

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
February 20th 2025

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on February 20th 2025, in Council Chambers.

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

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

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. As you may have already heard our Director of Public Services and Safety, Tim Werdmann, has decided to take another position after serving the Village of Saint Bernard for the last eight months. Tim's last day of service to the village will be March 28th and I truly wish him the best in his future in endeavors. Even though Tim was only with us for a short time he's made a positive impact in so many areas but I am confident that we'll be alright I have secured a very seasoned professional to serve in an interim capacity by the name of Tim Williams who has 36 years of experience in local government. His areas of expertise are in local government management include budget, personnel management, economic development, recruitment experience, project management, building renovations, water and sewer plants, telecom and telecommunications, technology implementations, team leadership, intergovernmental relations, planning and goal setting for boards of zoning administration, staff development, special events development and coordination. He was the former longtime city manager for the City of Crestview Hills and Kentucky. Most recently served as the Township Administrator for Pierce Township. He will be under a six-month contract as the interim Director of Public Services and Safety where he will focus on continued operations assessing the overall management of City Hall and our village departments. He will be assisting our consultant Mike Henningkamp and our interview team consisting of Chris Schildmeyer, Connor Moreton and Chris Sauer with the search for our next candidate. I am looking forward to working with Tim and truly value the level of expertise that he has and brings to the table but most importantly Tim Werdmann always concluded all of his emails with TW, I had no choice but to find someone with the same initials, So, with that being said I'm going to be preparing a contract for Tim Williams, who plans to start on March 26th and I will need to request a special council meeting to pass the corresponding ordinance for his contract. That will be forwarded to all of you next week. Again, I'd like to remind all of you for about the Annual Day of Caring Pancake Breakfast that will be held this Sunday February 23rd from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM in the St. Clement school cafeteria. They will be serving pancakes with homemade mixed berry syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, fresh fruit and yogurt. This is a free will donation event and all proceeds going to the St. Clement food pantry. Lastly the next CIC meeting will be held this Tuesday February

25th at 6:00 PM here in council chambers and is open to the public. This is an opportunity to learn more about current and future projects we're question and answers are welcome. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. The Auditor's office has prepared a resolution and ordinance for tonight's meeting. The first one being Resolution 2 2025. This is the first resolution that is needed for the renewal of the levy. It authorizes a renewal of a 7 mill tax levy on the current real property tax rate for real property located within the Village of Saint Bernard. If it's approved, I will send it off to the county and they will then send me back the amount of money that will be collected if the levy passes. There'll be another resolution to vote on once those rates come in. I can tell you five years ago; it brought about \$540,000 into the village. The second is Ordinance 4 2025. This ordinance authorizes the auditor to transfer \$8,000 from the general fund to the criminal act forfeiture cash account. It also includes the money for the demolition of the shopping center, which we will be reimbursed. It will be going into O-5-MP-10-A for \$339,000 and that concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you. You have before you Ordinance 6 2025 and Ordinance 7 2025. These are both in regard to Mr. Moreton's speaker that spoke to council about energy aggregation contracts. They assisted with the drafting of the ordinances. They actually recommended doing it as one relating to electric aggregation and one relating to natural gas aggregation. This is what's required to put this on the ballot. As they explained that's kind of the first step. It doesn't commit us to doing anything. If it goes down obviously it goes down but if it goes forward, then they were talking about public hearings and other things that had to be taken care of. So, this doesn't commit us in to anything, this is just put it on the ballot. I was speaking with Ms. Brickweg earlier, I guess there's going to be a special election in August. If we pass this now, this would allow us to get it on that August ballot date so that is the date that you see for these ordinances. That concludes my report. Any questions?

Treasurer, Ms. Derringkamp- Absent.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- Absent.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helems- Thank you Mr. President. I don't really have a report just to remind that your taxes for Saint Bernard are due the same day as your federal state April 15th 2025. Also, just a reminder that by law you're required to sign your tax return you're required to attach your W2s, page one through three of your federal 1040 and then your federal schedules. That is for the paper version or the e-file version. You have to include that paperwork so your return can be audited otherwise we have to mail out reminders which cost postage and we try to keep that down. That concludes my report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Absent.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. I have the waste collection fee reports for December 2024 and January 2025. In December 2024 \$23,917.85 was remitted to the village. In January 2025 \$24,576.70 was remitted to the village. The waste collection report for January 2025, the service department completed the following: 19 dump trucks placed at residence, 11

dumpsters place at residence, 64 special pickups, 206.55 tons of garbage taken to the landfill, 25.3 tons of recycling material taken to Rumpke, 2780 lbs. of material sent to the scrap yard, 30 cubic yards of yard waste composted, 267 tons of salt was spread throughout the village for snow removal and the salt supply has been replenished with over 300 tons in preparation for future snow events. Again, please mark your calendars for Clean Up Saint Bernard Day for Saturday April 26th. The time of the event is to be determined. Our next shred day is Saturday May 24th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and lastly another reminder that the service department is still accepting applications for seasonal employment. All applicants must be at least 16 years old and older valid driver's license. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting this week but I would like to report on possibly the best program I've experienced at the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove monthly meeting. Peter Bronson was the presenter. He's a former columnist at the Cincinnati Enquirer and the author of several books on the Cincinnati area. The program on Monday, which was President's Day, was on presidents that affected the settlement and growth of the Cincinnati area. He talked about how President Washington sent troops to protect our settlers from the local Indians who were being paid by the British for scalps and prisoners with the hope that the United States would give up settling the Northwest Territory. It could have become part of Canada. He talked about how Abraham Lincoln was almost assassinated with a bomb on the train in Cincinnati on its way to his first inauguration but the bomb was discovered before it exploded, He talked about General Lou Wallace who defended Cincinnati from the Confederates. He gave us so much information, I almost forgot, that with his research on the mob in Newport that they were probably involved in the President Kennedy assassination. If you missed, it you missed a lot. The reason I enjoy reporting on the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove program is that I believe it is very important for Saint Bernard residents to know our local history, to have the pride in our community, so that every resident will feel the responsibility to make our village the best it possibly can be. The Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the main hall of the municipal building. Thank you, Mr. President, this concludes report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight, I have both the police and fire department report for the month of January. The Police Department had 686 calls for service resulting in 554 contacts. There were an additional 492 other services, these details were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 69 total criminal offences resulting in 78 criminal arrests, 39 traffic citations and 80 traffic warnings two of these traffic arrests were for OVI. They responded to 11 accidents as well, two of which included injuries. The Chief's news and notes for the public, they wanted everybody to know that officer Ryan Jackson has resigned his position as a police officer for Saint Bernard. We thank him for his service to the village and wish him well in his future endeavors. Also, Lieutenant Bill Ungruhe will be retiring in June. If you get the opportunity to see Bill, wish him well and thank him for his nearly 30 years of service to the village. That concludes the police department report. I also have the fire department report for January 2025. Fire incidents: structural fires 12, other fires 2, vehicle fires 1, auto accidents 2, hazmat incidents 4, service calls 11, fire alarms 26, CO alarms 3. EMS assists: 74 total. Mutual aid given: Elmwood place 3, Norwood 11, Reading 3, Lockland 2, Deer Park 2, North College Hill 2, Springfield Township 1, Delhi 1. Mutual aid received: Lockland 2. Norwood ladder 82 Springfield Township ladder 79 and Deer Park Silverton ladder 89 we're all out of service for this period of time in January which accounted for some additional mutual aids dispatches EMS incidents: transports 56 non transports 56 total of 112. Mutual aid

given: Elmwood Place 8, Norwood 5, Deer Park 1, Springfield Township 1 and Evendale 1. All personnel completed the annual air conception drill. All level A hazmat suits tested. Several hazmat response systems replaced and/or added. All personnel completed the Hamilton County Public Health Substance Addiction training at the Safety Center. That concludes my report.

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

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- No report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- I just want to thank the two paramedics that showed up last Friday to the corner of Delmar and Zeta. There was a lady laying half way into the street. We called the ambulance. When they arrived, they were a lot of help and very professional. I did call Chief Young to pass the thank you along. That concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. Minutes were submitted Wednesday; February 19th and I have no communications this evening.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- We all received an email from the Village Clerk today regarding Ordinance 8 2025 for the Village's Codified Ordinances. I will entertain a motion to place the ordinance on the table for this evening's meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place Ordinance 8 2025 on the table for tonight's meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RENEWAL 7 MILL TAX LEVY ON THE CURRENT REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD CERTIFYING SAID RESOLUTION TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd readings of Resolution 2 2025. Motion do not pass 5-1. Motion will go regular course.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- Mr. President, I'd like to see this go regular course. This was a levy put on the ballot years ago we were in financial straits and it's been renewed several times. I've made a note, I think we're taking in over \$15 million this year for the same number of people we had a few years ago when it was a little over 10 million. No slam on anybody. I think everything's going pretty well but I think it's time to give something back to the taxpayers. I think it's time to take that levy off the ballot and move forward with what we have, thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- If you don't do it emergency then we can't put in on the ballot. As I explained, it is a two-part process. We would have to go emergency so we can take care of the next part. We are not bringing in \$15 million, we are using some of our reserves. That was discussed in detail. To be honest, with the two business that just left and with this money, you will still be \$1 million in the hole. We all know the only way to find \$1 million is layoffs. That was the reason you put it on as the mayor when you did, so the numbers are not the same. We are asking the citizens to vote on this levy, not council. Do you want to continue with your services

or not, especially with the two main businesses leaving. That would be a huge deficit for use. I recommend you please pass it emergency and let the residents decide on what they want to do.

Council Member, Mr. Estep-Can we put this on call command so we can at least hear from the residents so they know what we are talking about here? I'd like them to have a heads up as some fairness to the residents.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- John, I don't know if you are confused but this is just to put it on the ballot. You can vote no on the ballot but I would love to hear how you are going to find \$1 million in cuts. This is for the citizens to vote on. All I am asking you to do it put it on the ballot. If you don't want it on the ballot that fine, but can we at least have 6 votes to go emergency or I will not have the time to get the next part done in time for it to go on the ballot. You can still vote no on the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH O'ROURKE WRECKING COMPANY FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS LOCATED AT 4901 AND 4932-5021 VINE STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 3 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 3 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2025

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 4 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 4 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2025

FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME AND CERTAIN APPOINTED EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 5 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 5 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Mr. President, with your resolution not passing will we have a need for a special election in August? I picked the date that's in ordinance number six and seven based on that date. I don't know if we want to go to the expense of incurring a special election if it's not already going to be on the ballot? That's not to say that we couldn't move it to November election date.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I will leave this up to council. Because we are playing the games we always play around here. Would someone on council motion to have a special council meeting to have the 2nd reading on March 12th? I mean I'm sorry Patty. I saw you roll your eyes about the special meeting. I don't want to ask you guys to do this but I don't want to see employees get laid off either. All I needed was for this resolution to go emergency.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Mr. President, I am going to be asking for a special meeting to be held immediately following the council meeting March 13th for the contract for our interim Director of Public Safety and Service. Could we add that resolution to the agenda for that special meeting on March 13th?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Well if John votes no, we will still be in the same situation and we will still need a third reading.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Well you will have all seven members here March 13th.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Are we sure on that? If so, that would work perfect.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- If you want to play it safe, you can call another special meeting at 7:45pm on March 13th to discuss Resolution 2 2025 if needed. That would make three readings. So, you would have two meetings on March 13th.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I would like to call a special council meeting on March 13th at 7:30pm to discuss the contract for the interim Director of Public Safety and Service. I would also like to add Resolution 2 2025 to the special meeting's agenda at 7:45pm on March 13th.

ORDINANCE 6 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT OUT PROVISIONS PURSUENT TO SECTION 4928.20 OHIO REVISED CODE DIRECTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to allow Ordinance 6 2025 to go regular course. Motion passes 6-0.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Is there an impact if Ordinance 6 2025 passes of the ballot but Ordinance 7 2025 would not pass? Or vice versa, does that change the criteria on the plan?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- That would give us the option to try it again in November perhaps. Otherwise, I think we would just proceed with the one that passes. I can certainly inquire about that.

ORDINANCE 7 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT OUT PROVISIONS PURSUENT TO SECTION 4929.26 OHIO REVISED CODE DIRECTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to allow Ordinance 7 2025 to go regular course. Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2025

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 8 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to adopt Ordinance 8 2025. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to add Ordinance 6 2025 and Ordinance 7 2025 to the special council meeting agenda on March 13th at 7:30pm. Motion passes 6-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business? If not, is there anyone in the audience wishing to address council this evening?
Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson- I want to ask Peggy, is Tax Day April 17th?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- April 15th is Tax Day.

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

The next Committee of the Whole will be held Thursday, March 13th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers, followed by a Special Council meeting at 7:30pm in Council Chambers to discuss Resolution 2 2025, Ordinance 6 2025, Ordinance 7 2025 and the contract for the Director of Public Safety and Service.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.