**VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Council Workshop held on Monday, June 29, 2022.

President Barry Gravitt called the council workshop to order at 6:10 p.m.
Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis; Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Sandy Swartz, Clerk Sheri Kesterke and Clerk in Training/ Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: Trustee Kristin von Maur.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Kelly Ewalt/Community Coordinator and Dave Kunde/Public Works Superintendent.

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

This Council Workshop was held to discuss the project wish list requested by Village President Barry Gravitt.

Village President Barry Gravitt started the meeting off with the objective to focus down the list to what we can do.

Downtown:

* Discussed empty buildings/homes and how to fill them. The Historic District Committee is working on empty store fronts. A problem for interested businesses is the empty lots are being used for storage.
* Downtown lighting on Ferry Street would need engineering and MDOT approval. The Public Properties and Ordinance Committee will be meeting with a State Contact, Tanya, to discuss options soon. Dave Kunde will contact Dan Fette from Berrien County to give direction on lighting and downtown updates.

Continue working on increased security at Village Hall turning the conference room into a lobby.

Festivals and Activities:

* Car shows are doing good and seeing an increase in pedestrians per Trustee Zach Fedoruk. Possibly add vendors in the future.
* Farmer’s markets could be held at Village property by Shamrock Park
* French Markets (craft/artisan fairs) could be organized by a “market manager”. Vendors would be juried and have a minimal booth charge.

Trees:

* Pretty up the Village with trees. The recent trees were bought from a vendor in St. Joseph per Dave Kunde. The Public Works Department will go around and find places that need trees and plant in the fall.

Accolades:

* Have a contest for best landscaping, best looking house, most improved.
* A thank you for fixing up homes.

Parks:

* Have more walking trails.
* More parking at Grove Park.
* The easiest avenues to go with in regards to Grove Park would be walking trails and more parking that would be ADA compliant per Dave Kunde.
* Have an elevated observation deck. Be more accessible for people.
* A kayak launch. The launch at the Boat Club is getting good usage.

Village President Barry Gravitt stated farmer’s markets and kayak launch are two doable ideas; we have some knowledge already on them.

Police Memorial Park could use some picnic tables and benches.

Council is to read through the list of ideas. The deadline to narrow them down is the end of August.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\***Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Ayes,
6, Nays, 0. Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC Barry Gravitt

Clerk in Training Village President