

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2008**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, March 20, 2008 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: Mr. Tobergte, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Bedinghaus, Mrs. Brickweg, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Meier, Mr. Zix.

Mrs. Brickweg made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Tobergte seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – The Mayor’s Monthly Court Report Receipts for January 2008: Mayor’s Court fines were \$3,325.00, and costs of \$224.00. Parking fines of \$1,275.00 Miscellaneous Police Reports \$4.40. Total to the City was \$4,828.40. State fees: Victims of Crime \$459.00, and General Revenue \$765.00. Total to State was \$1,224.00. Total Disbursements were \$6,052.40.”

The Mayor’s Monthly Court Report Receipts for February 2008: Mayor’s Court fines were \$1,393.00, and costs of \$128.00. Parking fines of \$1,000.00, Miscellaneous Police Reports \$3.00. Total to the City was \$2,524.00. State fees: Victims of Crime \$234.00, General Revenue \$390.00, and Child Restraint \$190.00. Total to State was \$814.00. Total disbursements were \$3,338.00.

I would like to thank Curtis Walden for doing an excellent job of representing St. Bernard during the “Mayor’s for Meals” program that ran this week. Curtis delivered meals to several St. Bernard residents on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> which also happened to be St. Patrick’s Day. The meal included, among other things, green mashed potatoes and special cookies to celebrate the occasion. Channel 19 News also covered the event and did a nice news video that aired that evening as well as the next morning.

I will be meeting with Kim Fender next week to discuss the progression of the library project and discuss the sign that is on the property at Vine and McClelland.

I attended the CIC last evening and Al Kanters continues to move forward with several projects. He is always willing to answer any questions that residents have so please feel free to contact him @ 242-2982.

Also, the Civil Service Commission has submitted the lists of names for the laborer position at the Service Department and the steno/clerk position at City Hall. All eligible candidates have been contacted and have been requested to submit their resume. After reviewing this information we will schedule interviews and make our decision based on the candidate that is most qualified and is a good fit for both departments.

Elaine Sipe, in coordination with Laura Schmitt of the Health Department is working on scheduling the Mobile Mammography Van through the Health Alliance for the St. Bernard community in August. Please contact Elaine at City Hall if you would be interested in this opportunity.

The Dial-A-Ride and Fitness Center hours for Easter Sunday will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon only to allow employees to spend time with their family.

Last but not least, this Saturday is the 2008 Easter Egg Scramble at Vine Street Park. The Holiday Activity Committee and the Service Department have been working very hard to make this event a big success. The Service Department is doing their best to prepare the fields but with the amount of rain we may have to have the event under the pavilion. As you can see the Easter Bunny has made a special appearance this evening. We will be visiting all the streets in St. Bernard and meet at Vine Street Park for the Egg "Scramble" by 1:00 p.m. Please bring your family and friends and enjoy a day with the Easter Bunny.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The reports for the City's investments and bank accounts have been distributed to Council and the Treasurer.

Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 11, 2008. As discussed at the COW, this Ordinance makes a transfer from the General Fund Cash Account to the following cash accounts: Street Maintenance, Capital Project – Storm Sewer, Bond Retirement, and Employee Health Plan. The Ordinance establishes two new line item accounts: A Traffic Study line item in the Safety Department and a Homeland Security Expense line item in the Police Department. The Ordinance also provides for additional appropriations to wages for the Director of Nursing and Dial-A-Ride employees, the traffic study, fuel & oil, homeland security expense, and the City's contribution to the Public Employees' Retirement System and Medicare. There is also one appropriation adjustment of \$5,000 from County Health Services to the Wages for the Director of Nursing.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mrs. Kate Bedinghaus – I prepared two Ordinances as we discussed, first to establish a fund to computerize the Mayor's Court and second to establish a fund to computerize the Clerk of Court's Office. I would like to thank Walt St. Clair for his assistance in preparing these to get the accounting terms correct.

I revised Ordinance No. 54, 2007 to authorize the transfer of the Canal Bed Property pursuant to a purchase agreement that will be attached as Exhibit B. I am currently still working on this contract. It will be ready before the next Council meeting. This contract will contain the clause requested by Council that essentially provides that if the CIC has not applied for a building permit within a stated period of time, I will need to clarify the actual period of time with Council at the next COW, that at the City's request the CIC shall reconvey the property back to the City.

Due to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to prepare the Ordinance to remove Section 151 from the St. Bernard codified ordinances. Upon further thought and speaking with Mr. Mike Kelly of the Walter Drane Co., it is my opinion that this would best be accomplished through a Resolution of Council rather than an Ordinance. As Mr. Kelly noted 151 was not placed in the codified ordinance book through passage of an ordinance. Therefore to remain consistent it should not be removed by ordinance. A Resolution of Council providing direction of Council's intent on this matter would be appropriate. If this is Council's desire I will have this prepared for the next Council Meeting.

Finally, I would ask that the proposed amendment to the Veba Trust be put on the agenda for the next COW. I had the opportunity to review the

consent decree and final judgment regarding the C9 suit. I also discussed this matter with John Hust, the Attorney from Schroeder and Mandrell, who represented the City in this matter. He was in agreement that paragraph 4 of the agreement would not prohibit an amendment to the Veba Trust ending the benefits of new employees. However, as we discussed at the last COW, he noted that for employees subject to collective bargaining agreements, this would have to be negotiated into their respective contracts.

TREASURER, Mr. Sipe – I reviewed the Auditor’s report to the Treasurer and found that the investments to be sound. I will also be attending a public investment management course in Dayton on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month to review public financing, cash management, ethics laws, and introduction to investments and will have a report at the COW.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Chatman – I continue to be in contact with the TEC engineering group that is doing the study on Ross Ave. We are discussing ways in which our public intersections in the City of St. Bernard might qualify for some of the hi-tech monitoring and equipment that they run. In addition to that at this time of year there are two things that I want to bring up that unfortunately we do have to talk about this. There are two groups of people that tend to strike during this time of year in early spring. One of those groups of criminals are the ones who will come to you while you are working in your yard. They will tell you that you need work done and they will require a down payment and I’m just going to remind all of our citizens that if you want work done in your yard, do not allow people to come and solicit you, go do the homework yourself and call a company and do a little background on those companies. Most reputable companies will have enough capital to do the project and receive payment at the end. Secondly, related to that is a traveling group of people that will also come to your house and in the process of doing so, they try to talk to you while you are in your yard working, while a second person enters your house and removes your valuables and anything else they can get their hands on. Sad to say it, but if you are working in the rear of your yard that you have to keep your front door locked and vice versa, but these are some of the things that we need to keep in mind as the weather begins to get warm.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Schrand – First of all I would like to wish all the residents a very happy Easter. Also, this afternoon, I met with the drivers and dispatchers from Dial-A-Ride to set the new schedules with the additional for the bus. I’d also like to be put on the COW agenda to discuss the trench drain collapse and the collapsed drain pipe at the Muni Bldg, also for the purchase of garbage bags.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – I would again like to remind the citizens that when you file your 2007 taxes to please attach a copy of your 1040. We only need to see the first page. If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Dept. Again, this is a big issue because we’re getting a lot of returns without the 1040 attached. I placed a copy of the House of Representatives Bill 3359 which is pending before Congress in each of your mail boxes. I discussed briefly at the last COW and put a packet of information about the bill and the potential impact it may have. The bill is known at the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax

Fairness and Simplification Act of 2007. Your pages may be out of order. One of the pages was misplaced, but they are all there, you just have to rearrange the actual bill. Page 3 is out of order.

Included in the materials is a list of jobs that would be affected by the bill, affecting meaning that we might not be able to tax this activity. I also included in your packet is a letter from the Ohio Municipal League detailing the impact of the bill and give you some idea of what taxes the City could do if anything. One note, Mr. Tobergte has been in contact with our representative, Congressman Steve Chabot and he will be made aware of the City's concerns and I believe Mr. Tobergte told me briefly before the meeting that he has been in contact with him and he can report on what he has learned. I ask that this be put on the agenda for the next COW.

Lastly, as you can see, I have an assistant with me tonight because of Holy Thursday and she has been very excited to see the Easter Bunny in the audience so it is a nice visit for her to see that.

If anyone has any other questions of me, if I may be excused for obvious reasons after my report.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance Nos. 11, 12 and 13. 2008.

SAFETY, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

SERVICE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to take this time to update our residents about our recycling program.

Only number 1 and 2 plastic bottles are accepted. Clear, brown, green and blue glass food bottle and jars. All papers and cardboard except pizza boxes, milk cartons and text books. All aluminum and steel cans along with aerosol cans but no paint cans or steel scrap.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Meier – The Public Improvements Committee has had a couple of meetings trying to get people involved in forming a neighborhood association. I had a little bit of a challenge in times convenient for residents or citizens to be able to attend these. We're going to try this again. City Hall will be open on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. If I have that date correct. What we're going to try to do is see if we can have the meeting on that day and maybe use the call command to advise people, to remind them that we, a couple of the ideas, I've done a little bit of basic information, is to have St. Bernard Days. We can have them at the Zoo. We can also have St. Bernard Days at Coney Island. I think these are ideal projects for somebody that, in a neighborhood association, if they wanted to do that. If this idea doesn't look like it's going to be able to go forward to form this, then I think what I will do is to get together with recreation and turn those projects over to them. Maybe we can have a day for residents at very steeply discounted admissions, we can get pavilions for lunches and things like that, so I think it would be a good way of, if we're having a banner across Vine St. if it were promoting the City, and give people an opportunity to socialize with their neighbors.

Also, thank you for the people who went and attended the open house at 564 Rose Hill last night. If anybody had a chance to see that, that home, it was virtually finished, that Cincinnati Housing Partners did an amazing job.

When I pulled up in the street, to be honest I didn't even really recognize the house as what it had been in the past so they did a really good job. A lot of the neighbors on the street came through and I was listening and talking to several of them and they were very complimentary of that.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Mr. Peck – I just want to announce that next week at 6:30 p.m. we're going to have a Laws, Contracts & Claims Committee meeting. We're going to discuss some updating certain ordinances that are out of date and also regulation of municipal parking lots so anybody is welcome to come and I look forward to seeing you there.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, Mrs. Brickweg – Last week I suggested to Council and the Administration that we look into our City requiring landlords of single family rental properties to purchase annual permits and require regular inspections of these houses by the Building Dept. The City of Springdale is currently voting on such an ordinance. This would be one way to help St. Bernard maintain property values of rental property. An ordinance like this would help put a little pressure on the property owner to keep the property in good condition and up to code. I am suggesting that the ordinance require any landlord of a single family rental home to apply for a permit before renting the property. Once the Building Dept. receives the application, they would conduct an inspection of the home. The cost of the permit being considered in Springdale is \$50.00 annually. At last week's meeting I reported that an article in the Enquirer stated that Springdale modeled their ordinance after one in Madeira. I talked with Tom Moeller, the City Manager of Madeira and he said that they do not have such an ordinance. He stated that the rental ordinance in Madeira just requires rental property owners to notify the Tax Dept. of new tenants. Tom also stated that with the low number of rental homes in Madeira it was unlikely they would ever need an ordinance requiring permits, but he stated he could see how such an ordinance like the one in Springdale could benefit communities with large numbers of rental properties. I will provide copies of the proposed Springdale ordinance to Council and the Administration so it can be discussed at next COW meeting.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Last Thursday afternoon the Mayor and myself met with the Dial-A-Ride workers and we discussed the proposal that was on the table to increase the Dial-A-Ride hours. After the discussion with them and after some suggestions with them, we brought it back to the COW and that is what is on the Ordinance No. 11 tonight. I recommend passage of that Ordinance.

Mrs. Brickweg – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - March 13, 2008**

#### **NEW OR REFERRED ITEMS:**

1. Council approved the minutes of the March 6th council meeting.
2. Council discussed turning over the Canal Bed property to the CIC so the city's Economic Developer, Al Kanters can start working on ideas for the property.

“Council previously asked Kate Bedinghaus to investigate what constitutes a “city park or park land”. Kate reported back that under R.C. 755.41 a park would have to be land that is dedicated by statute or by a common law dedication.” Kate reported that she had not done a deed search on the property. Walt Moeller then informed council that the deed was attached to the first ordinance when council was voting to turn the land over and there was no dedicated park on the deed

Don Tobergte reported that this piece of land falls under the city’s “South Vine Corridor, and has a B-1 overlay. This means that nothing can be built on this land without council’s approval. Kevin Meier stated many reasons why he does not want to turn this land over to the CIC. He wants a public meeting before this would happen to give the citizens a chance to voice their opinions. Peggy Brickweg stated since we do not have drawings or plans for this property, what would be discussed at a public meeting. She is in favor of a public meeting, but there needs to be concrete plans to discuss. It was voted on (6 to 1 – Kevin voting no) to place an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting to turn over the land to the CIC. It was agreed that this ordinance would contain language that if the CIC does not start development on the land within a 24 month period it would turn the land back over to the city. Council also agreed to have the ordinance go regular course so the citizens will have multiple opportunities to come to meetings to express their feelings to council.

3. Council voted to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss possible litigation regarding Civil Service Rules (7-0 yes)

## **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS:**

### **Mayor, Bill Burkhardt:**

1. Council and the administration discussed making the City Nurse position full time. Dr. Singer presented council with his pros and cons to hiring a full time nurse versus hiring two part time nurses. Some of the positives he listed for a full time nurse were he felt it would be better proficient, consistency with the community, direct accountability, less cost with continuing educations and mal-practice insurance. He also stated that having a full time nurse would give that person a sense of pride and accomplishment. Some of the positives of hiring two part time nurses that he listed were there would be coverage when one person was absent, flexible hours, it would allow for alternative solutions, personalities and approaches to the job. Having two part time employees would save the city from providing full time benefits. Dr. Singer’s recommendation to the city was to hire one full time nurse.

Patty Hausfeld presented council with the cost of hiring a city nurse verse a full time nurse. She explained that the city would have to provide benefits such as vacation, sick days, health care, etc. for a full time position and that she felt it was better to hire two part time people for this position. City Nurse, Laura Schmitt went over her job responsibilities and explained that she feels a full time nurse would be more beneficial for the city and would allow her to provide the services that the Health Department did in the past. Mayor Burkhardt stated that he is recommending we hire Laura full time and he is asking council for the appropriations to do so. Council voted (6 to 1 Patty voting no) in favor of putting an ordinance on the table for the additional appropriations to hire Laura full time.

2. Bill asked the Finance Committee to start working on the Part-time Pay Ordinance since the city will soon be hiring for these positions
3. Bill requested that the city work on an ordinance to end the C-9 VEBA Trust for all future city employees. After some discussion regarding if that is possible with it being in department contracts, Walt St. Clair read from the court decree that the city is forbid to change or terminate it for any current or future employees. Kate will look into the decree for the interpretation.

4. Bill announced that there will be a Holiday Activity Committee Bag Stuffing Extravaganza Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 6:00 PM in Centennial Hall. Also, Saturday, March 22, 2008 if anyone is interested in lending a hand for the Easter Egg Scramble please arrive at Vine Street Park at 12:00 noon.

**Auditor, Walt St. Clair:**

1. Walt asked council for an ordinance to transfer \$633,075 from the general fund to the following - \$100,000.00 to street maintenance, \$3075.00 to capital improvement - storm sewers, \$30,000.00 to general bond retirement, and \$500,000.00 to employee health benefits. Council voted (7 to 0) in favor.
2. Walt explained the city received \$48,400.00 from the Department of Homeland Security because a business located in St. Bernard has been put on the terrorist target list. This money paid for this business to install fencing and security cameras. The city needs to reimburse the vendors for their work, since the city received the funds in the city checking account.
3. Walt gave council a list from 2000 that shows various line items that were grouped together, for example legal advertising for all departments coming out of a master plan line item. He asked council to review the list and we will discuss them at the next COW.
4. Walt informed council they will need to vote on creating a new line item under the safety department to put the TEC study grant money in so the city can pay them for their services. Council voted (7-0) in favor.

**Law Director, Kate Bedinghaus:** Kate informed council of the need for two separate ordinances in order to computerize Mayor's Court. Kate and Walt worked with the state auditor to determine that the ordinance can include creating a special fund to use. Council voted (7 to 0) in favor of placing two ordinances on the table for the next council meeting. The first ordinance is to charge \$3.00 per case for computerizing Mayor's Court and second will be to charge \$10.00 to computerize the Clerk of Mayor's court.

**Safety Director, Rodney Chatman:**

1. Rodney reported that Police Chief Moeller and he attended a workshop with TEC (traffic engineers) where they learned how streets can be monitored with the use of the internet. St. Bernard may be used as a test site for this.
2. Rodney reported that the Ross Ave traffic study being conducted by TEC should be complete by March 31<sup>st</sup> and TEC can come give a presentation to council.

**Service Director, Ray Schrand:** absent – Bill Burkhardt read his report.

1. Ray is accepting bids, Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> for city trash bags
2. He will be meeting with the C9 trustees March 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss third party administrators.
3. Ray is also working on repairing the trench in front of the fitness center that is collapsing.

**Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser:** Ed brought council up to date on what he is continuing to do to get the tax office back in order. He informed council that he entered 2006 returns with refunds this week which added up to over \$26,000.00 to refund back. This money had to be taken out of his refund budget for this year, so it is very likely he will need additional funds. Don Tobergte suggested that the city hire someone from Account Temps to enter data from the past years so the department can get caught up. Peggy Brickweg stated that was a good idea, but also suggested that Ed look at the entire department and its staffing and give council a proposal at the next COW regarding what

needs to be done to get the Tax Department up to date. She also stated that any future employees for the Tax Department should be an accountant and hopefully a CPA. Ed will bring his proposal to council at the next COW.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Laws, Contracts and & Claims, Mike Peck:** Mike reported that his committee will be meeting March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Public Improvements, Kevin Meier:** Kevin reported that he is having a hard time getting people to attend meetings regarding the city creating a Neighborhood Association to work on various projects. He is planning another meeting for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg:** Peggy reported how the City of Springdale is voting on an ordinance to require landlords of single-family rental properties to purchase an annual permit and require regular inspection of the homes in their city. This ordinance was modeled after an ordinance in Madeira. Peggy will contact both communities to get copies of their ordinances for council to discuss at the next COW.

**Safety, Patty Hausfeld:** Patty thanked the three departments for their great work during the snow storm last weekend. She also suggested that when there are snow emergencies that citizens with driveways use them. This would really help the Service Department with snow removal.

**Highways & Transportation, Cindi Bedinghaus:** Cindi reported that she met with Mayor Burkhardt and the employees of Dial A Ride to discuss the various proposals to increase Dial A Ride hours and to bring back the medical bus. Cindi provided council with a revised proposal which would add approximately 24 hours per week for Dial A Ride and bring back the medical bus two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays being considered). To provide these additional services council would need to appropriate approximately an additional \$59,200.00. Bill stated that the employees would stay at part time with the increased hours and that if the services are not used he will cut them back. The increased Dial A Ride price will be .50 for seniors and \$1.00 for everyone else. The medical bus would cost \$10.00 per ride. If this is approved the Dial A Ride increased hours would occur in April. There are some unresolved issues relative to the Medical Bus, therefore, the start date has not been determined but the hope would be some time in May. Bill thanked Cindi for her hard work in preparing all the proposals.

**Service, Don Tobergte:** Don asked Bill if he looked into using the security cameras he donated in order to keep Centennial Hall open for residents to rent. Bill stated he had not, but will look into it. Don also asked for an update from Ray regarding businesses being able to advertise on Dial A Ride buses and Bill said he would ask Ray.

**Finance, Greg Zix:** Greg reported that his committee received a report from Sweeney Cartwright & Co. regarding the city borrowing bond money for revitalization. Greg will let everyone know when the committee will meet to discuss this proposal and the numbers Walt received from Fifth Third Bank, along with the discussing the part time pay ordinance.

Cindi commented that there were many good things proposed tonight, hiring the nurse back full time, increasing dial-a-ride hours and bringing the medical bus back. However, this will cost the city a lot of money. It is concerning after what we just heard from Ed Geiser about the pending Federal law that would require a person to work in our city for 60 days instead of the 12 days that is in effect now, to be able to tax them. That will be a loss to the city.

After Executive Session council voted (7 to 0) in favor of placing an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting regarding removing section 151 from the codified ordinance book.

#### **Ordinances and Resolutions for the next council meeting:**

1. Ordinance appropriating additional funds for hiring a full time City Nurse, increasing Dial A Ride hours and bringing back the medical bus.
2. Ordinance to transfer \$633,075.00 from the general fund to the following - \$100,000.00 to street maintenance, \$3075.00 to capital improvement - storm sewers, \$30,000.00 to general bond retirement, and \$500,000.00 to employee health benefits.
3. Ordinance for the Home Land Security money.
4. Ordinance for creating a line item and paying for the Ross Ave Traffic Study conducted by TEC
5. Ordinance to create a line item and to charge \$3.00 for computerizing Mayor's Court.
6. Ordinance to charge \$10.00 to computerize the Clerk of Mayor's Court.
7. Ordinance to remove section 151 from the codified ordinance book.

Next Council Meeting: March 20th 7:30 P.M.

Next COW Meeting: March 27<sup>th</sup> 7:20 P.M.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mrs. Bedinghaus, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to read tonight's ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – This Ordinance contains two different appropriations that were talked about last week at COW. One is to increase appropriations for bringing back a full time nurse and the other one is to increase appropriations for the Dial-A-Ride and bring back the Medical Bus. In a comment made on bringing back the hours of the nurse, I am fully in support of bringing back the nurse. We discussed several ways to bring back the full time hours. One way and one suggestion was bring in two part time nurses verses the one full time. While this was not something that was on the table for Council to vote on, that option would have been, in my opinion, a little bit more attractive, we're always covered when one of the nurses have time off. But since that was not part of this vote, the Mayor wanted to have one person full time so the Ordinance on the table is to increase the appropriations to bring back one nurse full time which I am agreement of. I believe that service is needed in our City.

Also, with the Dial-A-Ride hours and the Medical Bus, I truly believe in bringing back these services I will be voting for this Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2008. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, TO ESTABLISH NEW LINE ITEMS AND TO ADJUST CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Tobergte to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 11, 2008.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – In referring to what Cindi also said, on the full time nurse, I did speak at the COW and I would rather have a full time nurse than two part time nurses. I look at how, I started basing it on how I look at my job or a lot of everybody else’s full time job. Yes it might save many of our company’s money if we all got laid off full time and we had two part time people and I would think it’s better to have one person being the nurse. I think it’s more productive, she’s been doing this for a couple of years and as she stated she knows what she does and how she does it and I just think it would be much better to have one full time nurse and have a consistency with the citizens and the one thing that she said, she would work on which I think would be a big asset to our City, is working with the Council on Aging on a lot of free programs out there, such as, cleaning homes, transportation, and meals for the elderly that they could be probably be getting for free but she just doesn’t have the time to work with them. I’m looking forward to seeing how that all could be an advantage to our citizens.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just to let the public know, I am one of the Council members last week that brought up, just throwing it out there, as instead of hiring a full time nurse, hiring two part time nurses. Where I don’t disagree where we need the hours and we need the help, I like the fact that having two nurses in case one nurse is on vacation we would always have one here covering a shift. My concerns, one of my concerns and right now as a part time nurse she is making roughly \$33,500.00, as a full time nurse they’re wanting to bring her back at \$44,595.00. Included in that she gets holiday pay, which is ten holidays a year, she gets two weeks paid vacation, she gets three weeks sick pay, she’ll get longevity, she’ll get life insurance, she’ll get health care and the money that we’re going to use to pay a full time nurse, I would have liked us to look in a little bit further, do a little bit more homework and see what we could have done to use the money, and I’m not going to say use it more wisely because to me that’s saying that I’m saying she is not worth the money and I’m not saying that at all. I think Laura does a heck of a good job and I for one, having an ill father the last year or two of his life, I would love the fact to have a full time nurse or a nurse check in on the elderly. My father was fortunate, he had seven kids and tons of grandkids that we looked in on him, we helped him out. There’s a lot of elderly people out there that don’t have anybody. I’m not against Laura, I’m not against what she does and how she does it. I just think we could have looked at the situation a little bit better, studied it a little bit harder and then if the benefits were a full time nurse then I would go along with it. I am having a hard time tonight voting yes for this Ordinance No. 11 because there are things in there that I do want to vote for but on the other hand I don’t want to vote for a full time nurse so I will be voting “no” on this Ordinance. Just to let you guys know.

The motion to suspend passed 6-1, Ms. Hausfeld voted no.

Motion by Mr. Meier, seconded by Mr. Zix to adopt Ordinance No. 11, 2008 as read. Motion passed 6-1, Ms. Hausfeld voted no.

**ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2008. ENACTING SECTION 171.01 OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES – ST. BERNARD MAYOR’S COURT COMPUTERIZATION FUND.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg seconded by Mr. Meier to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 12, 2008.

## **REMARKS**

Mrs. Brickweg – There are two Ordinances tonight and basically what they are saying is we're going to be working on changing our Mayor's Court to be computerized instead of a lot of papers and a lot of stamps. In order to do this for the Mayor's Court, it would be \$3.00 and then we're going to have another Ordinance coming up which is \$10.00 for the Clerk. We won't be starting with this right away, but according to the law, we can charge the money and save the money to buy the software and get it all up and running and that's what we'll be voting on tonight.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 12, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2008. ENACTING SECTION 171.02 OF THE CITY OF ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES – CLERK OF COURT COMPUTERIZATION FUND.**

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Mr. Peck to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 13, 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Brickweg, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 13, 2008 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to remove Ordinance No. 14, 2008 from the agenda tonight so Kate can have time to correct the Ordinance.

Mr. Zix – I would just like to let the citizens know that this Ordinance will come back up in two weeks, is that correct?

Mr. Tobergte – We discussed this at COW the rest of the details of the contract with the CIC.

Mr. Zix – Thank you.

Mr. Meier – In light of the conversation that we had at the COW last week and it's too bad that Mrs. Kate Bedinhaus is not here tonight, part of the discussion that she had was the discussion of parks and designated parks. I took a walk down there. The piece of property cut that people are referring to as the Canal Bed is if you go back and look at that parcel, that parcel has a sign on it that designates it as Ludlow Grove Park. If you walk down to the intersection of Phillips Ave. and Baker Place where anybody that has ever had any children play soccer, that's where the driveway is that goes back to the soccer fields. That portion that is designated as Ludlow Grove Park is a part of that parcel that extends all the way out to Vine St. When we had the discussion of transferring that property we were talking about transferring Ludlow Grove Park. It would in effect that would affect two parks. One is

the Michael Weidner Memorial Soccer Fields in the back by making that private property we are essentially land locking that park and the access to the park. That's one issue. The second is as we had an outside legal opinion when we were discussing Bertus St. Park and then Kate also did some research herself and discussing about parks that are designated in the transfer and she also mentioned something about common law, but I would think that if the City has recognized that as a park and has a sign there, recognize it as a park and the residents that live in that area recognize it as a park and the ORC says that a park has to be unused for a period of 21 years before you can transfer it, I'd like to see a written legal opinion that would show where the City would have the legal ability to transfer that property.

Mrs. Brickweg – First, so the citizens know, the reason Kate is not here is that she is ill. Secondly, just to add some to that, when Kate did explain it, she said that the land would have to be deeded and when we asked when the very first Ordinance came about a few years ago and it was all researched, there was no deed. I hear what Mr. Meier is saying, I don't want to put Gerry on the spot because Al is not here, but I guess my question is, and if you can't answer it I understand, we're talking about, what Al was talking about, are they going to conflict with each other like the drive going in with what Al is talking about developing, if you can?

Gerry Wiedmann, Planning and Development Director – Let me try and understand what you're asking, Peg. First of all, I guess the easiest way to put it is, Kevin is absolutely correct, the driveway going down along side of Baker Pl., there is on that pole a sign that says Ludlow Grove Park. Above that sign is another sign which basically says the hours that you're allowed to be in the park. I guess the only way to answer what I think you're asking is, if you go from Vine St., or let me say this, the Canal Bed, which was turned over to the City years and years and years ago, it goes all the way even past Vine St., but it goes from Vine St. probably in our district to the back part of Michael Weidner soccer field. Now, the Canal Bed as we have referred to it is basically, once you get off of Baker Pl., the Canal Bed section, I think it's 234, is the driveway which goes to that soccer field and also above that soccer field to the rear of that field. That's what I understand 234 to be. Now I'm not sure whether it continues past our property or not but there are probably five parcels, some of them have been consolidated. There is approximately two of them right at Vine St. together with 234 as you go along the north side of Phillips there was another parcel there which when we were thinking about the senior citizen housing that was quick claim deeded back to the City, so that may be consolidated too. When you get back to the soccer field area, actually the soccer field is another parcel altogether. I am not sure legally what portions of that, what Kevin's asking about, as far as being park or park lands, but that's the best I know about all the parcels there and I think, I repeat, I think that Al was talking about from the Baker Pl. entrance into the soccer field area going south, I guess it would be, I think he was talking about the area going east from there towards Vine St. But I'm not 100% sure of that, that's how I received what I've heard from Al so I hope that helps a little bit.

Mrs. Brickweg – I was wondering since we will be working on this and discussing it at the COW, if Gerry could ask Al to come and maybe bring the survey, I know we're still having the land surveyed, so we can see

exactly what he's talking about. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, when Kevin was talking about a sign going into the park, just like you see the Ross Ave. park, and you have that Cincinnati Bell building and I realize that that's not the park, that's the park where you go in, is it kind of the same scenario that it's the sign leading you to the park? I'm sorry, I'm trying to picture it and I can't.

Gerry Wiedmann – I believe that there are directional signs all over town to our parks. Some of them are actually on park property, some of them are outside of park property directing you to that park property. I think it's going to vary from park to park and even the play parks because they have the sign saying that they're open or closed from 10:00p.m. to 6:00 in the morning. I think they all vary, those signs, and I don't know whether the intent behind each individual one for each park.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to thank Gerry for being helpful and if we get out when it's still light out I'll go down and look myself but thank you for answering my question.

The motion to remove Ordinance No. 14, 2008 from the agenda passed 7-0.

Mr. Walden – I know that we have a number of people attending tonight that may have wanted to speak on the Ordinance and since the Ordinance is not coming up tonight there will not be the opportunity now, however if you wish to wait for the audience participation portion we certainly will provide you an opportunity to speak.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

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

Mr. Walden – I note that we do have a guest in the audience that I didn't see earlier, if you like I would certainly like to give you this opportunity to speak.

State Senator Eric H. Kearney – I am one of your Representatives in Columbus. I stop by occasionally. I'm here just to listen, I didn't have anything in particular on my mind. If you have any concerns I'd be more than happy to listen to them. I also brought some materials which I think are good. One is "Profile Ohio", if you have school age children this has a lot of good facts about the State of Ohio and my daughter has found it helpful on some of her reports so I recommend that. And then I have a list of helpful State House numbers and websites so if you have an issue with the State and need to make a telephone call or do some research on the internet, you can do that and it also has my telephone number if I could be helpful. Just stopping by to say "Hi" to the folks of St. Bernard and if I can help out in any way I'm more than happy to do so.

Pam Cain, 193 Harvey Ct. – A couple things in relation to Ordinance 14, I heard you say that part of what is being prepared is that the property would be reconveyed if the building permit is not applied for or got within a given

amount of time if I understood that. The building permits would be sought only when the plans are ready and or sales have been made, at what stage will the building permits be sought?

Mrs. Brickweg – Actually when we discussed that at the COW and that's why I think we need to discuss it some more, what I thought we had agreed on is that if the land wasn't developed within a certain period of time we would get the land back. Building permits were not discussed. I think that's been increased a little bit, maybe somebody else will have an answer but that's not what I thought and then it was discussed at the CIC last night and at that point it was said that if the land wasn't developed within three years, when I thought it was two, so I think we'll still be discussing that but if somebody else has something different.

Mr. Meier – Mrs. Brickweg is exactly right. The conversation last week was to be developed, apply for a building permit that's, anybody can apply for a building permit, that doesn't do anything. She is exactly right in the length of time that we discussed last week was two years, not three years.

Mr. Zix – I think one thing to keep in mind is that Council has the final say on anything that they are going to be building there because it is part of the South Vine St. Foundation. I think the spirit or the intent of the Ordinance is to find out what we can do down there more than actually build, they'll have to come back to us. If I'm correct, if I'm not correct, somebody correct me please. We'll have to okay that property, anything that happens on that property.

Pam Kane – I'm glad you said that because it was my understanding and I know my understanding is limited right now, that once it was conveyed that they would have pretty much full jurisdiction over what happened there but it will come back to Council?

Mr. Zix – Yes.

Pam Kane – So we as citizens will have some input because my concern was that once it was turned over and these plans got rolling it would just be done.

Mr. Zix – I just want to say yes so it goes on record and I'm not just shaking my head up here.

Pam Kane – As I was reading through the Ordinance, I'm questioning, what is the emergency nature of developing the Canal Bed. I know that there was some concerns several years ago about our population but at this point I don't know that that's an issue and given the number of houses available in St. Bernard, I don't think that would provoke this development.

Mr. Tobergte – My discussion with Mr. Geiser years ago about the emergency clause in all ordinances, he just said it's a standard practice that's in the ordinance but it does not take effect unless you pass it by emergency. So by going two or three readings, that three readings wipes that emergency clause out. That's my understanding, so be that Ed or Kate is not here, that's my understanding.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just a little bit better understanding, when Sue reads the ordinance she'll ask as far as a suspension and adoption. Suspension is suspending the second and third reading. If we don't all vote on suspending it then it won't go emergency, it'll take its regular course, which is a six week course where the audience would actually get to talk on it two weeks, two Council meetings and the third, which is the sixth week. It's sort of a done thing so you would actually have two weeks worth of discussing it and talking about it.

Mr. Zix – I have something else to add to that too, in emergency, we suspend with the second and third reading, it passes, it goes into effect immediately. If we go ahead with the second and third reading it takes thirty days I believe after that to go into effect. Also what we had planned to do, what we spoke on last week, was since there can only be two readings, and we get that third reading, there's no reading, we can then postpone that and if we feel that more people want to speak, we find out. That was the plan of Council is to give that opportunity to everybody.

Pam Kane – I appreciate that and I live in the area, I live on Harvey Ct. and I just urge Council to keep an open ear. I know it's our neck of the woods but I think for the betterment of St. Bernard, there are so many projects that could be done, we'd like to see done, and I think that this one would be one of those hidden, maybe even detrimental to the area albeit a good idea in theory, I guess just please listen and make decisions accordingly.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Thank you, I appreciate your comments and appreciate how you feel. I'm going to let you know that Kevin has gone over quite a few times about a public hearing meeting that we talked about last year at Council. We're all in agreement that that should happen, however, we didn't want to have a public meeting without something to demonstrate. When you say citizen input down there, absolutely, as soon as there are some renderings and drawings and ideas, absolutely, we will have town meetings for people to come and look at them and voice their opinion.

Dee Rutemiller, 220 Harvey Ct. – First I want to thank Kevin for all the work he did about getting the property up on Rose Hill. I went through that yesterday. It is absolutely gorgeous and it shows what can be done to the old homes in this community if the effort is put forth. The second thing, I have some questions, I know we have purchased some property with this redevelopment, I'd like to know how many pieces of property we have purchased and how much money we have spent so far?

Mr. Meier – I think the City has purchased three properties and there is one on Tower and two on Vine St. In addition to that, I think the total value of that was about \$300,000.00, in addition to that the City transferred \$1,000,000.00 to the CIC. The CIC in turn has been acquiring properties. They have a number that they have under contract that have not been closed on yet. Those properties are not owned by the City. They are owned by the CIC. As far as the properties actually owned by the City in recent transactions, it would be three. There would be the two buildings that are just to the north of the parking lot by St. Clement. One was an electronics gaming building and another and they're owned by Mr. Brickler and then there's the large white house on Tower. If I remember correctly, those are

the three that the City owns for \$300,000.00. In addition there is the \$1,000,000.00 granted to the CIC and they are acquiring properties but the City does not own those properties, the CIC owns those properties.

Dee Rutemiller – The other question I have is, who is going to pay for the demolition of these buildings, how much is this going to cost?

Mrs. Brickweg – Actually, at the CIC meeting last night it was announced that they have a grant through Hamilton County and that will pay for the demolition.

Dee Rutemiller – A grant, and how much is the grant for?

Mrs. Brickweg - \$69,000.00.

Dee Rutemiller – We're taking these buildings down, where are the plans for what is going to go there? We have no plans do we?

Mrs. Brickweg – Currently there are different things that are being worked on, one being, there's a project that's starting in the Spring Quarter of UC's School of Planning and School of Architecture to come up with an architectural theme and to come up with an idea of what we want to build. The idea is, and it might look a little bad for a while when we own a lot of buildings, but unless you own it you can't do anything with it. When municipalities start to revitalize the first thing is to obtain the properties and own it and then get what you want and start on the project. But yes there is a project that's going to be started on and they're basing their plan on the study that we had already had done in the past from UC and then they're going to get architectural renderings of what we want to do. That was all discussed at the CIC meeting and Al Kanters, the Economic Developer stated that possibly once they get the ball rolling that at the May CIC meeting that, which is open to the public, they will come in and give a presentation, but at the very end of the project they will give another presentation too on their ideas.

Dee Rutemiller – The other question I have is, if we have given them all this money, where actually is that money coming from? Is that coming from our reserve fund, where is this money coming from?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes, that money is coming from the reserve fund, but he, the Economic Developer, Council did say to him that that would be it. We would like to go out for some bond financing. Just my opinion is I absolutely do not want to drain the general fund for these projects, I'd rather go out and get some bond financing where we can spread it out ten, twenty, thirty years, which is what most municipalities do when they're going to do a big project like this and he has even stated, this could go up to ten million dollars. This is not going to be a cheap fix, we want to do it right and get it done. There was a company that came in and spoke to the Finance Committee called Sweeney Cartwright and we did get some information from them on some bond financing and the Finance Committee is going to be meeting to discuss that. Walt got some financing information from Fifth Third and Al Kanters said he's also going out for bids from a third one and

then the Finance Committee will discuss that and then Council would have to vote to go out to finance the money for the rest of the revitalization.

Dee Ruter Miller – One more question. When we passed that millage a couple of years ago, that comes up pretty soon doesn't it? Are we starting the third year for that renewal, would it be a renewal?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes.

Dee Ruter Miller – How much money did that generate? Can anybody tell me?

Mrs. Brickweg – I think it was about 1.2 million, I'm guessing on that but I'm almost sure that that's about what it was, 1.2 million a year.

Dee Ruter Miller – It has two more years till it comes up, is that right?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes.

Mr. Meier – Just for clarification and wait if I'm in error, please tell me, I think that when we issued the bonds, that the bonds, the proceeds from those can be used for the acquisition of property but I thought my understanding was that if we issue those bonds they cannot be used to replenish reserves that had already been spent for the acquisition of property, is that correct?

Mr. St. Clair – I don't think that's quite correct. For instance, we spent the money for the fire equipment before we actually got the bond money so, if I'm understanding correctly we used the bond proceeds to go back to the General Fund or am I misunderstanding what you're saying.

Mr. Meier – I was just trying to understand because I know when we had bonds issued for the swimming pool, my understanding that those bonds were different from some others because they had to be repaid back and I'm just trying to understand the distinction. I thought it was because if we already take the money out of reserve and buy the property then close on the property then issue the bonds, the question is can the proceeds from those bonds be used to replenish the reserves?

Mr. St. Clair – Yes, I think they can.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I think the way I understood it at the Finance Committee meeting with Sweeney & Cartwright, there are several different bonds that they described and there are some that can be used only for the purchases of what you intended them for. Then there are other bonds that you can have that you can replenish your General Fund with, you've already utilized that money. They talked about five, there are five different types of bonds. I do believe that there are quite a different few out there.

Mr. Zix – For instance, the model that came back is around a little more than a three million dollar bond finance and that's pointed at property acquisition, streetscape and revitalization. There's several different models that we can look at and make that decision.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to say something and this is just my personal opinion on this. When Mrs. Rutemiller brought up the tax levy, I have been asked that question before and what would happen with the tax levy when the voters go to vote on it again if it would fail. Just my personal belief, my personal belief is, I am upset that we voted it in for the reason we were told to vote it in when there really was not a financial crisis but as a citizen I would rather vote on that tax increase to revitalize my city and turn this City around and make it a great place where everybody wants to live which would also increase my property value. I would feel more confidently voting to renew the tax if I actually saw something happening, something being changed instead of people just talking about it. Like I said, this is just my personal belief but I have had other people tell me that they would vote for it again if they thought that money was going to be used toward the revitalization of our City and when we look at our budgets I would think that that's pretty much what the money would be used for.

Jeremy Judd, 213 Harvey Ct. – Does the City have a published plan for revitalization that the citizens have access to?

Mrs. Brickweg – Like I had said before, we're still working on a plan, the part right now is to purchase the property but there is a plan and it is available on the internet. I don't want to call it a plan, there was a study done by the U C Planning and there are a lot of suggestions in that. Those suggestions in that whole report are being used in starting the plan of the revitalization and you can download that off of the internet or I believe you can come down to City Hall and get a copy of it.

Jeremy Judd – Does part of that plan include a criteria that the City uses to approve projects that are part of the revitalization or for that matter any developmental projects in the City?

Mrs. Brickweg – As far as I know that is not part of that plan, that is not in there. Like Kevin had said before, the lower part like down by where you are, City Council has to approve anything being built. How it works is we have an Economic Developer who runs the CIC and the CIC is made up of members of Council, Administration and citizens and they are working on the revitalization plans and we'll approve them. Maybe Kevin can add more to that since he is on the CIC. I'm not a member of it.

Mr. Meier – I think the easy answer to that is the development of the City, the revitalization of the City is a charge of the CIC. The CIC is not part of the City however. It is an independent corporation. It is its own entity. There are discussions and one of the things that I have asked for and personally what I would like to see before we do anything, is what are we going to do, how much is it going to cost, what are we going to get when its finished and how are we going to pay for it? If you were to ask that specifically, the answer is no, we don't have those plans. We have ideas but we don't have the plans, we don't know how much it's going to cost. One of the concerns that I have is that we start a project, a very expensive project, if something were to happen to the person running then ideally I would like to have enough information that somebody else could step in and complete that plan without the originator and I don't think we're at that point. As far as the houses for the Philips Ave. project or the town homes that are to be

built there, I guess some of the concerns I have there is one, the people in the area don't necessarily want it, they don't want it. The second is the legality of actually transferring the property and I think the conversations and the opinions that we've had its pretty clear that it's not legal to transfer that park land. It's just a question to me, is it park land or not? One of the comments that was made and we're talking town homes in the three hundred thousand or maybe a little less than that price range is that there is a lack of commercial funding for those types of properties. Right now if you owned a construction company and you wanted to build something, you would either have to have your own money to build it or your units would have to be pre-sold so there's not any money out there. On speculation I actually talked with one of my friends in the commercial lending dept. at the bank to verify that and there is not any money available for that right now. One of the comments that Mr. Kanters made was that if we did a project like this it would be a good way of bringing people into the community and that somebody who came into the community to look at one of those town homes may say, well that's not right for me but here is this nice Victorian around the corner. To be honest, I don't think that somebody that's looking for a three hundred thousand dollar town home with no yard is going to be attracted by one of our ninety thousand dollar 70 year old home that needs a little bit of work. Ideally what I think that I would like to see is how the City is acquiring properties, especially problem properties is that we take the money and put the effort into developing those homes even if it causes demolition as to tear them down, and if we're going to build one of these green homes, one of these Leed Certified homes, build individual homes throughout the City so if you are bringing somebody into the City to look for that type of housing you're bringing them throughout the City. You're improving a lot of different neighborhoods and different blocks within the City. I think that is the idea. I don't necessarily agree that if you want to have plan drawn up that you have to transfer the property. I think if you go to any architect and ask them to draw up plans and if you're willing to pay for those plans they'll be very willing to draw them up for you. I think transferring the property and to say that you have to transfer the property before anybody will draw up those plans I don't think is entirely true. I think that if I'm an architect, if I'm in business, and you come to me with ideas for a project I'll tell you how much I'm going to charge you to draw up those plans and I don't know that it would necessarily bother me if whether you own the property or not. I can understand that at the beginning of a project that you may not own it. In short, there aren't any firm plans in place, the revitalization is being done by the CIC, the CIC is its own entity, the City has some influence but we cannot necessarily change things so what the CIC owns on Vine St. or anywhere else, as long as they meet codes, they can pretty much do whatever they want to do. I hope that explains or helps with your question.

Jeremy Judd – Sure, my question is really just about great ways to communicate to the citizens how projects will be developed, make public a set of criteria that projects must, that are used to approve projects and those would be set forth by the City and something that Council has voted on and then the citizens can see, oh here's the criteria that are going to be used to revitalize St. Bernard and then the citizens don't have to show up at Council meetings to be active, they can have a knowledge that we know what the City is doing, we understand what criteria, what their mission statement is

for revitalization and how these projects fit into that mission statement and into this criteria and then whether they agree or not. That's up to individual citizens but they know that Council has voted on this criteria and that when those projects come up to be evaluated that those criteria be used to evaluate those projects and certainly there's exceptions that may be made for one reason or another but citizens understand that those criteria will be used and so just in conclusion I would just suggest that Council maybe set forth to try to draw up some criteria or at least a mission statement that goes along with an overall plan that seems to already be in place which I hope the citizens download off the website and look at and try to come up with a consistent plan and set of criteria for projects.

Ms. Hausfeld – Forgive me sir, I did not catch your first name. Jeremy, thank you. Just to let you know where I am very open and welcome to suggestions and ideas from citizens because without you guy's input I wouldn't be doing my job but also the CIC which is ran by the Economic Developer, they do meet. I asked them if they could make a steady meeting time so that the citizens or us as Council members that are not on the committee could mark our calendars in case we could get to the meeting or would want to get to the meeting. They do meet the third Wednesday of each month @ 6:00p.m. if I'm not mistaken downstairs and it is open to the public. That is when they discuss some of the actual economics and stuff that they're doing with the City. Just to let you guys know in case you would like to come.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll ask you to bare with me. I was writing some notes down and like I said, I'm not a member of the CIC but I did attend the meeting and some of the things now that I've heard Kevin speak, there are some plans and some things that are being worked on. Part of the projects that they discussed in detail last night at the CIC meeting was the Nu-Maid property and he actually provided a map of the buildings that they are proposing to build and the three businesses that are in tentative agreement to come. They still have to work out a few details. Al Kanters explained that the buildings that they want to build would cost approximately eight million dollars to build. Part of the agreement would be when these companies if they do decide and sign on that the City will or excuse me the CIC will go out and hire somebody and pay and build the buildings and then it would be contracted with the businesses that they would actually purchase the building. So the CIC is not paying eight million dollars for those. So there is a plan there. It shows the buildings, it shows the parking spaces and he explained what the companies are and things like that. That's for Nu-Maid. He also explained that, and this includes the Canal Bed and some other areas that is out there, the CIC has hired a firm to do a market study of our City. They're going to study the Canal Bed and the Mitchell and Vine area. I'll explain that in a minute. They're doing a market study to see what our population is during the day, what our population is at night. What businesses, like restaurants would require for us to get them to come here and do a demographical study like that. So they are doing that. He also explained with the Canal Bed property that he was out talking to developers about that and if the City would convey the land over that he would hire developers and they would pay for the project but that's in the very beginning stages and like we said there is no layout or anything but he is looking and I think one of the main things the Economic Developer is

working on right now is getting the funding. What he needs, like grants and developers and people that want to invest. Another project discussed last night at the CIC was working with NANA in the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. They are discussing trying to redevelop the corner of Mitchell and Vine because we realize that most people that are coming into our community would be coming through there. If we could develop that, make that a much better appealing place and the people of North Avondale are saying the same thing, that they don't like the condition of it. They're going to the City for financing to buy up some property. CIC voted last night to do a study with them with U. C., with the schools at U. C. it would cost the CIC \$2,000.00 and North Avondale \$2,000.00, so a \$4,000.00 project to relook at all that and come up with plans for that so that is being looked at also. Al Kanters also stated that he is going out for bids from three different architectural firms to come in and render drawings for the projects. He sent them out for bids just on the Nu-Maid at this time but he explained to them that he would like to get one architectural firm to do everything, residential and commercial so he is out looking for bids on that and he is hoping to have bids back by the April meeting.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay St. – I got a question after listening to this, if we gave a million dollars to the CIC to buy property, why is this City buying its own property? And is it true that these properties are all bought from the same person, all three properties? Did we not displace two businesses by buying the ones on Vine St. I notice they're closed down now?

Mr. Zix – I might be able to answer that Mr. President. Yes, I think we started those projects out before we really got involved with the CIC buying property. Yes, there were actually three of them, two properties on Vine St., one on Tower owned by the same people. We bought all three of them Gerry on Vine St. or two out of three?

Gerry Wiedmann – Just two of them.

Mr. Zix – And so yes, we did displace businesses, but what we're hoping is to put them down to ground level and make the shovel ready and put some new businesses in there.

Tom Rolfsen – Why did they lose their businesses? Why couldn't they stay in there until you decide what you're going to do with them?

Mr. Zix – I think that's what we're trying to do is, we bought them empty, we bought them empty so we wouldn't have to pay relocation fees I believe is the reason.

Mrs. Brickweg – On the one business that you're talking about, I believe it was Phaze One or the hair cut place. I know Al Kanters was working to get them to rent another space but they decided not to do that. On the income tax building, he is working out an agreement because the St. Bernard Tax do a lot of individual returns, of moving down into the CPA business down in the St. Bernard Square because they do more of the corporate end. The idea is to bring them together so they can refer clients to each other, so our City did not lose that business, it is just moving down the street. The game room,

I don't know how much business that was bringing into the City. Unless I'm missing something those are the three businesses up there.

Tom Rolfsen – Okay, the other question is, is the City going to be buying more property on their own, not through the CIC?

Mr. Burkhardt – At this time Tom, no. There are no plans on the table at this time unless something was to come up.

Tom Rolfsen – What is the plan for buying the one on Tower Ave.?

Mr. Burkhardt – That was targeted property that had a lot of problems. It is run down and originally the City was just going to buy that property but Gerry in his infinite wisdom actually got three for the price of one, so he was able to get all three buildings from the one owner.

Tom Rolfsen – As Council, does it know how many houses are for sale in St. Bernard right now?

Mrs. Brickweg – The last I heard, 48.

Tom Rolfsen – Well that answers most of my stuff, but, thanks.

Mr. Burkhardt – Just one more thing, on the Canal Bed, everybody on Council should have received an email from Mr. Beringhaus on Philips Ave., just expressing his decent on the project also. Everybody, just for the record.

Mrs. Brickweg – I emailed him and I asked him if he did want his email read and I did gave him Sue's email address and he said at this point that he wasn't sure if he wanted his letter read but he was just glad that he got it passed on and he also wanted passed on that he is an IT person and he was offering his services for help with the website.

Mr. Burkhardt – Elaine has already emailed him and he sent back his information so we'll be in contact with him.

Mr. Zix – I would like to say one more thing about the CIC. The CIC is a partner of ours. It is a separate entity but is our developing, it's financial arm and our developer that we can develop property and make some improvements in St. Bernard. I'd also like to go back to some of the things that Kevin said, go back to the spirit of this ordinance is to be able to find out, to convey the property so we can find out what's happening. We do have the final say on Council that, what goes on this property and what will happen down there, so I think that the spirit of this ordinance is to convey the property and get some plans together so we can have the public hearing as Mrs. Bedinghaus said.

Bob Hausfeld, 4257 Bertus – Greg, I understand what you just said about the CIC being an arm of the City but it kind of sounds funny. Earlier tonight when I hear somebody up there saying, well we bought this and the City owns this and the CIC owns this and I mean that's hard for me to take when I know a million dollars of our money went to the CIC. I mean I understand

what you're saying but the way I look at it is its all the City. They're all answerable, the CIC answers back to you guys. That's not a big deal. Two quick things I wanted to ask you is with summer coming, I know that Vine St. and Mitchell is always a problem. Did we ever get a police camera down there or are we still working on that I know they're expensive and the last question was, I know it's the St. Bernard school's property but I brought this up a long time ago, but it just looks bad that set of steps going up Vine St. hill that end nowhere and its always muddy and glass up there and I brought it up a long time ago. I would just like to see the City go talk to the school and say, hey, let's either finish the steps or the City tears out their half of the steps because somebody is going to get hurt going down that hillside, you know, trying to make it to the steps, you know, so that's just a quick thing I want to say.

Mr. Chatman – One of his questions was about the camera at Vine and Mitchell. I'm not aware of a camera down there at this time, however, one of the things that I alluded to earlier with the traffic engineering company is to be, the technology that they have, can be set up to be activated by sound and it's designed to record accidents that when an accident or a loud noise triggers there it starts recording from ten seconds prior to that event to ten seconds after that or whatever parameter we set up. Without giving too much information before it could happen, one of the reasons I'm working on something with that intersection is because of some of the activity that is not related to traffic down there that we can kind of incorporate into using that technology to help us on more than one front if that, I can't give too much of that but that is one of the things I'm working on.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I just have a quick question. Last week Don Tobergte brought forward a security camera for Centennial Hall, for security so that we can keep that in the pool rentals. Have we made a decision on that Mayor?

Mr. Burkhardt – No, we haven't, not yet, I'm still working on other solutions at this point but I am taking that into consideration.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Do you know when we can have an answer because I've had citizens ask when that may be coming back into the pool?

Mr Burkhardt – I'd say by the end of April. I'll probably have something more concrete.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay, thanks.

Mr. Tobergte – Mr. Burkhardt, can that hall be rented now or not?

Mr. Burkhardt – As of April 1<sup>st</sup> there will be no rentals in there at that time.

Mrs. Brickweg – The next COW will be Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30p.m..

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