

**VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed all seven 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 dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you, Mr. President. As we close out this year with our final council meeting of 2024, I wanted to reflect for a moment on what a great year this was. I am forever grateful for everyone who contributes to making our village such a special place and it starts with all of you, our citizens, our community volunteers, our incredible employees from the Fire, Police, Recreation, and Service Departments, our Councilmembers, and our village administration here at city hall. I am thankful for what we have been able to accomplish and I truly appreciate our awesome team who continually strive to make St. Bernard what it is. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. I think you have table tonight is Ordinance 36 2024. This is our year end appropriation ordinance. It has an additional appropriations and decrease in appropriations. The additional appropriations total \$172,813.86 which I would guess a lot of that will not even be spent it's just to cover us to the end of the year and it decreases the appropriations by \$684,681.06. I ask council to please approve this tonight. Thank you that concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- thank you. You have you before you this evening several ordinances, two of which are having their second reading. It's the property maintenance ordinance also known as the short-term rental ordinance and vacant properties ordinance. As I said they are up for their second readings. I would ask that you also suspend the third readings so those can be passed this evening. You also have before you ordinance 38 2024 which I we discussed at the committee of the whole. I did get back word from the State of Ohio. They had no substantive changes to exhibit A which I provided you with at the committee of the whole. I

did make some of the numbering more consistent with our current chapter 1331 which it will replace. It largely changes several things and adds whole new things that the state required. We do need to use the language that has been provided by the state and approved by the state. I'd like you to pass it tonight by emergency ordinance. I'm sorry I saw a typo I didn't catch. Caroline if you look in the attestation it refers to ordinance #30 it should be #38 so if we could just make that change. If anyone has any questions otherwise, that concludes my report thank you.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- thank you. First off, I got notification from ODOT, if there are any residents planning to travel on the Norwood Lateral tonight, there will be lane closures both eastbound and westbound between the Reading and Montgomery Road exits. I think they're keeping one lane open both ways but there will be some lane closures so I thought that might be of interest to some residents. Next, I wanted to follow up and let council know that we and unfortunately, we're not successful in our OWC grant application that I referenced in the previous meetings for resurfacing portions of Tower Ave and Washington Ave. in the latest grant cycle. We will continue to work to try to find grant dollars to assist with paving roads and keeping that work going. There are two pieces of legislation for consideration tonight that kind of originated from me. There is the budget ordinance and the second is an emergency ordinance to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the police union. I did want to express my thanks to the bargaining committee from the police for their collaborative approach in coming to this agreement. Finally, congratulations to all the public safety personnel who are going to be honored tonight. Thanks in advance to all the city personnel who will be working to deliver the valuable and necessary services to the community over the upcoming holidays while many of us are at home enjoying family time. I want them to know that their work is appreciated so that will conclude my report.

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

Tax collections for November 2024: \$598,469.

November 2024 is up 6.51 % or \$36,563 from November 2023.

Refunds for November: -\$3043.02

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1093.48.

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$3916.56.

The tax office revenue for 2024 will be roughly 12.4 million. I will have the final numbers in January 2025.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President. We have the 2025 Budget in front of Council tonight, rounding out a year of ordinances regarding our Village's finances. I want to thank our Safety Service Director, Tim Werdman, Mayor Jonathan Stuchell, and Auditor Peggy Brickweg

for their contributions to putting this budget together. I also want to thank my co-committee members, Councilman Jeff Edwards and Councilman Chris Schildmeyer for their perfect attendance and effort towards this year full of Finance Committee meetings. I want to also thank SBEP Assistant Principal, Mr. Trent White, for his eagerness and collaboration towards increasing youth voter registration at the high school. Each student eligible to vote in the upcoming November General Election will receive a voter registration form through their government class. Through this initiative we hope to soon lead the county in youth voter registration. Lastly, I'd like to ask for time on the agenda during the January 9th Committee of the Whole for an Ohio Energy Alliance representative to speak to council on the feasibility of energy aggregation.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you. For the waste collection report for the month of November 2024, the Service Department completed the following:

22 dump trucks placed at residences.

24 dumpsters placed at residences.

202 special pick-ups for residents.

166.06 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.

21.3 tons of recycling material sent to Rumpke Recycle

4 car batteries recycled.

3,140 lbs. of scrap metal were recycled.

The Service Department would like to share the following updates with residents:

Tomorrow, Dec. 20th will be the last day for leaf collection. After that please bag your leaves and place them at the curb on your regularly scheduled garbage day.

Residential trash collection will not be affected during the week of Christmas (beginning December 23rd) and New Year's (beginning December 30th).

Business trash collection will be deferred to the next day following Dec. 25th and Dec. 31st.

After the holidays, the Service Department will be out with their woodchipper to collect Christmas trees. This service will run for two weeks, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Residents wishing to dispose of their trees are encouraged to place them at the curb during these times.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. I would like to thank the St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Society for presenting another entertaining and informative program this month. This month the program was on the Holiday Trains that started at CG&E in 1948 and has fascinated so many kids during the Christmas Season for 75 years. We were told how B&O

railroad started this tradition with a contest for train enthusiasts to build authentic trains and enter to win a prize. Over the years the exhibit got bigger and bigger and now has been moved to the Museum Center. The display will still be open until January 6th, 2025 so you still have time to make it a new family tradition if you haven't already.

Since it's the last Council Meeting of this year I would like to thank all those in our Administration, our village employees and all those volunteers who make our Village so special. I would also like to thank our local businesses for being such an important part of our community and I believe next year will be even a better year for our Village. I want to wish everyone in our Village a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have the police activity report for last month. Until October the Police Department had 470 total contacts involving 610 calls for service. There were an additional 358 other services details that were not necessarily called into by the public. These calls for service included 40 total criminal offences resulting in 78 criminal arrests 50 traffic citations as well as 62 traffic warnings. These traffic contacts 20 were for speeding violations and there were four arrests for OVI's. Also, they responded to 17 accidents, one of which included injuries. We also responded to 27 requests for mutual aid. Under Chief Simos' news and notes: This is a reminder to please lock your vehicles and remove anything of value and or make ensure that they are not in plain view. This includes any money or loose change. There has been an increase in this type of criminal activity countrywide and locking your vehicle potentially helps protect you from being a victim and also aids our Police Department. With this being said, I did ask Chief Simos to answer any questions or any comments anything like that from not only council but the general public and he is here if anybody has any questions.

Chief of Police, Chief Simos- Good Evening, I can shed some light on this if you'd like if you have questions. I'm not going to come up here and push blame on victims or try to aid in this from happening. Bottom line is zero crime is unrealistic. We all share the same goal with the men and women that work for your Police Department. I would hold them up against any department in this county and they will do anything I asked them to do. We are facing what is seemingly an unwinnable task in fighting crime in general. Just to let you know, we'll just go back to Thanksgiving, we've had 19 of these types of offenses and 15 of which were unlocked vehicles. We have begged and pleaded and posted on our website, please lock your car doors. We take all crime personally, department wide. It bothers every one of them. I have been a victim twice since I have been chief. I had an emergency and left my car doors unlocked and the next day my car had been gone through. My house has also been broken into, so I get it. This is not due to a lack of effort. We have seven personnel that are crime scene certified. That's 7 out of 19 people. No other department has that many people. That better our opportunity to solve crime. The support of the community and this administration keeps us going in this trying job. With these 19 offences since Thanksgiving, majority of them happened on two nights. I have been keeping Mr. Werdmann and the mayor updated on other ideas we have had to try. I am not

trying to scare anyone and say it is not going to get better, it may or may not get better. With the new incoming county prosecutor, I hope I've never been more wrong. Time will tell. But we did find the vehicle responsible for majority of those two nights which was actually a stolen vehicle from Cheviot. The vehicle did take off and we could not pursue further. We lost them. We have had window broken and damaged also. Keep in mind, this is going on in other municipalities. Some on a larger scale. I just want everyone to know what we are up against. We are doing everything in our power to try to prevent this. Please call if you see anything and please keep your doors locked to vehicles and homes.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I want to thank Chief Simos for coming in and explaining what is going on around the village. Thank you. I also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- No report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- Thank you everyone for your support for our needy kids and thank you for your donations. We collected over 300 toys which will stay local to St. Clement.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. Minutes were submitted December 18<sup>th</sup> and I have no communications this evening.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to place Ordinance 39 2024 on the table for tonight. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 30, 2024

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING TITLE THREE, CHAPTER 1340, REGISTRATION OF VACANT RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 30 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 30 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 31, 2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1335, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 31 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 31 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 35, 2024 AUTHORIZING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 35 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 35 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 36, 2024

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 36 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 36 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 37, 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND ESTABLISHING NEW LINE ITEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 37 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 37 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 38 2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1331, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 38 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 38 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 39, 2024

ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT MADE BETWEEN THE  
VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, AND ST. BERNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS  
AND SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS - AS AMENDED, AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 39 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 39 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business?

No audience participation.

The next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.

## SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF FIRE AND POLICE

Listed below are the members of the Fire and Police Departments who were sworn in on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### Fire Department

	Hire Date	Prom. Date
Captain Jonathan Goecke		4/3/2024
Lieutenant Joe Meister		4/29/2024
Fire Marshall Eric Lett	9/8/2021	12/9/2024
Engineer Ryan Case		3/6/2023
Engineer Austin Luken	11/16/2022	9/13/2024
FF/Medic Casey Ballman	5/6/2020	
FF/Medic Charlie Weghorn	5/6/2020	
FF/Medic Benjamin Stoeppel	5/6/2020	
FF/Medic Jeffrey Martini	5/6/2020	
FF/Medic Andrew McKee	8/26/2020	
FF/EMT Cameron Young	5/10/2023	
FF/EMT Michael Matheson	8/9/2023	
FF/Medic Gregory Melton	1/11/2024	
FF/EMT Joshua Coletta	2/21/2024	

### Police Department

Lieutenant Shane Moore		1/19/2022
Lieutenant Alex Mathis		1/1/2023
Sergeant Mike Matheson		1/1/2023
Sergeant Mike Potrafke		1/1/2023
Sergeant C.J Mottitt		1/1/2023
Sergeant Robert Bast	4/26/2023	11/15/2024
Officer Lucas Barrow	6/17/2020	
Officer Alex Wachendorf	7/28/2021	
Officer Warlin Compres	9/5/2022	
Officer Ryan Jackson	11/27/2022	
Officer Monica Jagoditz	4/19/2023	
Officer John Hubbard	5/22/2023	
Officer James Savage	5/29/2024	