

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, November 20, 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 Bruce Stover.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere 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 Regular Council Meeting held on November 06, 2023.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 06, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval for reconciliation of its 2022 demand response and load management program costs. To be held Tuesday, December 05, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher J. Woolf by video/teleconferencing.
2. Programming Advisory from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV services.
3. Notice from Comcast regarding price changes.

Audience Comments: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$110,856.62. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Consider 3% COLA raises beginning January 01, 2024.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve 3% COLA raises beginning January 01, 2024. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Consider a wage increase amount for employees that obtain a license required by the council for their position. (history shows .50 cents per hour)

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve a .50 cent wage increase for Stan Banish, who has completed another water license requirement. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve United Federal Credit Union as the location for the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 1, 2024. (The annual amounts were previously approved by the council with the June 1, 2023, Health Insurance Package.)

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve United Federal Credit Union as the location for the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 1, 2024. (The annual amounts were previously approved by the council with the June 1, 2023, Health Insurance Package.) Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve purchasing 55 dozen cookies (this is the amount we went through last year) for the Kindle Your Christmas Spirit in Downtown Berrien Springs Festival. These treats are enjoyed by those that visit Santa Claus at the Village Hall. Approximate costs if purchased from Harding's is \$246.81 or from Gordon's is \$254.83.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to accept the donation from Frank DeFrancesco's law office to purchase 55 dozen cookies for the Kindle Your Christmas Spirit in Downtown Berrien Springs Festival. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Annual appointment of President Pro-Tem by Village President.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve re-appointing Jack Davis as President Pro-Tem. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0; Abstained: 1 (Jack Davis). Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the Welcome Sign wording for 2024.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the Welcome Sign wording for 2024. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*Village Representative Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Fire Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve quote from Enyart Electric Motor Repair to repair pump for the Shawnee lift station in the amount of \$3,837.53.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the quote from Enyart Electric Motor Repair to repair pump for the Shawnee lift station in the amount of \$3,837.53. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Enyart Electric Motor Repair to rebuild and rewind pump for the Rose Hill lift station in the amount of \$3,731.40.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from Enyart Electric Motor Repair to rebuild and rewind pump for the Rose Hill lift station in the amount of \$3,731.40. 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, November 08, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda gave a synopsis of the Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Winter sports are going on.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*Nothing new to report.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Community Coordinator Kelly Ewalt is reviewing the files.

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, November 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*Nothing new to report.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Proclamation: Family Court Awareness Month.

*Discussion held.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve upcoming events for 2024, per the memo from the Community Coordinator.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve upcoming events for 2024, per the memo from the Community Coordinator. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark Vandevere to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President