

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, July 22, 2024. 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, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: Trustees Kristin von Maur and Mark VandeVere.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, *The Herald Palladium*, and Bruce Stover.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson 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 on July 08, 2024.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 08, 2024, as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval to commence a renewable energy cost reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023. To be held Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Sally L. Wallace by video/teleconferencing.
2. Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting Notice received.
3. *Central County Senior Center* August 2024 newsletter received.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Barry Gravitt

*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the 4th Quarter Report of Investments, April – June 2024.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to pay the bills in the amount of \$79,192.24. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Invoice from Berrien County Community Development for payment of the Berrien County Water /Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond, the Village's share is \$15,295.28.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Invoice from Berrien County Community Development for payment of the Berrien County Water /Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond, the Village's share is \$15,295.28. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the updated Capital Improvement Plan to be in compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The plan is to be amended and approved on an annual basis. Projects can be added or subtracted as the needs and resources adjust.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the updated Capital Improvement Plan to be in compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The plan is to be amended and approved on an annual basis. Projects can be added or subtracted as the needs and resources adjust. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve a .50 cent wage increase for Stan Banish for obtaining his D-3 and S-3 Waterworks System Operator Classifications.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve a .50 cent wage increase for Stan Banish for obtaining his D-3 and S-3 Waterworks System Operator Classifications. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2025.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2025. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve closing the Village Hall in 2025 on Friday, December 26, with staff using a vacation day.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve closing the Village Hall in 2025 on Friday, December 26, with staff using a vacation day. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan Amendments, as required by MDOT.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan Amendments, as required by MDOT. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

***Committee Member Sheila Synder gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

Approve Proposal for Professional Consulting Services for Historic District Study Committee Survey & Report from Preservation Forward LLC & Athena Research Consultants LLC in the amount of \$6,000.00 to finish the Historical District Report.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Proposal for Professional Consulting Services for Historic District Study Committee Survey & Report from Preservation Forward LLC & Athena Research Consultants LLC in the amount of \$6,000.00 to finish the Historical District Report. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve swing set replacement in Memorial Park not to exceed \$4,000.00. Probably in the color green, unless decided otherwise.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Jack Davis to approve swing set replacement in Memorial Park not to exceed \$4,000.00. Ayes, 4; Nays, 1 (Zach Fedoruk). Motion carried.

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

***The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Lonna Johnson

***Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

Approve the purchase of a 2024 Bobcat ZT7072SW with a 72” deck and a 35 hp Kawasaki liquid cooled fuel injected engine for \$13,052.86.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the purchase of a 2024 Bobcat ZT7072SW with a 72” deck and a 35 hp Kawasaki liquid cooled fuel injected engine for \$13,052.86. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the quote from Voltage Dynamics for installation of emergency lighting on the 2024 Ram 2500 for a cost of \$2,156.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the quote from Voltage Dynamics for installation of emergency lighting on the 2024 Ram 2500 for a cost of \$2,156.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Utility Bill Payment Plan Agreement for Glen Rishaug, 8898 Sunset – 3 units, as presented.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the Utility Bill Payment Plan Agreement for Glen Rishaug, 8898 Sunset – 3 units, as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

*Council received the Revenue/Expense Report for June 2024.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Jack Davis gave an update on the Recreation Authority.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The next Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Chair Sheila Snyder thanked the council for approval of the quote to complete the Historic District Report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*The Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. was cancelled.

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

*Nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED 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. tomorrow, July 23, 2024, at Oronoko Township Hall. The General Election will be held November 05, 2024.

This year on the ballot will be the office of Village President (two-year term) and three four-year trustee positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Deputy Clerk/Payroll & Utility Billing Clerk Michelle Smith's request to attend the 24th Annual Civic Symposium, September 12-13, 2024 (September 11 travel day) for a cost of \$1,024.94 plus any applicable fees.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Deputy Clerk/Payroll & Utility Billing Clerk Michelle Smith's request to attend the 24th Annual Civic Symposium, September 12-13, 2024 (September 11 travel day) for a cost of \$1,024.94 plus any applicable fees. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President