would just like to put in a plug for the 30th annual pancake breakfast sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard. This event will take place on Sunday, March 16th, from 9:00a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the St. Bernard/Elmwood place high school cafeteria. The cost is \$5.00 for those over 12 years old and \$3.00 for those 12 and under. Tickets are available from any Kiwanis member or at the door. This event helps support the Kiwanis T-Ball Program and college scholarships for our local high-schools.

Mr. Chatman – I heard on the news today, I don't have any additional details but I did hear that Pam Swafford, one of our residents is now the Director of the Hamilton County Board of Elections and if that is so I just wanted to send Congratulations out there.

Mrs. Brickweg – The next COW meeting will be March 13th @ 7:30 p.m.

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