

# VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

## COUNCIL MEETING

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on July 25<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. Moreton, 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 OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- We are actively gearing up for the biggest event of the year in Saint Bernard. On Friday, August 2nd and Saturday, August 3rd is the Saint Bernard German Luau. It will be held right outside here in the heart of the village. The German Luau entertainment lineup on Friday, August 2nd, the festival kicks off with the Keg Tapping at 5:30 on center stage right here on Washington Ave. Also, the main line event will be the Naked Karate Girls. They will be playing from 7:00 to 11:00 and Center Stage. On Saturday, August 3rd we have the Fresh Market vendors from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Washington Ave. by the school board lot. Also, we have the German Luau Parade at 12:30. The route is available and will be in the newsletter tomorrow. Also, it is on the Facebook page for the luau. We also have the on Saturday the dog costume contest at 1:30 center stage and then we have the Aquila Island dancing group from 2:00 to 2:45. Then on Saturday, we have Route 61 Happy Wanderers from 3pm to 6pm center stage and then we will be having on Saturday from 6 to 6:15 the Bill Helton proclamation declaring Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Helton Day in the Village. We will then have Velvet Crush from 7:00 to 11:00, will have kids' games Friday from 5:00 to 10:00, Saturday 2:00 to 10:00. And we will also be having the Saint Bernard Celebrity Dunk Booth on Friday from 6 to 9 and Saturday from 5 to 9. Yours truly will be there on Friday from 8:00 to 8:30 so bring your money and also Saturday from 5:00 to 5:30. Also a couple other key points of course. Currently the German Luau merchandise is available for pre-order. The deadline for personalized items is midnight July 30th. Non personalized items will be available for purchase at the event and the link is available on the Luau Facebook page and will be available in the special edition newsletter that's gonna be going out tomorrow. Also volunteers for the German luau are greatly needed again. The Saint Bernard German Luau is a large effort and we do need any of any help that we can get. If you're willing to help us out, please look for opportunities. On Thursday, August 1st at 7:00 PM, we'll be moving and setting up tables and chairs in the tent. On Friday starting at 1:00 PM is setting up booths at equipment. Friday from 5:00 PM to midnight we will be needing individuals that are willing to assist with trash and ice and Saturday again from 2:00 PM to to midnight, trash and

ice. On Sunday at 10:00 AM we'll be tearing down tables, chairs, and booths. If you interested you simply can show up or check the recreation booth where the beer tickets are being sold, or if you have any questions, you can call or text Chris Sauer at 513-235-8104. I personally want to thank everyone has been working diligently on this event and I'd like to thank the community and our attendees and volunteers in advance for supporting what is the beginning of the Oktoberfest season, which starts right here in Saint Bernard. Lastly, the Village of Saint Bernard will be entering into an agreement between the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio, and the Village of Saint Bernard to administer a Community Revitalization Award for property development. The Village of Saint Bernard was awarded a \$200,000 grant and this project is a continuation of the redevelopment of the former Saint Bernard Shopping Center on Vine Street. This funding helps cover the cost of property acquisition to allow for free and clear ownership of 4901 Vine St. The acquisition will ensure the progression and completion of the critical community development. This project will add density and encourage economic growth. As a catalyst for future development, I'd like to ask to be put on the agenda for the COW meeting, adding an ordinance accepting the terms of the agreement and the appropriation of funds is put on the table. Again, this is a reimbursement grant, and the funds can only be for the defined use in the payoff of this particular parcel. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- For tonight's meeting is Ordinance 24 2024, which we discussed at the Committee of the Whole. It moves \$550,000 out of the general fund transfer out into the capital improvement cash account and then includes the additional appropriations of the \$550,000 capital improvements. This is 1/3 of the payment for the new fire truck. It also includes \$10,125.83 into 7- A- 13. This is a grant that the fire department received and they're going to buy a dryer to wash all their turnout gear. Then 01-6-6 line item for Unemployment is \$20,000, we usually don't get unemployment claims, but we have received a few which I've appealed, but we lost the appeal. So, I've spent most of the money in that line item. I'm just putting \$20,000 in it for now. We'll have to see how it continues to play out. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- You have before you Ordinances 19, 20 and 21, which I believe are due for their second meeting tonight. You also have before your Ordinance 22 which is having its first reading. This is the correction of the triple negative. That concludes my report.

Treasurer, Mr. Ungruhe- This evening night received the STAR Ohio statement. Our funds with the state at the end of June totaled \$12,346,311.00. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann-I briefly wanted to follow up on the discussion from the COW meeting regarding the rodent issue that was reported behind the Shur Fine property. I did want to report that the Hamilton County Health Department has done 2 inspections of the property, one on July 15th and on July 22nd. They're continuing to monitor the situation and will be following up on some outstanding items that are still outstanding next week. Secondly, I wanted to take a moment to recognize Don Middendorf and the service department. The reason I'm doing that is because I had a citizen personally come to my office earlier this week, which doesn't happen very often. Normally if they're coming to the office are coming to complain, not give praise on people, but he was keeping praise on Don for acting quickly on a comment that was made about smoothing the track down at Ross Park. In my short time here, I've seen Don's bias for action, and I can tell that he sets a very high standard for public service that we should

all aspire to be. Finally, we found that Moody says reaffirmed the Villages debt bond rating at a one. This is a solid investment grade bond rating, so that's good news from a financial standpoint for the Village. That's the end of my report, thank you.

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

- Tax collections for June 2024: \$1,070,160.00.
- June 2024 is up 72.73% or \$450,602.00 from June 2023. (This is due to the date payments were received.)
- 2024 YTD collections: \$6,193,976. We are up 6.92% or \$401,141 from mid-year 2023.
- Refunds for June: \$4,479.
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$923.49.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$11,059.09.

On a professional note: I have been named the Vice-Chair for the Southwest Tax Administrators Association and recently presented at the 2024 Ohio Municipal League Tax Conference. It was an honor to represent St. Bernard.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- All are encouraged and welcome to attend the August Community Connect on Thursday, August 1st from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at Ross Parks area #1 Pavilion, which is just past the parking lot and the old concession stand near the Ross Ave. entrance. In the event of inclement weather an alternative place will of course be announced and reflected on the calendar within the Village website. If you would like to suggest the location of the next Community Connect, please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail, call or text, all of which can be again found on the Village website. That concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The service department wants to inform residents and updates on the projects around the village. The larger section of the dog park has finally been reopened to the public. Please be aware of the new dog park rules which are posted on the fences surrounding the park. The old shuffleboard counters at Alpine Park are being removed due to them becoming more and more deteriorated. Lastly, the graffiti along the Long John Silver's lot and on the telephone poles, have all been removed. That concludes that.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to add WesBanco to our agenda for our next committee of the whole meeting. As a customer, WesBanco, I received a letter informing me that the Saint Bernard branch will be closing in October, and this would be a great inconvenience to our residents. The next closest branches are in Montford Heights near the Sam's Club store on North Bend Rd. This would also mean our same in Saint Bernard would go from three banks to one bank in less than one year. Hopefully we can work together to keep our branch open. Thank you, Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Tonight I have the Saint Bernard Fire Department report for the month of June 2024 fire incident. Structure fires 3, other fires 4, vehicle fires 1, auto accident 4, service calls 6, fire alarms 14 and EMS assistance 12 for a total of 44. Mutual aid given Elmwood Place 6, Norwood 2, Deer Park 1, Springfield Township 1, Forest Park 1 and Colerain Township 1. EMS instance, transports 47, non-transports 55 for a total of 102. Elmwood place contract instance 4. Mutual aid given Norwood 1, Elmwood 1 and Cincinnati 1. Mutual aid received Norwood 1. All units toured the new Saint Bernard school campus and completed building construction and 360 scene size up training. CPR training provided to Emmanuel United Church. Hydrants are being painted ongoing throughout the village. I also have the Police Department report the activity for the last month of June 2024. The Police Department had 754 calls for service resulting in 662 contacts. There were an additional 511 other services and details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 62 total criminal offenses and resulted in 108 criminal arrests, including four OVI, 59 traffic citations, including 10 for speed. As well as 90 traffic warnings, including 22 for speed. They responded to 13 accidents as well, three of which included injuries. The training of Officer Savage is going well, and he has now switched to day shift, so you may be seeing him more frequently during the day now. The motorcycle has been out on patrol quite often. The department is excited to assist in ensuring that the Luau is safe and fun for all. Please come out the 1st of August and enjoy this community event That concludes both the Fire and Police Department report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- July 24<sup>th</sup> we held the Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting and we discussed the short- and long-term rentals and briefly discussed the noise ordinance. We have elected to add some language about vacant properties within the Village of Saint Bernard. The next Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. Both those things will be back on the agenda with the goal of completing the short- and long-term rental language and bringing it before Council shortly thereafter. That concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Tomorrow night, Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, is Family night at the Aquatic Center from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. On Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, there's a Garden Club meeting at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. On that same night, a We Thrive Meeting will take place at 7:00 PM in the main level of the Municipal Building. On Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Pavilion Reunion and an Adult night at the Aquatic Center from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM. There will be a Texas Hold'em tournament starting at 6:00 PM and a concert from the Sun Burners from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Bring your own beverages and The Village will handle the food. So, whether you're a good former basketball player like Mr. Estep or not so good basketball player like me and Rec Director Paul Schildmeyer, we would love for everybody to come down to the Pavilion Reunion. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- Thank you, Mr. Culbertson. Thank you, Mr. Werdmann, for your help in getting the e-mail straightened out finally. It's been over-do on my end. Thanks again. I did ask our solicitor at the meeting last night if we could look at an ordinance similar to what supposedly Reading has about owner occupied from the certain date. Thank you. That concludes our report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Minutes for the last meeting were submitted July 23<sup>rd</sup> and I have no communications this evening.

#### ORDINANCE 19 2024

#### AMENDING SECTION 121.01 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING COUNCIL PERSON ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, SALARY REDUCTION, VACATION OF OFFICE AND DECLARING AM EMERGENCY. (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to allow Ordinance 19 2024 to proceed regular course.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I have talked to Chris and other council members tonight, there is just some things in here that I think that is not well written out for a lack of understanding it better. Like he literally had to go over and let us know that if you missed three in a row, then that's when the deduction of monies is coming out of our pay. Or if you missed five in one year, that's when we can be excused from office, and I just think that this ordinance could be written a little bit better. I also believe that even though I do believe something needs to be done to hold not only council reliable for their missing of the meetings, but I do also believe there should be an ordinance across the board for council and administration. I think there should be a deduction of a dollar amount for everyone that should be at these meetings. I think council and administration should be held accountable. There are other members of this body that miss quite a few meetings. I know some of you work here full-time, I understand that, but you took those positions knowing you had to be at council meetings. I just think this could be written a bit differently to hold all of us, council and administration, accountable. In previous years, we had a mayor who missed quite a few meetings. We have also had council members, in previous years, who missed a significant amount of meetings. In all the years I have been involved, I think I have missed three or four meetings. I just think if we are going to put something in place, it needs to be across the board, holding all of us accountable. I would like to see this tabled until we come up with a better solution.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I appreciate Patty's perspective and I think any sort of legalese document can be complex in its reading. I believe that this is clear enough. This describes exactly what we wanted to describe as is. So, I appreciate your opinion, Patty, you know I do. I would like to see it not tabled. We complete this and kind of get this version off our plate. In addition, while I think the debate about whether this should include others can be out there, again, I would prefer that we pass this as is and then address others if we want to in a separate ordinance. I would like to not hold this up and keep progressing and move forward.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- One of the few times since I have been up here, I agree with Patty to a degree. I was the mayor guilty of that when I went through radiation when I had prostate cancer. So, yes, I did miss a lot of meetings. I do also agree with Chris. I think we have beat this horse to death. Why don't we just put this ordinance to bed and then do something additional to include everybody. I think it should include all elected officials, but I was told that council members are the people who do the voting. We all have a part in one way or another. I said from the beginning that a percentage might be appropriate. Thank you.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I agree with bits and pieces. There are also areas where I do disagree a little bit. Starting with where I agree, I am on the same page with all elected and appointed folks that are necessary for the movement of business should be held to some sort of accountability standard. Where I disagree is I don't think it is absolutely vital to stop this in order to achieve that. I think both things can be achieved in parallel, separately. So ideally, I would like to see the advancement of this ordinance. Another area where I disagree is the misunderstanding. I read through this and it to me it landed, it made sense, and I comprehended it all except one piece that I think could be remedied within an amendment to it. A question that I wrote down before the meeting and I guess I'll defer to Chris after this is, is it the salary that is reduced after that certain number of missed meetings? Is it reduced by a third for the next pay only or for every pay throughout the remainder of that term?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- It is only a third for the meetings that are missed after that threshold. If you miss one meeting, it's a third for that one meeting. If you were to miss three meetings, it would be 1/3 for each of those, but it's not a third forever.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- So just to be clear, so it's not that third doesn't get compounded. So, if you miss 5 meetings, the maximum your salary is going to be reduced by 1/3. It will never be reduced by 2/3 or more.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- That is correct. It is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and it is only for that month. It is not continuous for the rest of the term.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I think that is the only area that might need more clarification.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- Mr. Moreton, you mentioned five meetings for the year, at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting you are removed according to this.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I meant that as a hypothetical in that specific section of the ordinance.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- I have a question about the bottom. If you miss 10 consecutive meetings, you can be removed by 2/3. Now, is it 2/3 of the remaining six members or 2/3 of seven? You would need an extra vote for that.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- It is 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of seven. The person you may be looking to remove, has not yet been removed.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Since underline forcing us, I'd like to ask just a couple questions. So, what Patty said, I just want to get that clear, is it that you just have to miss three meetings or three meetings in a row for the reduction of pay?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- So, the way it reads is if you missed two meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive missed meeting, it does have to be consecutive, you are reduced by 1/3 for what that meaning. If you miss four regular meetings during the year, then any meeting after that you also reduce it by 1/3. So, if you miss the first four meetings of the year, you have the potential to be reduced by 1/3 for every meeting you missed the rest of the year. They don't have to be consecutive at that point.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- So before you have any money deducted, you have to miss two meetings and then a third. So, say I miss in January, and I miss in April then September and November nothing happens to me, correct?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- That is correct. After that, because you have missed four meetings for the year, you would be deducted.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- In my opinion, there is only 24 meetings, I don't like the idea that is has to be consecutive. We have only had a few that have miss consecutively. Other just come and go as they please. I thought it was just three meetings, not consecutive. I just think that is hardly ever going to happen. I also wanted to say, you have the power to do something without this ordinance. You do not have to approve absences. But you all do it because you want to be excused for your absences. That's just the way it's been for 20 years. You don't need this if people used common sense, but we do need it because people don't use common sense. Once it's voted on, I'll sit down with Chris to make sure I do it correctly.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I just want to be super clear Peggy. So, if you missed 3 consecutive on the third one, you lose a third of you pay. If you miss four, and they don't have to be consecutive, that's the way it's worded, four meetings throughout the year, any after that, you get deducted pay. Just so we're clear and you may still say that's still not good enough, but that's what it says, just to be clear. In order to be vacated, they have to be non-excused absences. The deduction is pay happens whether they are excused or not.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- So, if you miss two in a row, but everybody in council votes to excuse you, based on the past that will happen, what happens?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- It does not matter if they are excused absences or not. They only part where excused absences or unexcused absences matter would be a vacated seat. The unexcused absences count towards vacating the seat.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- So, if someone misses three meetings and they are all excused, then they miss two more meetings, those do not go towards the five?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- It does go towards a deduction in pay but not towards vacating the seat.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Well then, I hope council starts voting on excused or unexcused absences correctly.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- After hearing your response, thank you for clarifying that about the reduction in pay. I hate to admit I don't think that's harsh enough. I think 1/3 reduction in pay when you're missing that many meetings and you're disrupting business that much, I understand hesitation to have the result of that being removal of council. I think pay wise I would like to see something more like all of it if not nearly all of it. If you are missing that many meetings, you are unable to do the job, you should not be paid by taxpayer dollars.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- We went back and forth on the amount. We started out deducting whatever that meeting was worth which would be half. Some folks thought that was

too much. A quarter did not feel like enough, so we landed on a third. That's how we came to that number. I do appreciate the opinion of maybe it's not strong enough.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- I just wanted some clarification. And the reason this was originally started, I do believe was because of having enough people present in the legislative body to pass ordinances or resolutions or whatnot. But my question is some of us that are sitting here are salaried. Would it be a third of our salary being deducted? I missed the last meeting due to being at a work event. How would that apply to administrative salaried positions?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- You are aware that is not in here now at all? This is strictly just for council. It was a suggestion we should add administration. I would suggest that Laws, Contracts and Claims consider it, but I personally do not want to add it to this ordinance. Just to be clear, this is council only in this ordinance.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I think this should be tabled because I do think they work hand in hand. If you are going to deduct a third of our salary and you don't deduct a portion from administration's salary? I was thinking of a flat dollar amount for each meeting missed. I think it should be a dollar amount set up and include everyone. How many times have we sat up here ready to vote on something, but we need someone's comments or input for us to make a logical decision and someone is missing and absent from administration, for whatever reason. I think they should go together.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- The current ordinance only discusses absences from meeting for council members. All I was asked to do was to change that language to what the Laws, Contracts and Claims committee wanted. The absences for elected officials or administration versus council is really an apples and oranges thing. I think it makes sense to deal with this issue in front of us, which is an amendment of 121.01. I think the other issue takes some greater consideration. Council members are the people that have to be here at these meetings by law. Council are the people who have to vote on things. We can give you guidance or answer questions, but we do not get to vote on the matters. 121.01 is based on current Ohio Revised Codes. The codes do not have a statute that covers this current situation you are envisioning. That does not mean it can't be done but it really is an apples and oranges kind of thing. I would propose we pass the amended version of 121.01 and then if council wants, we can take up the other issue separately.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I would at least suggest to council to amend this and take the consecutive part out and keep the excused or unexcused. We all know how it was in the past. I would just have it say you miss so many days then that's its period.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- Peggy, what is the penalty if you have an unexcused absence?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- If it is unexcused, I would deduct just that meeting so it would be half.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- Why don't we do that? Then we can come up with a list of excused absences and reasons you can be excused. And if it's not on that list, then you would get deducted half.



Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- That is the way it is supposed to be, but people always vote to excuse the absent member because if they wanted to be absent, then that person would be excused.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I don't necessarily disagree with that, but I think it would be very difficult to list all the reasons someone could miss a meeting and be excused. It would be a list 98 pages long. I appreciate the idea; I just don't know how we would accomplish it.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- If I could interject since we have been beating this dead horse for awhile now. The motion is to go regular course. I can put this on the agenda for the next COW meeting to discuss, but I don't think we are getting anywhere with everyone throwing out their two cents. We should just take the roll call on the motion to go regular course and add this to the agenda for the next COW if the is acceptable to council. While we are here, is anyone in the audience wishing to address council on this ordinance?

Nicole Klungle, 551 Church Street- Do you all just read this thing? This has been in the works for over two months now. You could have discussed this at the last COW meeting or the first reading in June. Only now this is all coming up. It makes you look bad; it really does.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Sorry. If we do vote to go regular course, and correct me if I'm wrong, but we are not allowed to discuss it after this council meeting.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- After the third reading there must be a vote without discussion.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- So you cannot amend it after the second reading. So, after tonight you cannot amend it.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Mr. President, at 121.10, B12: N it states after a second reading no amendment shall be in order. Upon the third reding the questions shall be upon the final passage, which must be determined by an "I", "ya" or a "no" by roll call. So, it cannot be amended after the second reading.

Roll call on the motion passes 6-0. Ordinance 19 2024 will go regular course.

-ORDINANCE 20 2024

AMENDING SECTION 905.03 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
REGARDING WEED AND LITTER REMOVAL. (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to allow Ordinance 20 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 21 2024

AMENDING SECTION 905.05 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
REGARDING WEED AND LITTER REMOVAL. (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to allow Ordinance 21 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE 22 2024

AEMENDING SECTION 905.04 OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
ABATEMENT VIOLATIONS CHAPTER 905 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to allow Ordinance 22 2024 to proceed regular course. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2024

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE  
TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VOGELPOHL FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC. FOR THE  
PURCHASE OF A NEW AERIAL FIRE TRUCK 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 23 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 23 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2024

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 24 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 24 2024. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Is there anyone on council that has anything under old business? New business?

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- I wanted to thank Tim and Eric, our IT guy, for getting us all up and running. I appreciate all the help they gave all of us.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Is there anyone in the audience wishing to address council this evening?

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave- Ray, about the three-on-three tournament, vine street park and Texas Hold'em tournament?

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- Yes, it is on Friday August 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a pavilion reunion for the basketball players and there is a Texas Hold'em tournament that night also.

Rebecca Blevins, 4410 Greenlee Ave- I actually come with two concerns. Two of them are safety. One of them is, as I said, I live on Greenlee. Right at the intersection of Church and Greenlee, we see constantly people run the stop sign. We actually have been fortunate that no child has been hit, but we have had animals hit several times because people do not stop. We call it the Greenlee Speedway. People just do not abide by the 25 mile an hour rule. I know we have

seen speed bumps on Reading Rd and Montgomery Rd., and we always get the same thing from you guys. Ohh, well it's a main cut through our squads can't or our fire trucks can't. Why can't we do something else? Put the stop sign, make it blank, make it red. People will literally do a roll stop through there and it I sit on my porch, and you can count 15 or 20 cars that go through. And it's ridiculous. Which brings me to my next safety issue. Many of you may not know there was an accident on July 7th. Between Shur Fine and Wendy's parking lot, it involved my child, who's 17 years old. Many of you may know her. She is one of our kickers on our football team, a player on our soccer team, player on our volleyball team here. Her name is Emily. We were told that it is private property. Saint Bernard could not do anything. A lady came from McClelland, came around the corner and smashed into my daughter's 2008 Honda Civic, doing about 35 miles an hour, it was enough that she totaled her car. She also caused a displaced scapular fracture on my child and a minor concussion. Nobody coming through that parking lot. Should have to sustain that type of injury. My daughter's car had 118,000 miles on it being a 2008. Not that you guys probably care, but it was her brothers who went into the military so that car also held sentimental value. Like I said, her car was totaled. Saint Bernard came. I give many kudos to our Police Department. I love them, they are amazing. You know, they made sure Emily was OK, which she was not. I took her to Children's Hospital where she was put into a trauma bay. Her clothes were cut off from her in the trauma bay. Many of you may not know, but my daughter also suffers from brain cancer. She had a brain tumor removed at the age of 6. She's been, thank God, eleven years stable but will never see remission. But after years of therapy, she has moved past the trauma of medical settings. So, when they put her on the stretcher, surrounded her by 8 doctors and nurses and I could not be with my child, and they cut her clothes off. That was traumatizing for her. All because one lady chose to speed through the parking lot. While I was at the hospital with my child, my husband said a car came the cut through again trying to beat the light on Vine Street and almost smashed into the back end of my daughter's car. I also want to add the yellow pole at the as you come up from Wendy's, the yellow pole that sits there next to the big brown box. My daughter's car was sitting there when she was hit. She was doing maybe one mile an hour. The lady pushed her back about 15 feet. When we went with our attorney, because we do have an attorney for medical reasons, because this will sideline my child of her soccer and football games during her senior year of high school. We were almost hit seven times by cars cutting that corner and flying through. I don't know if we can put a speed bump, if we can put a line, if we can put yellow lines, if we can put a stop sign, or something there. Saint Bernard does not have cameras there and it is very disheartening because as a very involved member of the community. I am secretary of TFC, which is our Titan fan club, I'm also a member of the school board. I am very involved. I work all concessions. I see our kids walk that cut through to Ross Park, mainly our football players and soccer players for after school practices. What happens if a car comes through and hits one of our children and we've done nothing about it? Every time I was on the phone with one of our attorneys or one of the insurance companies, the first thing they asked me was, was there a stop sign? Were there lines dividing? Was there anything that told this lady to stop? My answer was no. But Emily was almost in the dirt, and she could not get over any further when this lady came around and hit her. They ruled it a head on collision. The lady hit her, and we thought she was going to take off. That's all speculation because of the way the vehicle was pointed at the end. She grabbed the door of my child's car and tried to get my child out of the car before I could get there. Emily checked out of Dollar Tree at 6:58 PM. Called

her father at 7:01. I took the first picture of the accident at 7:04. Luckily, she was right here in Saint Bernard. But we must do something to keep our kids safe. We must. Luckily, that is all Emily walked away with. But now we are back in therapy for anxiety and all that medical trauma got back up because one lady chose to fly through there because there's not even a speed bump or cameras there is nothing. So, I had to tell my attorney and the insurance companies I don't have video footage of this because there's no cameras. So, I don't know if we can put, like I said, a speed bump, if we can put lines something because guys, like I said, our football players walk through there. Our soccer players walk through, their kids in general walk through. There's a cut through to Ross Park. And it's not fair that now my child, when she goes to Ross Park and pulls out from football practice, guess what she sees at that stoplight? She sees that yellow pole where she was hit. The first thing she said to me when I got to her "Why did this lady have to hit me, mom?" I don't come to meetings to get issues started but I felt like this was a huge safety thing. And like I said it, you know, we've been very fortunate on Greenlee that we have not had somebody hit, but the lady we found out lives very close to us, actually a 5-minute walk from my house. So, who's not to say she won't come flying through one of those stop signs there and hit somebody else? Thank you.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I'd like to respond to Becky's concerns. So first starting off with the incident involving her daughter, I'm very sorry that did happen. With respect to the private property and it not being a defined street, we do have a working relationship with the property owners, and we could work on trying to see what potentially could be done. We have no right to come put a speed bump up or painting, but we could certainly work with them. They are very open-minded individuals, but we do need to communicate with them on that and make the request. I mean they have the right to technically, you know they could close off Girl Scout Lane. I mean they own it. The area between Wendy's and of course their shopping area that the two locations that are there. I mean, they have control over. So, we would need to work with them to do an assessment and maybe make some recommendations for that there. I am definitely going to discuss this with Mr. Werdmann about pursuing that discussion with the management group of the property. We have put quite a few cameras in and expanding them. I am sorry there was not one that could pick that location up, but we are adding to that also. Greenlee Ave is going to be redone and there will be speed cushions. I know that doesn't help immediately but we can look at other traffic calming measures. Traffic calming is a key point to the renovation of Greenlee Ave. This project is happening but it will carry over into next year so it will not be completed this calendar year. I am going to look into this accident more as well and take a closer look at something we can do with this management company for the private property.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I know a year or so ago, we were looking at having an officer that would be just for speeding, running red lights and stop signs. This officer would do just that. Is that something we can consider? I totally agree with you. People think our stop signs and red lights are a joke. I would like to see us look into something like that. I don't think it's just Saint Bernard, I think it's everywhere. But maybe we can at least help Saint Bernard.

The next Committee of the Whole will be Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers, Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adjourn. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.

