

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, July 18, 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: Sheila Snyder, Sandy Swartz, Zach Fedoruk, Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training Rachael Kuzda and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: Trustee Lonna Johnson and Trustee Kristin von Maur.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA APPROVAL:

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 05, 2022.**

**\*Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 05, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

### Audience Comments:

\*Gloria Bell from the Central County Senior Center is looking for members and things to do. They would like to coordinate some activities with the Village. Barry told her to get in touch with Kelly, our Community Coordinator.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

\*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held July 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

#### Pay the bills.

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$62,640.07. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve Invoice 57635364/57635366 for payment of the Berrien County Water /Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond, the Village's share is \$14,740.73.**

**\*Moved** by Shelia Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Invoice 57635364/57635366 for payment of the Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond, the Village's share is \$14,740.73. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the invoice from Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for the Village's Renewal Insurance Premium in the amount of \$38,980.00.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the invoice from Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for the Village's Renewal Insurance Premium in the amount of \$38,980.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction in the amount not to exceed \$5,880.00 regarding Shamrock Park Fish House Grinder Electrical Proposal.**

**\*Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction in the amount not to exceed \$5,880.00 regarding Shamrock Park Fish House Grinder Electrical Proposal. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### Committee Appointments.

**\*Moved** by Shelia Snyder seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the committee appointments as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the quote from Municode to update the Codification of Ordinances in the amount of \$2,200.00.**

\***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from Municode to update the Codification of Ordinances in the amount of \$2,200.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**USDA Rural Development go forward with approved loans from May of 2021?**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to de-obligate the USDA Rural Development loans. Roll call vote: Sheila Snyder/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Absent: Trustee Lonna Johnson and Trustee Kristin von Maur. Motion carried.

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

\*Committee member Shelia Snyder gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held July 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

\*The Ordinance Enforcement Report was received for the months of May and June, 2022.

\*Tanya DeOliveira, AICP from Williams & Works held the Parks & Recreation Plan Kick-Off Meeting with the PPO committee. Hand out made available to the council with the tentative project schedule.

**Approve going forward with a Color flyer with a QR code to be delivered to all Village residents in the form of a community survey as part of updating the Five Year Park and Recreation Plan.**

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve going forward with a Color flyer with a QR code to be delivered to all Village residents in the form of a community survey as part of updating the Five Year Park and Recreation Plan. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township.**

Attorney DeFrancesco suggested setting up a public hearing before council votes on this.

**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.

\*Fire Board member Jack Davis stated the July 4<sup>th</sup> pancake breakfast did outstanding.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** – Chair Sandy Swartz

\*Chair Sandy Swartz gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held July 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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

\*The Shamrock Park Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

\*Council received the June 2022 Revenue/Expense Report.

**LIBRARY BOARD**– Sandy Swartz

Nothing new to report.

**MEDIC 1** – Clerk Sheri Kesterke

\*The next Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2022.

**RECREATION BOARD** – Jack Davis

President Pro-Tem Jack Davis stated the next meeting is tomorrow night. Softball camp is in August and the participation in sports increased overall.

**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

Chair Sheila Snyder stated no meeting has been scheduled yet, she is working on the report.

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

\*Committee Member Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Social Media Committee Meeting held Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

\*REMINDER: Candidates for Village Offices file an Affidavit of Identity, a Statement of Organization, and a Nonpartisan Nominating Petition no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 26, 2022, at Oronoko Township Hall. The General Election will be held November 08, 2022.

This year on the ballot will be the office of Village President (two-year term until November of 2024), three four-year trustee positions (until November of 2026); and one partial term expiring in November of 2024.

Terms expiring in 2022 are: President Barry Gravitt; Four-year terms: Trustees: Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder and Sandy Swartz and the partial term currently held by Zachary Fedoruk.

\*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.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

\*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".

### **Scheduling a council workshop has been requested by Public Properties and Ordinance Committee to discuss Focus Group topics and who the participants would be for the 5-year Park and Recreation Plan.**

\*Council will discuss adding focus group topics to the August 24, 2022 workshop at next council meeting when all members are present.

### **Audience Comments:**

\*Joel Bennett on E. Washington – asked how to find the dates and times of public hearings. He was informed it is posted on the posting board outside the Village Hall and in the Journal Era. It also might be posted on the website.

\*Errol Prentice on 112 S. Main – Mr. Prentice stated that he has called the office several times and has never got a response back. He had a refrigerator and stove/range in the back of his house, which he made sure was out of sight. He was out of town and the Ordinance Officer hired people to take it away. He received several notices on grass, he cut it on the 13<sup>th</sup> and got another notice on the 17<sup>th</sup>. He pays his taxes and keeps up his properties; it is unfair he is being harassed. President Barry Gravitt told him he would talk to the Ordinance Officer and find out the situation and have an answer for him.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

\***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President