

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, January 16, 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 Mark Vandevere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held January 03, 2023.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 03, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 03, 2023.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 03, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Central County Senior Center* January 2023 Newsletter received.
2. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission for accounting approval of depreciation rates. To be held Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher Saunders by video/teleconferencing.
3. Community Preparedness class presented by the Berrien Springs-Oronoko Police and Fire Departments on January 17, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Audience Comments: Jeremy Dybdahl, owner of BC Hemp Co. and 107 North Main, addressed the council concerning two code enforcement situations. One was regarding a parking ticket he received working late at his business when there was no snow. President Barry Gravitt informed Mr. Dybdahl that he talked with Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel and agreed the Village was ok with forgoing the ticket. Mr. Dybdahl has spoken to the Police, and they have dismissed the ticket and the situation is taken care of. He did want the council to be aware that the \$75.00 ticket is very high priced.

The other concern Mr. Dybdahl has is regarding an ordinance violation he received for weeds. He took care of the weeds, but a garden with lavender plants and raspberries etc. he planted with his children was mowed down even though berries were clearly visible. He received a bill for the clean up a month later. Barry informed Mr. Dybdahl that he will speak with Shane and get back with him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*The Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. was cancelled.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$70,198.18. Ayes, 7; 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 on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Consider selling 611 N. Mechanic property “as is”.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve listing for sale 611 North Mechanic “as is” for \$18,000.00 for 60 days. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*The 2023 Fire Board Meeting dates are the following Wednesday’s at 5:00 p.m.: January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27, and November 15th.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve ordering 45,000 pounds of Aluminum Sulfate 48.8% for a price not to exceed \$7,400.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve ordering 45,000 pounds of Aluminum Sulfate 48.8% for a price not to exceed \$7,400.00. 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, January 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the Revenue/Expense Reports for December 2022.

Approve quote from Chardon for a water softener and installation not to exceed \$3,000.00.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve quote from Chardon for a water softener and installation not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0; Abstained, 1 (Zach Fedoruk). Motion carried.

Hiring 2 part-time employees.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve advertising for 2 part-time employees at Shamrock Park. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve both playground equipment quotes from B & L Woodcrafts, LLC, which includes installation, frame around area, mat and 3” rubber mulch not to exceed \$40,000.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve both playground equipment quotes from B & L Woodcrafts, LLC, which includes installation, frame around area, mat and 3” rubber mulch not to exceed \$40,000.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 1 (Sheila Snyder). Motion carried.

Storage Shed

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve quote from Homestead Barns for a 12 x 32 Storage Shed not to exceed \$12,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the purchase of slag rock for site repairs not to exceed \$3,000.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the purchase of slag rock for site repairs not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2023.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*Nothing new to report.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The 2023 Police board Meeting dates are the following Thursday’s at 3:30 p.m.: January 26, April 27, July 27, and October 26th.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Chair Sheila Snyder reported that the Committee will start to dig into the files received from the Berrien County Historical Association.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*The Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from the Community Coordinator to write a grant to the Berrien Springs Area Endowment to cover the cost of the lamp post brackets for the Hometown Heroes banners in the amount of \$2,000.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the purchase of 60 brackets for the Hometown Hero’s Banners in the amount of \$1,600.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Gwen Parker addressed the Council that she had put in a request to put up a tent at Grove Park for her upcoming wedding. She was informed the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee has talked about it and has a few questions. Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde will be in touch with her to discuss this as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President