

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, March 18, 2024. President Pro-Tem Jack Davis called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: President Barry Gravitt and Trustee Kristin von Maur.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, *The Herald Palladium*, Wightman Project Engineer Eric Kamps, and Community Coordinator Kelly Ewalt.

The Pledge of Allegiance was previously stated at the beginning of the Public Hearing directly before this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk 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 March 04, 2024.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 04, 2024, as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Comcast Programming Advisory regarding a change to the channel line-up was received.
2. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission for authority to increase natural gas rates. To be held Tuesday, April 02, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders by video/teleconferencing.

Audience Comments: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*Trustee Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to pay the bills in the amount of \$76,097.06. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the USDA RD Water & Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Bond Interest due in the total amount of \$21,683.75.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the USDA RD Water & Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Bond Interest due in the total amount of \$21,683.75. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve request from Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde to recycle surplus computer equipment at Green Earth Electronics Recycling.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve request from Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde to recycle surplus computer equipment at Green Earth Electronics Recycling. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve a .50 cent wage increase effective April 01, 2024, for Katherine Strycker, who will have successfully completed her 90-day probation period as a full-time Public Works/Streets/Shamrock Park employee on April 1st.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve a .50 cent wage increase effective April 01, 2024, for Katherine Strycker, who will have successfully completed her 90-day probation period as a full-time Public Works/Streets/Shamrock Park employee on April 1st. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the request for Clerk Rachael Kuzda to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's Clerking 101 and Conference in Traverse City June 17-20, 2024.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the request for Clerk Rachael Kuzda to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's Clerking 101 and Conference in Traverse City June 17-20, 2024, in the amount of \$1,922.80. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the request from Fire Chief Doug Myers to approve the Village's share for the cost of fireworks for 2024 to be \$5,000.00.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the request from Fire Chief Doug Myers to approve the Village's share for the cost of fireworks for 2024 to be \$5,000.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Annual Year-End Transfers.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the Annual Year-End Transfers. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Sally's Greenhouse quote of \$50.00 per flowerpot (21 flowerpots = \$1,050.00), to refill the downtown flowerpots again this year, which they have stored all winter.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Sally's Greenhouse quote of \$50.00 per flowerpot (21 flowerpots = \$1,050.00), to refill the downtown flowerpots again this year, which they have stored all winter. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

***Trustee Sheila Snyder** gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve the "Resolution of Authorization – Local Unit of Government Match with Donated Funds". The Public Hearing regarding applying for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, for a new Wolf's Prairie Playground was held this evening at 5:30 p.m.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the "Resolution of Authorization – Local Unit of Government Match with Donated Funds". Roll call vote: Mark VandeVere/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; President Pro-Tem Jack Davis/Aye. Absent: President Barry Gravitt and Trustee Kristin von Maur. Motion carried.

Approve Pride The Portable Toilet Company to place a portable handicap unit at Memorial Park the first week of April, for 26 weeks for the cost of \$1,430.00. This includes weekly service.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Pride The Portable Toilet Company to place a portable handicap unit at Memorial Park the first week of April, for 26 weeks for the cost of \$1,430.00. This includes weekly service. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the “Village of Berrien Springs Code Enforcement Process” document, which includes a minor adjustment from what was approved at the last Council Meeting.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the “Village of Berrien Springs Code Enforcement Process” document, which includes a minor adjustment from what was approved at the last Council Meeting. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve a revision to Ordinance No. 251, Section 2, adjusting the height of maintaining grasses, weeds, and brush to within five (5”) inches of the ground.

Attorney Frank DeFrancesco will draft an official ordinance amendment to approve at the next Council Meeting.

Approve planting of trees up to the remaining tree budget by the fiscal year-end of \$14,345.44.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve planting of trees up to the remaining tree budget by the fiscal year-end of \$14,345.44. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. 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, March 27, 2024, 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, March 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Approve Wightman to start the dredging bid process in the amount of \$4,500.00.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Wightman to start the dredging bid process in the amount of \$4,500.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to hire Budget Tree Service to put slag on roadway in the primitive area in the amount of \$2,000.00.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve to hire Budget Tree Service to put slag on roadway in the primitive area in the amount of \$2,000.00. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to pay Kenneth Smith, Inc. \$2,699.20 to bring slag for use on sites.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve to pay Kenneth Smith, Inc. \$2,699.20 to bring slag for use on sites. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Getting ready for summer baseball and softball season.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative
*The next Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder
*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Historic District Committee Meeting held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
*The next Historic District Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 08, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Berrien County Historical Association.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder
*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: FERAL/STRAY CATS: Chair Sheila Snyder
*Nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:
***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Sheila Snyder to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0.
Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Jack Davis
Village President Pro-Tem