

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, June 06, 2022.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Sandy Swartz, Kristin von Maur, Zach Fedoruk, Deputy Clerk/Village Clerk-in – Training Rachael Kuzda and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 16, 2022.

***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 16, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held May 23, 2022.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held May 23, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held May 23, 2022.

***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held May 23, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held May 23, 2022.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held May 23, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Audience Comments:

Heidi Erhard who owns property at 309 S. Main, 402 S. Main, & 209 S. Mechanic – Feels like we live in an HOA community, disapproves of the approach of the village’s code enforcement. Hears many people are scared of being targeted, which has happened to her, by code enforcement and it shouldn’t be that way. The elderly feel obligated, even if the weather conditions are unsafe to work outside. Village should have a list of entrepreneurs who can help provide those services.

Michael Marsh of 404 N. Main – Got a “second notice” at his property for things he believed he had already taken care of. He would like to see a little more mercy and time on code enforcement.

Jason Ramtahal of 113 E. Madison – roughly 80-100 pedestrians and 50-60 cars participated in the last Cars and Coffee event and he thanked the Village for their support of the event. They had a few people still going a bit fast past the event, which Barry stated he has talked to Chief Toliver and it is being taken care of.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair President Barry Gravitt

***The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Pay The Bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to pay the bills in the amount of \$140,887.48. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve annual Year End Transfers.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve annual Year End Transfers. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair Kristin von Maur

*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held June 06, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

*Put on the next council meeting agenda to approve Updated Draft Ordinance: “An Ordinance To Provide For And Protect The Public Safety, Health And General Welfare of Citizens and Residents Of The Village Of Berrien Springs By Requiring Registration, Inspection And Issuance Of A Permit For Rental Dwelling Units As That Term Is Defined In Said Ordinance. To Provide For Penalties And Remedies For Violations Of The Provision Of This Ordinance.”

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

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

*Village Representative Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held May 25, 2022.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Sandy Swartz

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair Sandy Swartz

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Sandy Swartz

Nothing to Report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Sheri Kesterke

*The next Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

Trustee Jack Davis stated spring sports are ongoing. Everything is going up from what it was before.

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

*Future Police Board Meetings are scheduled for: July 28 and October 27, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

* The next Historic District Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 06, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. at the Village Hall after the Council Meeting.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Kelly Ewalt/Sheila Snyder

*The next Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve the Social Media Policy and the Employee Handbook addendum regarding Social Media use by employees.

*Documents to be presented to the council for review and put on the next council meeting agenda.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Reminder: A Council Workshop has been scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel will explain the process he uses for notifying residents of noncompliant areas. This workshop is to give the council a better understanding of this position only.
2. Reminder: A Public Hearing followed by a Special Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. to approve the amended budget for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year and approve the budget for the new budget year beginning July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.
3. Reminder: A Council Workshop will follow the Special Council Meeting on June 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the top 5 Project Wishes with the council and department heads.

NEW BUSINESS:

Oronoko Charter Township would like to put an exercise structure on concrete slab by the well house.

*Discussion held. Who pays for insurance/liability? A formal document/lease was suggested by Attorney DeFrancesco.

Audience Comments:

Michael Marsh of 404 N. Main – concerns with some sidewalks and it was suggested to him to contact the Village Hall with concerns and locations because we are currently working on it.

ADJOURNMENT

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sandy Swartz to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Deputy Clerk/Village Clerk-in-Training

Barry Gravitt
Village President