

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, July 24, 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 Vandevere, 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 Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 10, 2023.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 10, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 10, 2023.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Jack Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 10, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission to authorize MGUC to implement its biennial 2024-2025 EWR plan, including alternative compliance payments. To be held Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Katherine Talbot by video/teleconferencing.
2. 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, 2022. To be held Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Jonathan Thoits by video/teleconferencing.
3. Notice of the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 in Governors' Hall A at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. This is during the Michigan Municipal League's Annual Conference being held in Traverse City, October 18-20, 2023.

Audience Comments:

Roger Johnson, owner of AJ's Uptown Bar and Grill, addressed the council regarding food trucks and asked the council to keep the permit fees the same.

Joe Melendez, owner of Melendez Imports, addressed the council regarding food trucks and how they affect his and the community's businesses.

President Barry Gravitt thanked both for their input and Public Properties and Ordinance Chair Kristin von Maur said they will keep their comments in mind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the 4th Quarter Report of Investments; April – June 2023.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$144,233.10. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve increasing Accounting Clerk Cami Bacon’s work week from 35 to 40 hours per week as all other office staff.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve increasing Accounting Clerk Cami Bacon’s work week from 35 to 40 hours per week as all other office staff. Ayes, 7; 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 \$40,589.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the invoice from Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for the Village’s Renewal Insurance Premium in the amount of \$40,589.00. Ayes, 7; 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 Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark Vandevere 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. Roll call vote: Kristin von Maur/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Reconstruct Ordinance Enforcement citations.

*Discussion held. Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel is working on a sample.

Consider an ordinance prohibiting roosters.

*Discussion held.

Blue Spruce used for Christmas lights in Memorial Park.

*Discussion held.

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

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve selling the 2001 Sterling Cab and Chassis through Biddergy.com 1919 E. Kilgore Service Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 at their August government auction for a fee not to exceed 9% of the sale price.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve selling the 2001 Sterling Cab and Chassis through Biddergy.com 1919 E. Kilgore Service Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 at their August government auction for a fee not to exceed 9% of the sale price. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Chorba Asphalt for \$5,700.00 for repairs to the Village Hall parking lot, intersection of Ferry and Shawnee Roads, 527 North Main water repair, and 309 Park Avenue water repair.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve quote from Chorba Asphalt for \$5,700.00 for repairs to the Village Hall parking lot, intersection of Ferry and Shawnee Roads, 527 North Main water repair, and 309 Park Avenue water repair. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve payment to Apex Excavating & Underground, LLC in the amount of \$58,875.00 for work performed on the Water Distribution System Materials Inventory.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve payment to Apex Excavating & Underground, LLC in the amount of \$58,875.00 for work performed on the Water Distribution System Materials Inventory. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve submitting the Financial Status Report as prepared by Fleis & Vandenbrink to EGLE for reimbursement of expenses incurred to date for the AMP/DSMI program for the amount of \$82,780.45.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve submitting the Financial Status Report as prepared by Fleis & Vandenbrink to EGLE for reimbursement of expenses incurred to date for the AMP/DSMI program for the amount of \$82,780.45. Ayes, 7; 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 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the Revenue/Expense Report for June 2023.

Part-time help for Shamrock Park.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve advertising for part-time help. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Wi-Fi update.

*Discussion held.

Consider a raise for Shamrock Park part-time employee Lori Wesaw.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve a \$1.00 raise for Shamrock Park part-time employee Lori Wesaw. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Medic 1 Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*Meeting for tonight is cancelled and rescheduled to next Monday night.

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

*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*Nothing new to report.

ONGOING BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Jason Ramtahal of 113 E. Madison addressed the council to thank them and that they had a good attendance at the last Cars and Coffee event. He also addressed the council that he believes the issue with the Code Enforcement citations is that you can't read them, and they are not described enough. He asked the Council about the speed bumps and signs. President Barry Gravitt informed him the Village is still looking into and working on it.

Errol Prentice inquired what the Council will do about the big trucks sitting in the Park's parking lot [Asplundh Trucks].

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President