

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

COUNCIL MEETING

June 25th, 2026

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on June 25th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

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

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

A moment of silence was held in honor for former President of Council and Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Wiedemann.

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passes 6-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. First off, I'd like to offer my condolences to the family of Jerry Wiedemann, who passed away yesterday. I can't say enough about what a true gentleman he was and how much he loved Saint Bernard. He knew more about the village, its infrastructure operations, its local industry, and basically everything about Saint Bernard. It was a true pleasure to have worked with him here in the village and on the CIC. Jerry did it all. He was the former, of course, Recreation Director and President of Council, head of the billing department, longtime CIC board member, and one of the founding members of the CIC. He'll be truly missed. Our flags will be lowered tomorrow morning in his honor. I'd also like to make a comment on a recent Facebook post over the weekend by a village employee regarding the rumored shutdown of Wok Inn Express. As I previously stated, the Village of Saint Bernard did not shut down the Wok Inn. However, there are some very serious fire code violations that need to be addressed and have previously been discussed about the kitchen hood and fires pressure system. Over the last year we have been dedicated to working with the owners of the business and the building and are very respectful of their 30 plus years of serving the community. There are plans for a major remodeling of the kitchen and facility and at the end of the month Wok Inn will close for an indefinite period of time. We are not certain as to who will be the new tenant for the location or if the Wok Inn will come back once the facility is renovated. We appreciate Wok Inn for their long-time commitment to St. Bernard, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors. The first Bernie's event will be held at the old Police Department, 4700 Vine Street, on Sunday from 12 noon to 7:00 PM Stagger Lee Band will play from 4:00 to 7:00 and we'll have a DJ on site before the band takes the stage. We'll have food and drinks available for

purchase. Come and relax and visit your with your friends as we work together in creating a new vision for the Heritage Hill Business District. Bernie's will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month now through October. Next Friday, July 3rd, will be the Village of Saint Bernard's Independence Day Celebration with Rozzi's famous fireworks and a concert by Don't Tell Steve at 6:00pm. Bring your chairs and your cooler and the recreation department will provide the food. Don't Tell Steve will play from 7:00 to 10:00 PM and then be prepared to be wowed by Rozzi's famous fireworks at 10:00 PM. This is a family friendly event where we'll have cornhole and other games and our new inflatables will be set up for everyone to enjoy. Also, I would like to ask to go into an executive session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes. Thank you and that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Absent.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- No report.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- No report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you Mr. President. As previously reported, the update of the village's website is nearing completion is expected to go live on July 28th. Headshots will take place on Thursday, July 23rd before the village council meeting. Please let me or Heidi know if you will be unavailable that evening. We will be reaching out to you soon to schedule your session. Also, some of you have already provided me with information for your bios. If you have not, please do so soon. On tonight's agenda is Resolution 10 2026, which will officially adopt the village's Cybersecurity Program. This will bring us into compliance with the cybersecurity standards set by Ohio House Bill 96 and codified in Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64. Program implements a variety of cybersecurity controls including multi factor authentication, security monitoring, server backup protection, and asset inventory management in a few. You may have experienced several of these new procedures as part of our recent migration to a new IT consultant. Also on this evening's agenda is adoption Resolution 11 2026 which will authorize me, as Director of Public Safety Service, to execute an agreement with the Hamilton County Board Commissioners for participation in the county entitlement program for program year 2027, 2028 and 2029. It is through this program which receives community development block grant funding on a three-year cycle. This agreement is required for participation in the program. And finally, Tower Avenue and Washington Ave projects are proceeding at a rapid pace. Curbs and sidewalks have been replaced between Jefferson and Washington Ave and the primary focus between June and early August would be on the area of St. Bernard Elmwood Place School Campus. Every effort is being made to complete the bulk of the work on this portion during summer recess. As previously reported, Tower Ave. will be resurfaced from Mitchell to McClelland, while Washington Ave. will be resurfaced from Tower Ave, including subgrade replacement and repair of damaged sections of sidewalks. Thank you, this concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. First, I would like to personally invite everyone to the Ben Strong Giveback Blood Drive in the Municipal Building next door on Friday, July 24th from noon to 6pm. Not only is donating an impactful way for you to save lives, but you'll also walk away with a Cincinnati Reds Jersey. To schedule an appointment, go to hoxworth.org/groups/benstrong or call 513-451-0910. I would also like to invite folks to the July Community Connect, where all those who live, work, or shop within the Village are welcome to discuss any comments and concerns to address with Council. Solutions like energy aggregation and repaved streets have been influenced by conversations at these town hall style events, so please feel encouraged to join at 5:30pm here in City Hall on July 2nd. Lastly, for homeowners around the Village, property tax bills will be mailed out on July 2nd and are due on July 24th to the County Treasurer's Office. You may notice this bill looks a bit different than your January bill. That's because of House Bill 186, otherwise known as the Inflation Cap Credit, which caps the property taxes allocated to our local school district. This will result in approximately \$87 of tax relief per \$100,000 in market value on your home. Keep in mind that if you pay into an escrow account with your lender, they will receive your bill to pay on your behalf. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Waste Collection Fee for May 2026 shows that \$25,479.95 was remitted to the Village. As part of the Waste Collection Report for the month of May 2026, the Service Department completed the following:

- Spotted 42 dump trucks at residences.
- Spotted 30 dumpsters at residences.
- Hauled 175.46 tons of garbage to the landfill.
- Hauled 27.87 tons of recyclable material to Rumpke Recycling.
- Recycled 5,800 lbs. of scrap metal

As a reminder, the St. Bernard Civil Service Commission is accepting applications for a competitive examination to establish an eligibility list for the position of Laborer with the St. Bernard Service Department. Applications are available at City Hall and will be accepted from Monday, June 22nd, through Friday, July 10th. A non-refundable \$15.00 application fee is due when the completed application is submitted. The examination is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 pm in the municipal building. Lastly, I would like to remind residents that the Service Department and City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, in observance of Independence Day. There will be no trash collection on Friday. The collection schedule for next week will be as follows:

- Monday and Tuesday collections remain unchanged.

- Normal Thursday collection moves to Wednesday.
- Normal Friday collection moves to Thursday.

That concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to report on another great presentation at this month's Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting. This month's topic was Sid Nathan, the founder of King Records. Sid was born on April 27th, 1904. He left school in ninth grade because his eyesight was simply so bad he couldn't see the chalkboard. So, he had many jobs. Always looking for ways to make money, in his 20s he found himself working in a records store downtown. Liked the record business, but after a while moved on to other opportunities. After a few disappointments, he decided to open up his own record store after running into someone that owed him \$6. Sid was repaid with 300 used records that had been in jukeboxes until they were replaced by new or more popular records. Initially disappointed because the records he received were known as hillbilly and race records, now called Country and Rhythm and Blues. But after making \$18.00 the first day, he saw the possibilities. It was the WLW radio in town with all the musical talent it made available. Sid decided to produce his own records, first recording them at another record company in town, but then recording them at his new record company King Records in Evanston. Sid had an integrated workforce where minorities worked alongside white employees. His feelings were about ability and not color. A man ahead of his time. This also carried over to the musicians who played in his records, integrating into different styles of County and Rhythm and Blues. He is credited with some of the earliest rock'n'roll songs in the late 40s, and because of this, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. After Sid's death and on March 5th, 1968, King Records was acquired by Star Day Records. King Records is gone, but the building can still be seen on I-71 as you drive through Evanston. Fascinating presentation with so much information, it is too much to report. One of the most interesting bits of information, however, was Dave Holt, a retired St. Bernard firefighter's mother worked at King's Records in the 60s, which brought the presentation to life. Thanking Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight I have the police activity report for the month of May 2026. The Police Department had 685 calls for service resulting in 575 contacts. There were an additional 415 other services and details that were not called in by the public. Those calls for service included 43 total criminal offences resulting in 83 criminal arrests, 68 traffic citations, and 108 traffic warnings. Of these traffic contacts, 3 were primarily for speed, and two were OVIs. They responded to 17 accidents as well, with 3 of these involving injuries. News and Notes: Now that school is officially out, everyone is reminded to be alert for all the pedestrians as you drive around town for the summer. Multiple groups of children walk to the parks and to the pool, so please be aware and cautious as you make your way around town. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you Mr. President. The last Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting was held on June 17th. On the agenda were animal control and zoning codes. The next meeting has been scheduled for July 15 a t6:00pm in Council Chambers. The agenda will be animal control and zoning codes again. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Absent.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- Thank you Mr. President. I have two things tonight. Pam Whitmer, from UGI Energy Services, has shared an update on where they are at with Synthica. Clean up continues, specifically of material remains, in the combined waste tank. There are no bioprocesses taking place and no risk of odor. Then I have a community note. On Sunday, June 14th, the community organized a baby shower for the owners of Five Star Mediterranean. The celebration received a robust turn out, and you can see videos on Five Star's Facebook page. If you missed the celebration and wish to support them, please stop in for some fresh felafel and shawarma. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole minutes were submitted by the clerk. No communications this evening.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 2026

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM, ALIGNING THE PROGRAM WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST) CYBERSECURITYFRAMEWORK (CSF) 2.0, DESIGNATING A CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM OWNER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 10 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Resolution 10 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 11 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM FOR PROGRAM YEARS 2027, 2028, AND 2029 AS DETAILED IN THE ATTACHED APPENDIX; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 11 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Resolution 11 2026.
Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 29 2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTIAN PROPERTY
TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF CUTTING, TRIMMING, AND
REMOVING HIGH GRASS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd
reading of Ordinance 29 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 29 2026.
Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 30 2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTIAN PROPERTY
TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF CUTTING, TRIMMING, AND
REMOVING HIGH GRASS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd
reading of Ordinance 30 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 30 2026.
Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 31 2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON CERTIAN PROPERTY
TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE FOR THE COST OF CUTTING, TRIMMING, AND
REMOVING HIGH GRASS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd
reading of Ordinance 31 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 31 2026.
Motion passes 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 32 2026

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

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd
reading of Ordinance 32 2026. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 32 2026.
Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to go into an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss purchase of property. Motion passes 6-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- At this time, does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business?

None.

Audience Participation

Sadie Smith, 4607 Heger Drive- I stand before you tonight because I care about this community. The past couple of years, I have watched a growing divide between citizens who ask difficult questions and leaders who seem increasingly uncomfortable answering them. Too often, concerns are dismissed as negativity; questions are viewed as attacks, and accountability is treated as hostility. People who care, do not ignore problems, they ask difficult questions because they believe their community is worth protecting, improving and holding to a higher standard. Recently, many residents became aware of documented concerns involving a long-time teacher and coach within our school district. The concerns are troubling, but equally troubling is the growing perception from many families that those concerns are not being addressed. I understand the Board of Education is a separate entity than the city government and that the city council does not control the school district. I understand that there are legal and procedural limitations. I understand there are things that cannot be done. But respectfully, I am no longer interested in what cannot be done. I want to hear what can be done. I want to know what leadership looks like when confidence in a public institution has been damaged. Because simply explaining why something cannot happen is not the same thing as solving a problem. I followed the process I was directed to follow. I attended the school board meetings. I listened. I came prepared to speak respectfully. I left with more questions than answers. A fellow community member shared a six circuit appeals decisions with me, and I recognized something I believe many of us already know to be true. Citizens have the right to question public officials. They have the right to challenge public bodies, and they have the right to voice their concerns, even when those concerns are uncomfortable to hear. The court recognized that accountability, public scrutiny and disagreements are not disruptions to the process; they are part of the process. One of the questions that continue to trouble members of this community is how concerns spanning multiple years could persist without prompting greater scrutiny. While there may not always be a clear victim standing at a podium or a neatly packaged story that fits into a public meeting, it is difficult to ignore when the same themes continue to surface with blurred lines of appropriateness in this community. Whether the issue was awareness, communication, oversight or something else entirely, all is still the same. Public confidence has been damaged. When concerns are raised repeatedly over long periods of time, people naturally begin by asking difficult questions. Not because they want conflict, but it is because they want confidence that

the systems designed to protect us are functioning as intended. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak. For me, the time to speak is now. Not because I am looking for conflict but because avoiding difficult conversations does not make them disappear. As a registered nurse, I have spent my career caring for other people. No matter how many residents I care for well, if I fail one resident, I am expected to answer for that. Accountability is part of the responsibility that comes with the role. That principle should apply to every position of trust. Teachers, coaches, board members, council members, police, and fire fighters. Anyone entrusted with the wellbeing and safety of the people they serve. Recognizing years of good work does not eliminate the accountability when concerns arise. We are still expecting accountability when trust has been damaged. I also recognize that some members of our community may see these concerns differently than I do. Some may believe that because no one they knew was physically harmed, that is no cause for concern. I would ask you to consider a different question. Not whether something was accepted or common but whether it reflects the standard that every adult entrusted with our children should uphold today. Because if tonight's conversation causes even one person to ask themselves; is this the standard I would want for my own child? Then I believe it is a conversation worth having. I recognize that the city council has many responsibilities, and those responsibilities are important, but leadership is not measured in how well we proceed with routine matters. Leadership is measured by how you respond when citizens are concerned and when difficult conversations need to be had. Those are the moments when public service is defined as either a position or truly a responsibility. Before I close, I want to make something clear. I am not here tonight to litigate past disputes or discuss unrelated matters. But I would be dishonest if I did not acknowledge the role my husband has played in bringing many of these concerns into the public conversation. While people may disagree on methods, the message has remained simple. Integrity earns trust; transparency preserves that trust, and accountability restores that trust. Every person who accepts a position of public trust also accepts the responsibility of stewarding that trust. Tonight, I am standing here to echo those principles. Those values should never be controversial. They are the foundation on which public trust is built. When that foundation begins to crack, everything built upon it is at risk. That is why integrity, transparency, and accountability are not optional. Not because we expect our leaders to be perfect, we don't. We are all human and we all make mistakes. Mistakes happen when concerns arise and trust is damaged. Accountability must follow. Strong foundations are not maintained by pretending cracks do not exist. They are maintained by acknowledging them, repairing them, and ensuring they do not continue to grow. So, I am not asking the city council to take control of the school district. I am simply asking you to stand with the citizens you represent. To use your voices and your influence and position to help make sure these concerns are not simply dismissed and forgotten. I am asking for a sincere effort. An effort to pursue solutions rather than simply explain limitations. Thank you for your time.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- Thank you for coming tonight. Connor, would this be something you could talk about at a Community Connect?

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I know you said you do not want to talk about limitations, so I am sorry for going against that. There are some legal things I would be worried about. There are conflicts of interest that we have to honor. So, something you mention was leveraging our position to influence this, and I am not being nit-picky about your words. I do commend you for coming today and speaking on this and raising awareness towards it. Using our positions in this matter would be illegal. So, I do not have an answer for you, but I am investigating what I can do, and I encourage everyone to do the same thing, and I'll leave it at that.

Council member, Ms. Rytov- That you for coming and speaking Sadie. So, to be clear, you've tried to follow the school board's policies and protocol for asking questions, and you feel that you have not received answers or clarity? Am I understanding that correctly?

Sadie Smith, 4607 Heger Drive- Yes, absolutely.

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

The next Committee of the Whole will be held on Thursday, July 9th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Council entered into an executive session to discuss the purchase of property.

Council returned from executive session after discussing the purchase of property.

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

Meeting is adjourned.