**VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, May 15, 2023.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis; Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson,

Kristin von Maur, Mark Vandevere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, Deputy Clerk/Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk Michelle Smith, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: Trustee Sheila Snyder.

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 Mark Vandevere to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays

0. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 01, 2023.  
\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Council

Meeting held on May 01, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Notice from Comcast regarding Programming Advisory about changes to Xfinity TV services.

2. Notice from Comcast regarding Programming Advisory about a new agreement with NFL Network and

NFL RedZone.

**Audience Comments:** None.

\*President Barry Gravitt discussed with the council the possibility of speed bumps and signs within the Village.

#### 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

Thursday, May 04, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

\*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting held on

Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

**Pay the bills.**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of $39,695.68. Ayes, 6;

Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**BCBS Health Insurance renewal, takes effect June 01, 2023.**

**\*Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve BCBS Health Insurance renewal, which

takes effect June 01, 2023, and includes Health Savings Accounts. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Amending the Village of Berrien Springs Employee Handbook Bereavement: to include Grandfather-in-law and Grandmother-in-law in the definition of immediate family and grant one day off with pay in the event of the death of an aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew.**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approveamending the Village of Berrien Springs

Employee Handbook Bereavement: to include Grandfather-in-law and Grandmother-in-law in the definition of

immediate family, allowing up to three days off with pay, and grant one day off with pay in the event of the

death of an aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew.Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. 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

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

For information only: A notice from the Seventh-day Adventist Church Michigan Conference was received

that they are going door-to-door from June 4-August 10. They will be distributing free religious literature,

praying with community members, enrolling interested individuals in Bible Studies, and seeking donations

to support the program. This is basically to let the council know they will be in the area, as our Application

For Peddler/Solicitor Permit exempts religious or charitable institutions from the permitting requirements.

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

\*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for May 24, 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, May 10,

2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**Approve a not to exceed amount of $5,000.00 for development and consultation work with the Village GIS program concentration on developing a sidewalk database with an online map and providing support for existing GIS maps.**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve a not to exceed amount of $5,000.00 for

development and consultation work with the Village GIS program concentration on developing a sidewalk

database with an online map and providing support for existing GIS maps. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE –** Chair Jack Davis  
\*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 09, 2023,

at 4:00 p.m.

\*Council received the Revenue/Expense Report for April 2023.

**Approve trading in wood splitter, valued at $600.00, for new hand lawn mower.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve trading in wood splitter, valued at $600.00, for

new hand lawn mower. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY BOARD** – Lonna Johnson

\*Council received the minutes of the Berrien Springs Community Library Board Meeting held on February 23,

2023.

\*Council received the minutes of the Berrien Springs Community Library Board Meeting held on March 23,

2023.

**MEDIC 1 –** Clerk Rachael Kuzda

\*The next Medic 1 Meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

**RECREATION BOARD –** Jack Davis

\*Nothing new to report.

**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

\*Committee Members Zach Fedoruk and Lonna Johnson reported the Committee is still working on the report.

**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE**: Chair Sheila Snyder

\*Committee Member Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee

Meeting held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

\*Committee Member Zach Fedoruk gave a synopsis of the Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cat Committee Meeting held on

Thursday, May 04, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Reminder: The Village Hall will be closed Monday, May 29, 2023, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

**Audience Comments:**

Roger Johnson addressed the Council regarding food trucks. He wants the Council to consider that businesses

lose money when food trucks are near and business owners pay taxes that food trucks don’t. Council Member

Kristin von Maur thanked him for his comments.

Leisa Paustian addressed the Council to request Cars & Coffee be moved to South Main Street. President Barry

Gravitt said the Council would take it under consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion

carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC Barry Gravitt

Village Clerk Village President