

# VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, June 19, 2023.  
President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis; Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Kristin von Maur, Mark Vandevere, Deputy Clerk Michelle Smith, Acting Clerk Sheri Kesterke, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None

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

## AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 05, 2023; as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Comcast Price Change to Starz Channel received. Increasing its per month price from \$8.99 to \$9.99 effective with customers July 2023 billing.

**Audience Comments:** None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to pay the bills in the amount of \$71,281.88. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the 2024 Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the addition to the 2023-2024 Budget and onward a yearly transfer in Lieu of Taxes: a revenue to General Fund and an expense to Shamrock Park in the amount of \$25,000.00.**

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the addition to the 2023-2024 Budget and onward a yearly transfer in Lieu of Taxes a revenue to the General Fund and an expense to Shamrock Park in the amount of \$25,000. Roll Call Vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

**Approve the Draft 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Amended Budget as presented.**

**\*Moved** Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Draft 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Amended Budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

**Approve the Draft Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 as presented.**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the Draft Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Kristin von Maur/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

**Approve reappointing Board of Ethics Committee Chair Kristin von Maur, who's current term expires 06/30/2023, to a new 3-year term expiring 06/30/2026.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve reappointing Board of Ethics Committee Chair Kristin von Maur, who's current term expires 06/30/2023. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve to donate funds to the Pickle Festival to purchase ice cream in the amount not to exceed \$200.00.**

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve to donate funds to the Pickle Festival to purchase ice cream in an amount not to exceed \$200.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve a .50 cent per hour increase for Stan Banish passing his first Water License.**

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve a .50 cent per hour increase for Stan Banish passing his first Water License. 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

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

**Approve the request from Salt Haven to allow a small bistro table and chairs on the sidewalk in front of their business.**

\*Moved by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the request from Salt Haven to allow a small bistro table and chairs on the sidewalk in front of their business. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve to set a Public Hearing on July, 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm regarding the draft of “An ordinance to amend ordinance no. 248 under chapter 10, entitled “Animals,” article II entitled “Dogs” and to add to article II new section 10-39 entitled, “Daycare Kennels” with an adjustment to Section 10-39 Daycare Kennels” item f. as sent to Frank.**

\*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to set a Public Hearing on July 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm regarding the draft of “An ordinance to amend ordinance no. 248 under chapter 10, entitled “Animals,” article II entitled “Dogs” and to add to article II new section 10-39 entitled, “Daycare Kennels” with an adjustment to Section 10-39 Daycare Kennels” item f. as sent to Frank. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the request from the American Legion Post #85 to hold their annual Street Dance on July 29, 2023, from 6:00 – 11:00, which includes closing one lane of the 100 block of North Bluff Street.**

\*Moved by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the request from the American Legion Post #85 to hold their annual Street Dance on July 29, 2023, from 6:00 – 11:00, which includes closing one lane of the 100 block of North Bluff Street. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

\*Chair President Pro-Tem Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held on June 16, 2023.

\*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** – Chair: Lonna Johnson

\*The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE** – Chair: Jack Davis

\*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD** – Lonna Johnson

\*Nothing new to report.

**MEDIC 1** – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

\*The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023.

**RECREATION BOARD** – Jack Davis

\*Berrien Springs just hosted the Girls Softball Tournament.

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

\*The next Police Board Meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE:** Chair: Sheila Snyder

\*Nothing new to report.

**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:** Chair: Sheila Snyder

\*The Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:00 pm was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

\*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE: FERAL/STRAY CATS:** Chair Sheila Snyder

\*Gretchen Brown received an anonymous donation of \$2,500.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Village Hall will be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in honor of Independence Day.
2. Reminder: The July Council Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month due to the holiday, (July 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>); with Council Committee Meetings being held July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Audience Comments:**

Errol Prentice of 315 S Mechanic Street addressed the council regarding the design of the house to be built at 611 N Mechanic Street. Errol also addressed the council regarding the Permit Fee for food trucks, he feels that Village residents should not have to pay as much as vendors outside of the Village.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Kristin von Maur to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Michelle Smith  
Deputy Clerk

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President