

# VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, August 01, 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, Zach Fedoruk, Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke, Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training Rachael Kuzda and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: Trustee Kristin von Maur.

Also Present: *The Journal Era* and Jason Ramtahal.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## AGENDA APPROVAL:

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 18, 2022.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 18, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A Pre-Hearing will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. via Video/Teleconference RE: Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation request for reconciliation of its gas cost recovery plan for the 12 months ended March 31, 2022.
2. Notice was received from Indiana Michigan Power that they intend to add 2,100 MW of Solar, Wind Energy in *Powering the Next Tomorrow Plan* filed with Michigan Public Service Commission. I&M plans to issue a request for proposal for approximately 800 MW of wind generation and approximately 500 MW of solar generation to meet customer needs, with half of those resources generating energy in 2025 and the remainder by 2026. A second step is planned for later seeking proposals for about 800 MW of solar, 60 MW of battery storage and 1,000 MW from gas “peaking” units to meet the needs by 2028. “This new generation will combine with I&M’s existing resources to provide a diversified and flexible generation portfolio that will stabilize energy costs over time, stimulate economic growth, reduce emissions and take advantage of new technologies.
3. The Berrien County Trails Master Plan Community Open House Schedule was received. The Community Open Houses are scheduled to capture public feedback on the route recommendations proposed for inclusion in the Trails Master Plan.
4. The August *Central County Senior Center* newsletter was received.

**Audience Comments:** None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

**\*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Pay the bills.**

**\*Moved** by Shelia Snyder seconded by Sandy Swartz to pay the bills in the amount of \$53,889.06. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

**\*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **Determine if the Village needs to set a Public Hearing regarding the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township**

**\*It is not necessary to have a Public Hearing regarding the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township as the joint Place Based Code Commission has already done so.**

### **Grove Park Grant possibilities. (Williams and Works currently in the process of updating the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.)**

**\*Grove Park Grant possibilities will be added to the next council workshop.**

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

\*Future Fire Board Meeting dates in 2022 are: September 28 and November 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

\*Village Representative President Pro-Tem Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held July 27, 2022.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** – Chair Sandy Swartz

\*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE** – Chair Sandy Swartz

\*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., planning to be held at Shamrock Park.

**LIBRARY BOARD**– Sandy Swartz

Nothing new to report.

**MEDIC 1** – Clerk Sheri Kesterke

\*Clerk Sheri Kesterke gave a synopsis of the Medic 1 Board Meeting held July 28, 2022.

\*Clerk Sheri Kesterke was re-elected to the MEDIC I Executive Board as Secretary/Treasurer.

\*The minutes from the June 23, 2022 Board Meeting were received.

**RECREATION BOARD** – Jack Davis

President Pro-Tem Jack Davis stated that softball camp is this month and soccer is coming up, they are keeping busy. The new building will probably be move in ready in 2023.

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

\*The final Police Board Meeting for 2022 is scheduled for October 27, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

\*The Police Board Meeting scheduled for July 28, 2022 was cancelled.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE** - Chair Sheila Snyder

Nothing new to report.

**SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE** - Chair Kelly Ewalt/Sheila Snyder & Zach Fedoruk

\*The next Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE** - Chair Jack Davis

\*Chair Jack Davis stated the website is being worked on, Hometown Hero Banners Project is being worked on, and Pickle Festival was wrapped up.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. REMINDER: The second council meeting in August was moved to August 22, 2022, due to the Berrien County Youth Fair being held the week of August 15 -20, 2022. Enjoy the Fair!
2. A Council Workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. This workshop is held to continue the discussion to plan for “Council Project Wishes”, and to discuss Focus Group topics and who the participants should be regarding the 5-year Park and Recreation Plan.
3. The following candidates for Village Office met the deadline to be included on the November ballot:  
Village President – Barry Gravitt (unopposed)  
Village Trustee/2 year term – Zachary Fedoruk (unopposed)  
Village Trustee/4 year term – (3 seats) Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Sandra Swartz and Jason Ramtahal

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**Audience Comments:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT** :

**\*Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. Ayes, 6;  
Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President