

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, August 21, 2023. President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Kristin von Maur, Mark Vandever, Village Clerk 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 Jack Davis 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 on August 07, 2023.

***Moved** by Mark Vandever seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 07, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Audience Comments:

Rick Moore addressed the council regarding a notice received for Code Enforcement on a property he just purchased, 313 West Madison. Trustee Kirstin von Maur said the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee will investigate it and the council thanked him for coming and encouraged renovations to properties within the Village.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Special Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting held before the Council Meeting today, Monday, August 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Wednesday, August 16, 2023)

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to pay the bills in the amount of \$62,942.52. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Part-time help applicants.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve hiring Katherine Strycker for Shamrock Park/Downtown part-time help at \$13.00 an hour. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Starting Pay.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the starting pay for all part-time workers to be \$13.00 an hour. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plan 2006) in the amount of \$36,893.57 for interest.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plan 2006) in the amount of \$36,893.57 for interest. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Wednesday, August 16, 2023)

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

*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Wednesday, August 16, 2023) is cancelled.

*Public Utilities Committee Member Zach Fedoruk updated the council on ongoing items the committee is still reviewing.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Wednesday, August 16, 2023)

Shamrock Park Wi-Fi.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve a new network and Wi-Fi upgrade at Shamrock Park in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next meeting will be in September.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*Nothing new to report.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The final Police Board Meeting for 2023 is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 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 next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (rescheduled from Wednesday, August 16, 2023)

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

*Chair Sheila Snyder will be getting in touch with Gretchen Brown for an update.

ONGOING BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve the 2nd Annual Autumn Market in the Grove on September 24, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to approve the 2nd Annual Autumn Market in the Grove on September 24, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

*The next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 05, 2023, due to Labor Day Holiday, Monday September 04, 2023.

*The Village Hall will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 04, 2023.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Teri Freehling addressed the council regarding two addresses in Shamrock Park that might be included in a fiber optic upgrade by the State. She will talk with Trustee Mark Vandevere about this. She will also reach out to Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde about possible funding options for chip sealing on Ferry Street.

Jason Ramtahal reported to the council they had a good Cars & Coffee event and the next one will be on September 2nd. The last Cars & Coffee event for the year will be on September 30th.

Aidyn Ramtahal addressed the council to request a basketball hoop in Memorial Park. President Barry Gravitt thanked him for his comment and said the council is working on doing this.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President