

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 8th, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on August 8th, 2024, in Council Chambers.

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

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the written minutes of the July 25th, 2024, council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda is to discuss Ordinance 19 2024. Would anyone like to share their thoughts?

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Like I reiterate from last council meetings. It's not that I'm trying to debacle this ordinance, I just totally think that it needs to be a little bit more polished. I do believe there should be an attendance policy for all city officials and council members and elected officials and appointed positions should be included all in one ordinance. I think it was stated at the last meeting, if we're doing a third of our pay, how can we do 1/3 of a pay of somebody that's making a lot more than we are, which I totally get that. That's why I think that it should be a dollar amount per each thing. There is more to being a member of this administration, appointed or elected. There is more to being a council member than just showing up at 2 meetings a month. There are other meetings for each department that has their own meetings. There are other outside events like German Luas, 4th of July. You know, just different things like that plus. Council members are not just attending two meetings a month for our pay. When I worked at Walgreens, people came in all the time to talk to me about city level things. I am always available, and my phone is always on, and my front door is always open for any resident who would like to speak with me. I think a third of our pay to be deducted for missing a meeting is not fair. Some people will miss a meeting because they are sick or covid or on vacation. I have been on council 18 years and have only missed 4 meetings because I was talking care of my mother, I was in the hospital, I had covid and the fourth time I was working when an emergency meeting was called. I just think there needs to be more consideration for this ordinance, that is why I am not for this current ordinance. One more thing, just because somebody thinks I just debacled this at the last meeting, they are so sadly mistaken because I did talk to Chris Schildmeyer about it and I did read it over, maybe not thoroughly, but it was supposed to be discussed at the last COW meeting but then it was never discussed. That is why I brought my concerns up at the second reading. I just want the residents to have a clear picture of what is happening.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- So before I state my comments, I just want to make it very clear that Patty, I don't want to use you and by any means and any of these examples. And I want to really focus on this specific ordinance and not your performance by any means. I just want to preface that I don't want any of this to come across that you are the example in some of these

rebuttals. I think the opposite. I think this could be stricter. That opinion that I hold that was clarified at the last meeting is not enough for me to vote no on this and strike it down altogether. I still think that this should be passed. Some of the points that you brought up about how we can't apply the same cookie cutter solution to council as administration I 100% agree with. That's why I think that an attendance policy for administration should be a different ordinance than this one because our standards, the hours we work, and the nature of our roles are so different. I think that we can advance with this and then also reopen the conversation, have a separate ordinance to hold administration accountable to similar but not the same standards. This ordinance is only accounting for COW meetings and council meetings.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- I don't want to kick this poor dead horse any further, but I said from the beginning it should be for all elected and appointed officials. It should be consistent as far as a dollar amount. I think the percentage is unfair. I think if you are going to do this across the board, a dollar amount is more equitable for everyone. But let's move on.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I am going to throw my opinion in. I've been through this plenty of times. The reason that you, the council members, at council meetings and COW meetings is to make the decision. You guys are the ones that have to pass the ordinances. Anybody else down here, their input is needed, at committee of the whole when we're getting the ordinances ready. But they don't necessarily ever have to be at a meeting. They are here if you have questions or need guidance on ordinances coming up. We can go back to four meetings a month, which nobody wants to do. But most of my life we had four meetings, two committee holes, 2 council meetings. It's not necessary and that's why we changed it to just one and one. But like Connor said, this is a very good start. At least it gives you a guideline, but we'll just go from there.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Miss Hausfeld, for volunteering for the luau for next year. We'll be very pleased when we have council there for the setup and teardown, so I'll be looking forward to that. We appreciate you joining the committee. So again, I am forever grateful to our community for helping with another great event in the Village of Saint Bernard. Would not have been possible without the incredible recreation service, police and fire departments, our sponsors, our volunteers, our community organizations and nonprofits, and of course, all of our wonderful patrons who came out to support the 2024 Saint Bernard German Luau. Keeps getting better each year and we're committed to improving the experience for everyone, so thank you. Just as a reminder, the Saint Bernard Community Yard Sale is being held this weekend. Mark your calendars for again the Community Yard Sale being held Saturday, August 10th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. In case of inclement weather, the rainout day will be Sunday, August 11th. Check social media pages for the weather reports, and you're welcome to participate even if you didn't sign up. You'll find a list of participating addresses at City Hall, the local social media pages, and in today's new Digital Village newsletter. Thank you to Shelly Batch for organizing this event. Lastly, this may seem repetitive, but I'm just kind of reading the same thing when I'm asking for. Lastly, the Village of Saint Bernard will be entering into a joint agreement between the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio and the Village of Saint Bernard to administer a community Realization Grant award for property

development. The Village of Saint Bernard was awarded a \$200,000 grant and this project is for the continuation of the redevelopment of the former Saint Bernard Shopping Center on Vine Street in the heart of the business district. Funding helps cover the cost of property acquisition to allow for free and clear ownership of 4901 Vine St. This acquisition practice will ensure the progression and completion of the critical community development, a project that will add density, encourage economic growth and be a callus for future development. I am asking for an ordinance to be placed on the table for an agreement between the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners and the Village and an appropriation ordinance for the \$200,000, as this is a reimbursement grant.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to add both ordinances for the Hamilton County grant and the appropriation ordinance to the table. Motion passes 6-0.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Absent.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- I've been working on the Airbnb short term rentals ordinance and some changes on the ordinance for vacant properties. We're going to be discussing this at the next Laws Contracts and Claims Committee, which I believe is the 20th of August.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- Absent.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- I did want to take a moment to recognize Don Middendorf from the Service department again this meeting, and I promise I won't do this every meeting, but I did have a citizen stop me and complimented Don and the service department employees for a sidewalk repair that was made in front of their house. They indicated that it was done quickly and professionally, so I did want to make public comment about that. I also wanted to recognize the work of the police department and in particular the investigator Keith Ingram for finding the graffiti artist that defaced the wall at the end of clay street and obtaining restitution for the village, The graffiti has now been removed and we've been reimbursed or in process of being reimbursed for those some of those costs. And then finally, as a follow up to the issue that was raised by Mrs. Blevins at the last council meeting, I wanted to inform everyone that we've worked with the owner of the Shur Fine property to get permission to install stop signs and pavement markings to assist with traffic calming in the parking lot. Some of you may have seen that's already started. Additionally, we have ordered speed cushions that will be installed that should help with slowing traffic utilizing Girl Scout Lane as a cut through, and I'd like to publicly thank the owners of the property and their property manager for agreeing to reimburse the village for the cost of those speed cushions.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- July 2024 end of month receipts

- Tax collections for July 2024: \$588,647.00.
- July 2024 is down 11.13% or \$73,753 from July 2023.
- Refunds for July: -\$108.67.
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1,244.47.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$23,297.33.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- The Finance Committee meeting scheduled for next week has been canceled due to no agenda topics warranting a meeting at this time. The next Finance Committee Meeting is set for September 18th at 6PM in the Lower Level of City Hall. Thank you to those who attended the August Community Connect at Ross Park. We fortunately dodged the rain and had great discussions about supporting the collaboration of local businesses, parking laws, a recommendation to have a mental health specialist in our Police Department, and trash can placement. Each of these concerns and recommendations has been forwarded to the chairs of their related committees to be addressed. Folks also brought up a concern for pedestrian safety and accessibility around the Village. To address this, I've taken the first steps in organizing a Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Audit. If you want to help, make our streets and sidewalks safer and more accessible, I'm looking for volunteers to go block-by-block to mark down opportunities. I encourage volunteers to not worry about a huge time commitment towards this audit. I can tailor the audit to however much time you can give. The next Community Connect has been rescheduled so we can host it at our local library branch and accommodate their open hours. All of those who live or work in the Village are encouraged to attend at the St. Bernard Library on September 4th from 6-7PM.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President, I have the totals for garbage recycling for the first half of 2024 from January to July. 37 30-yard dumpsters totaling 1110 yards of garbage 11 30-yard dumpsters of yard waste totaling 330 yards of yard waste and 174.32 tons of recycling materials have been collected. 274 trips were made to the landfill totaling 1,250.06 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. I'd also like to thank Don Middendorf and all the service department employees for their efforts with the set up and tear down of the German law this past weekend. The event would not have been as successful if it were not for their help. Thank you.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- There was no need for a public Improvement committee meeting, but I would like to comment on our last council meeting when Miss Rebecca Blevins spoke on the dangers of cars not fully stopping our stop signs. I've noticed this occurring at multiple intersections myself. Peggy commented on the possibility of having one officer focused on the problem. I thought of Norwood Police Auxiliary. I reached out to Norwood this past week and was put in contact with Lieutenant Bud Rich and he's the head of their program. I was disappointed to find out the auxiliary cannot write tickets for moving violations but was told of other duties that could free up our officers from more important duties. Some auxiliary duties include traffic-controlled events, security at sporting events, security at our parks. They may become RC IC certified to run license plates, investigate parking complaints and write parking tickets. They do prisoner transports and block streets for accidents. If our village is to ever implement this program, it could start with just one part time officer with police experience. Lieutenant Rich is full time and does have other duties. He handles the evidence room; he handles fleet maintenance on their police vehicles. This is just information for our administration and council to use that this type of program was ever considered. And I'd like to thank Lieutenant Rich for generously giving me this time. Thank you.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- I think I reported out on the last meeting for laws, concerts and claims in the previous council meeting. The next meeting is set, as Valerie said, for August 20th, 7:00 PM in Council chambers. Right now, on the agenda is short- and long-term rentals. I think we declined to take up anything new on the noise ordinance. So, we've taken that off the agenda. We are also discussing the vacant properties and adding that to the agenda. That you to the recreation department and service department for their help with the German Luau. Thank you to Thomas Fox for his fast ball that put me in the dunk tank.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- No report, but thank you to all the departments who helped out with the for the German Luau, it was a lot of fun. Get well soon Ray Culbertson.

No audience participation.

Next Council Meeting will be held Thursday, August 22nd at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to excuse the absent member. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.