

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, April 04, 2022.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Sandy Swartz, Kristin von Maur, Clerk Sheri Kesterke and Attorney DeFrancesco. Zach Fedoruk was seated at the council table after he was sworn in near the beginning of the meeting. Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era* and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA APPROVAL:

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the agenda with the addition to pay the County of Berrien Water/Sewage Improvements No. 29 Principal and Interest Payment Due. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 21, 2022.**

\***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 21, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The April *Central County Senior Center* Newsletter was received.

### Audience Comments:

Paul Steven Jancha – Addressed the council. He is running for Judge, as there is an opening due to Judge Wiley retiring. He gave a brief introduction which included he grew up in Berrien Springs and later went to St. Joseph Public Schools. He was Berrien County's Public Defender.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL** – Chair President Barry Gravitt

\*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 06, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

\*Finance & Personnel Committee interviewed Accounting Clerk Applicants March 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 p.m.

\*Finance & Personnel Committee held 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews for the open Council Seat on March 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### Filling the Open Council Seat

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to appoint Zach Fedoruk to fill the open council seat. Roll Call Vote: Sheila Snyder/Aye, Kristin von Maur/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Village President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

At that time Mr. Zach Fedoruk was sworn into the office of Council Trustee by Clerk Sheri Kesterke, who then took his seat at the council table.

### Approve Cami Johnson Bacon for the Accounting Clerk position.

\***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Jack Davis to employ Cami Bacon to the position of Accounting Clerk contingent on Attorney Frank DeFrancesco's investigation regarding nepotism. Cami will be paid \$19.00 per hour with a 90-day probation period, after successfully fulfilling the probation, the pay will increase to \$20.00 per hour, hiring is contingent on passing the pre-employment physical/drug testing. Roll Call Vote: Sandy Swartz/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Abstained: Lonna Johnson. Motion carried.

### Pay the bills.

\***Moved** by Kristin von Maur; seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$28,593.47. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### Reimbursing the Code Enforcement Officer ½ of full-time employees amount for cell phone.

The motion made March 21, 2022 to: Approve reimbursing Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel for cell phone expense of \$15.50 per month as other employees that are required to use their cell phone during normal work communications, did not pass. The vote of three ayes and

one nay did not give the needed four majority votes. Whether the full council is present or not, a majority vote of 4 is required to pass a motion.

**\*Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to increase the Code Enforcement Officer's cell phone expense to \$15.50 per month, an increase of \$1.25. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve Sally's Greenhouse quote to plant the downtown flowerpots.**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Sally's Greenhouse's quote of \$50.00 per flowerpot (21 flowerpots = \$1,050.00), to refill the downtown flowerpots again this year, which they have stored all winter. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the "Performance Resolution For Municipalities" as requested by MDOT due to form changes.**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the "Performance Resolution For Municipalities" as requested by MDOT due to form changes. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 29 Principal & Interest due.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the invoice for the Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 29 Bond due in the amounts of: Principal \$165,000.00 & Interest \$18,849.00 = a total amount due of \$183,849.00. Roll call vote: Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Zack Fedoruk/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur**

\*The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for April 06, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**FIRE – Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis and Trustee Lonna Johnson are the Village Representatives.**

\*Future Fire Board Meeting dates in 2022 are: May 25, July 27, September 28 and November 16, 2022, at 5:00 P.M..

\*Jack Davis gave a brief synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held March 23, 2022.

\*Jack Davis gave a brief synopsis of the special Fire Board Workshop that was held March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the capital improvement projects for the fire department for the next 5-10 years.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Sandy Swartz**

\*The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 06, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Sandy Swartz, Chair**

\*The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 06, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD – Sandy Swartz**

\*The Board minutes from the December 16, 2021, and January 27, 2022, were received. The February Library Board Meeting was cancelled.

**MEDIC 1 – Clerk Sheri Kesterke**

\*Clerk Sheri Kesterke gave a brief synopsis of the Medic 1 Board Meeting held March 24, 2022.

\*The Annual Report 2021-2022 was received.

**RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis**

\*Minutes of the January 26, 2022, GBSRD Board Meeting was received.

\*The Agenda from the March 16, 2022, GBSRD Board Meeting was received.

**POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative**

\*Future Police Board Meetings are scheduled for: April 28, July 28 and October 27, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. President Pro-Tem Jack Davis will attend the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for President Gravitt.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder**

\*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Committee Meeting held March 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Square.

\*The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Berrien County Historical Association.

**SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:** Chair Kelly Ewalt/Sheila Snyder

\*The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 06, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. Reminder: April Committee Meetings were rescheduled to be held April 06, 2022.
2. Reminder: Council Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.  
The workshop was called to discuss projects the council and employee department heads would like to see accomplished in the Village of Berrien Springs.
3. Reminder: A Public Hearing immediately followed by a Special Council Meeting have been scheduled to set the 2022 Village of Berrien Springs Tax Millage on Monday, May 23, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
4. Reminder: A Council Workshop has been scheduled for immediately following the Special Council Meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Workshop has been called for a session on council members understanding the Village's Budget and Finances.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Village Hall will be closed Friday, April 15, 2022, in honor of Good Friday. Council packets will be delivered Thursday, April 14, 2022, for the Monday, April 18, 2022, Council Meeting.
2. The 2021/2022 Audit has been scheduled for the weeks of October 10 and 17, 2022. This will be a busy two weeks for office staff and training the new Accounting Clerk how to work with the auditors and what is expected of them. The October 17, 2022, Council Meeting will be rescheduled for Monday, October 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

**Audience Comments:**

Jason Ramtahal of 113 E. Madison addressed the council asking: isn't the county responsible for all the streets in the Village? He was told that the Village takes care of the majority of the streets in the Village, the state owns and takes care of M-139.

**ADJOURNMENT**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Sheri Kesterke MiPMC/MMC  
Village Clerk

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President