

# VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, November 21, 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: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Kristin von Maur, Mark Vandevere, Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke, Deputy Clerk/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 Lonna Johnson 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 November 07, 2022.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 07, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Grand Re-Opening Celebration of the Berrien Springs McDonald's on December 15, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Michigan Municipal League letter offering specialized Newly Elected Officials (NEO) training, both a variety of locations and virtual.

**Audience Comments:** None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

**\*The Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting** scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

**\*A Special Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting** was held today at 5:30 p.m.

### **Pay the bills.**

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to pay the bills in the amount of \$46,203.13. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Change Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan Coordinator from Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke to Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda effective January 01, 2023.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sheila Snyder to Change Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan Coordinator from Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke to Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda effective January 01, 2023. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve United Federal Credit Union as the location for the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 01, 2023.**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve United Federal Credit Union as the location for the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 01, 2023. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve recognizing Dave Kunde and his crew from the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division for the excellent public service regarding helping with trying to remedy the water main breaks at River Springs (River Grove) Mobile Home Park.**

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve recognizing Dave Kunde and his crew from the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division for the excellent public service regarding helping with trying to remedy the water main breaks at River Springs (River Grove) Mobile Home Park. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve purchasing 20 dozen cookies and juice for the Kindle Your Christmas Spirit in Downtown Berrien Springs Festival in the amount up to \$325.00.**

\*Moved by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve purchasing 20 dozen cookies and juice for the Kindle Your Christmas Spirit in Downtown Berrien Springs Festival in the amount up to \$325.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve re-appointing Jack Davis as President Pro-Tem.**

\*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve re-appointing Jack Davis as President Pro-Tem. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0; Abstained: 1 (Jack Davis). Motion carried.

**Approve the appointment of Village Council Committee chairs and members as set forth in document with adjustments as presented.**

\*Moved by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the appointment of Village Council Committee chairs and members as set forth in document with adjustments as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve loaning the Clerk's old laptop to Christmas Care, indefinitely, for \$1.00.**

\*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve loaning the Clerk's old laptop to Christmas Care, indefinitely, for \$1.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

\*The council received the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report of Investments, July – September 2022.

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

\*The Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

**Approve Williams and Works quote for an estimated cost of \$945.00 to compile, complete and submit the Parks and Recreation Plan and all the necessary paperwork to the DNR by the February 01, 2023, deadline.**

\*Moved by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Williams and Works quote for an estimated cost of \$945.00 to compile, complete and submit the Parks and Recreation Plan and all the necessary paperwork to the DNR by the February 01, 2023, deadline. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

\*Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

**Approve increasing Assistant Fire Chief Don Damron's pay by \$500.00.**

\*Moved by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve increasing Assistant Fire Chief Don Damron's pay by \$500.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve increasing the volunteer firefighters pay by an additional \$1.50 per hour.**

\*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve increasing the volunteer firefighters pay an additional \$1.50 per hour. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES –**

\*The Public Utilities Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE –**

\*The Shamrock Park Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

**Approve tree removal/trimming for Shamrock Park from Budget Tree in the amount of \$2,900.00.**

\*Moved by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve tree removal/trimming for Shamrock Park from Budget Tree in the amount of \$2,900.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY BOARD –**

\*Council received the Berrien Springs Community Library Minutes of the Board Meetings from August 25, 2022, and September 22, 2022.

**MEDIC 1 – Clerk Sheri Kesterke**

\*Clerk Sheri Kesterke gave a synopsis of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 17, 2022.

**RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis**

\*Nothing new to report.

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

\*Nothing new to report.

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

\*Nothing new to report.

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

\*The Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Jack Davis, Chair**

\*The Community Coordinator Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. was cancelled.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Kindle Your Christmas Spirit Festival in Downtown Berrien Springs will be held on December 08, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

\*Mike Boswell congratulated the elected council members and Clerk Sheri Kesterke on all her hard work over the years.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark Vandevere to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

---

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training

---

Barry Gravitt  
Village President