

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

July 11th, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on July 11th, 2024, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed six members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson and Mr. Estep

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the written minutes of the June 27th, 2024, council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Kate Krauss, St. Bernard Public Library- Hello everyone. Thank you for inviting me. Yeah, I wanted to give you an update on the library. We have a lot of the traditional services that you might be familiar with like the library books research, but we can have items that are not as Saint Bernard sent in from any of the locations in the Cincinnati Hamilton County Public Library system. So, if you want to research a book that we don't have there, we could have it sent from the main library downtown. It usually takes about three to five days, and it comes in a delivery truck and will be on hold for a customer. Sometimes customers aren't aware of this. If there's something that you want that we don't have in our system, we can borrow it from other libraries systems in Ohio. It takes longer to get here but that is available also. We also provide some new services that people may not be aware of. We have computer access since everything is online and digital now. People are coming in to update resumes, get their paystubs, fill out job applications all online. We are offering a program called Tech Tuesdays where we are teaching people how to use these devices and programs like Microsoft. We will fax for free to anywhere on the United States and we also can scan to email. We also offer printing services up to 20 color copies and 32 black and white copies per day. We have a lot of updated technology. We are offering a bunch of fun activities geared towards children including a meal service for the youth at 2pm in the summer and preschool time which is on Wednesdays at 10:30am. We are offering a summer reading challenge to keep children engaged to keep their mind going. We are starting an adult easy crafting group that will be Saturdays at 4pm. We have activity kits that are called Takes and Makes which include activities for kids. The plant swap was a great success. We will be hosting another plant swap August 17th at 3pm. Some people have been asking about activities for autistic children. As of right now, we don't have anything specifically planned but there is an upcoming event at Monfort Heights on Saturday the 13th at 10:30am which will be a sensory story time. We are definitely open to more ideas. We had a fun zoo day where we had live penguins in February, from the Cincinnati Zoo. We will have another zoo visit in the upcoming school year. Lots of fun. We are going to host a Seniors Club, but we are still working on time and details. We have had comment about teens hanging out outside the branch. If you ever see something going on outside the branch, please call us so we can address the situation. Please let us know. 513-369-4462 dial 2 and you will be on the line with one of us and let us know. We also have a meeting room people can book for free, so if you have any clubs looking for a space to me or wanted to maybe start a club, we are here to help. Any questions? The main library will be reopening next Wednesday and we will also be opening later, until 8pm on Wednesdays

starting next week. We will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until 8pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 6pm and Sunday we are open till 5pm.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Is there a newsletter to find out about all the activities?

Kate Krauss- Yes, if you go the website, click on events, you can see what's going on by location, you can look at all the events in the county, or the age group. The library also has Discovery passes which gives you access to the Cincinnati Museum Center, The Harriet Becher Stow House and a few other locations, like the sculpture park, and you can get a free admission for it. That information is also on the library's website. I believe the Sign Museum is included too. We also have a calendar of events for the month in the St. Bernard Branch. Please feel free to call us and we will be happy to help, 513-369-4462 dial 2. Thank you.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I'd like to thank all those attended the Village of Saint Bernard's Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 6th. We had incredible weather, and it was a huge turnout. The Remains did a great job entertaining us up until our awesome fireworks display, which some shared with us was better than Blue Ash. Our community showed up and we will commit to reserving Rozzi for next year and I am glad to do the same for the band, The Remains, because they were very perfect fit. Thank you to our fabulous volunteers, recreation service, police and fire departments for helping make this such a great event. As you probably seen, there is some graffiti at the old Long John Silver's property on the wall. Our fabulous investigator, Keith Ingram, is making progress on this case and has identified the subjects that were involved. Charges will be filed, and restitution will be made for the damage. A painting of the wall should be done next week. The cooling center will be activated for Monday, July 15th and Tuesday, July 16th and the main all of the municipal building. It will be open from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM and we'll have bottled water available as well. If it needs to be extended into Wednesday, we will notify you. I would also like to report on the status of the shopping center since there seems to be some misinformation being distributed. Currently, the CIC is working with a relocation specialist to assist us in finding a suitable location for one remaining tenant. The exact time frame for this to happen cannot be defined, but we're working diligently to make this happen so that we can go out for bid on the demolition. We want to make this a clean site for development which will be more attractive for the chosen developer. The Village of Saint Bernard was the recipient of a redevelopment grant from Hamilton County in the amount of \$339,000, which is still available for this purpose. Is an additional application that is pending approval for this year that will assist in this project as well. We will be covering the windows and painting the former Boost Mobile windows to better blend in during this idle time before demolition can take place. For those that would like to have more information about the CIC the next meeting is on Tuesday, July 23rd at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. Also, our Garden Club asked me to make an announcement regarding the Beautify Saint Bernard competition. Saint Bernard Garden Club is sponsoring a competition for beautiful yards this month. There are 10 yards registered. You can vote for your favorite yard at website at www.stbernardgardenclub.org from July 14th through the 31st or by voting in person at City Hall. Look for the cute little house

ballot box. The winner will be announced on August 3rd and the top three yards will receive a sign to display in their yards until September 30th. First place will receive the Golden Gnome to display in their yard. Get out there and vote for your favorite yard.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- The two 2023 audit has been completed and it turned out to be a perfect audit and it is available on the State Auditor website. I would like to invite the Fire Chief to come up and assist me with some of the items that I have. The first item will be that the fire department received a BWC safety grant in the amount of \$10,125.83 which we put into the general checking account. So, I'm asking for an ordinance to appropriate the money into 7-A-8-13 Fire Department Equipment outlay so they can use it to purchase items. We need to prepare for the next meeting, a contract to approve a new fire truck and the money to pay for it. I'm going to let him explain that next. I am asking for two separate ordinances. So, one would approve the contract and the other would appropriate the additional funds.

Fire Chief Young- OK, so the BWC Grant, I'll start with that. Did she mention that was by a new turn out gear dryer? So anytime we have a fire now we're supposed to wash our turn out here afterwards. Currently we have to let it sit in a room for like 3 days and we change shift every three days. So, this dryer will allow us could that dry in four hours. So, it's a \$12,000 purchase, what we responsible for about \$1200 though the rest is going to be paid for by BWC. The new ladder truck, I met with the budget committee on last Tuesday to discuss with them. So, our 2008 truck is due to be replaced, so we're working with them to get a new one. We are looking into a 2027 ladder truck. We're changing kind of the concept of what we're doing with it. It'll be a rear mount as opposed to a mid-mount; I'm sure doesn't make a lot of sense to you. With the ladders off the back and not the front. It's much more usable for residential purposes. We've had several scenarios, and the mayor witnessed a couple of them where we've not been able to use our ladder truck due to the proximity of the ladder. And our mutual aid companies had to flatter the buildings for us, so this will alleviate those problems. The base price of the vehicle is \$1,608,625.00. I am asking that we put a \$25,000.00 buffer in there to cover any changes or additions. I will have the final price before the next council meeting. I want to ask for the appropriation not to exceed \$1,630,625.00. We can do this on a three-year payment plan. If we do the payment plan, we will save \$75,485.00 by doing three equal payments over the three years. The savings are included in the price I quoted you. The payments will be about \$545,000. These payments would start in 2024 and the truck would be delivered some time in 2027. If anyone wants to see I have pictures. Any questions?

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place an ordinance for the contract of the new firetruck and an appropriation ordinance for the firetruck on the agenda for next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- My apologies to anyone has been trying to get ahold of me via email. I have been locked out due to the system upgrade. I prepared Ordinance 22 2024 which addresses the double negative in 905.04 of the codified ordinances. I also see Ordinance 19 2024 did not get corrected because it is going regular course, not emergency. I will update that before the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to add Ordinance 22 2024 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Absent.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- Good evening. Just briefly, I wanted to first thank the Mayor and Tom Paul and all the village employees that I've met so far for a warm welcome. It's been very nice and welcoming to come into the village and everybody seems to at least be patient with me, because I'm learning a lot. I tell people that I came from a place where I knew just about everything, about everything. And I've come to a place where I know nothing about everything. So please be patient with me. And I do appreciate everybody's friendliness. Second is an economic development update. The mayor and I, along with 2 members from alloy which is our economic development contractors met with BASF today to look at the progress they are making on the new development they are building. The facility over there is very impressive. They are adding a \$70 million project there. It is good for the village although I don't know if we will see a huge number of employees there, but that is a positive thing for the village to retain. They did mention they are having an issue with work force, which I think is a problem across the country. They are having trouble recruiting employees, but they are hiring at entry level positions at \$28.00 an hour. They seem like a great company so please I am encouraging people to look into that.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President, the Finance Committee met last week to discuss payment plans for a new fire truck, as well as some updates from the mayor on current and upcoming street repair projects. On that note, I'd like to share my appreciation for this committee since we've wrapped up discussion on three primary topics during our chart so far, the street sweeper and unloader and fire truck. Before making any decision to support an expense, we leverage expert insight to explore and refine various options. This includes researching many grant opportunities that's mostly conducted by the mayor, comparing payment plan options and thinking strategically to ensure that we maintain our villages strong financial health. I do want to thank the members of the committee as well as our mayor, auditor, Fire Chief, foreman and other community members who have engaged in this strategic process so far. Separately, I want to thank those who have attended Community Connects. Engaged residents create strong communities, so thank you for playing a role in building hours. The next Community Connect is scheduled for Thursday, August 1st from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. I always welcome suggestions for the location of these monthly town halls, so please feel free to e-mail or message me with suggestions that.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- For the month of June, the Service Department had:

- 37 dump trucks placed at residences.
- 20 dumpsters were placed at residences.
- 301 special pick-ups at residences.
- 152.7 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.
- 19.8 tons of recycling material collected.
- 180 pounds of aluminum cans collected.
- 7,780 pounds of scrap metal collected.

The Service Department would like to inform residents on an update to the maintenance work of the larger section of the dog park at Ross Park. The grass seed planted within the park has begun taking root and the park should be reopened by the end of this month.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President, There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting. However, I'd like to congratulate the mayor and recreation department and everyone else involved in the 4th of July celebration. The food and music were great. The fireworks were fantastic. Everyone had a great time. The charity end of the fireworks was deafening. Where else can a community of a little over 4000 people pull off such a great event? Thank you for your efforts, it was much appreciated by probably about 1000 people.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report. Thank you to everyone who helped on the 4th of July Celebration. It was awesome to see the fireworks again and the band was awesome also.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- The next Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting is set for at 7:00 PM in Council chambers. On the agenda are short- and long-term rentals and. Also, my family had a great time at the 4th of July Celebration, it was great.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- We are just over three weeks away from Saint Bernard's famous German Luau. The event takes place on Friday, August 2nd. Saturday, August 3rd. On Friday we have the musical group The Naked Karate Girls performing from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. On Saturday the event will kick off with the parade starting at 12:30. Also on Saturday, the group Velvet Crush will perform from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Other activities include games of Chance, kid's games, food trucks, Fresh Market and a dog costume contest. Other events happening in the next few weeks include the following. On Saturday, July 20th there will be concert in the Pavilion featuring Dangerous Jim in the slums. On Friday, July 26th we will have Family night at the Aquatic Center. Also on Friday, July 26th is the Ben Strong Blood drive from noon to 6pm at the main level of the municipal building.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I am getting complaints from the neighbors who live behind Girl Scout Lane about the rats around the dumpster coming up the hill into their yards. On a positive note, the fireworks were great, and it was a great crowd.

No audience participation.

Next Council meeting is July 25th at 7pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.