

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, April 03, 2023.
President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:01 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*, Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel, Community Coordinator Kelly Ewalt, and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council presented former Council Trustee Sandy Swartz with a plaque and thanked her for 22 years of valuable service as a Trustee and who throughout her tenure was also Chair of the Public Utilities and Shamrock Park Committees.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur 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 March 27, 2023.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 27, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held March 29, 2023.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held March 29, 2023, with the correction of the day held of Monday to Wednesday. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Audience Comments:

Zach Gordon of 416 S. Cass addressed the council that a few years back he was in contact with the Village regarding a kayak launch and other activities to utilize the river. President Barry Gravitt informed Mr. Gordon the Village is still interest and would like to talk to him further about his ideas.

Jim Kesterke of 304 Fisher Court addressed the council to commend Sandy Swartz on all the work she has done for the Village.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair President Barry Gravitt

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$52,913.04. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair Kristin von Maur

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*April Meeting date TBD.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*April Meeting date TBD.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The next Police Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Nothing new to report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Feral and Stray Cats.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve budgeting in General Fund \$2,500.00 towards cat mitigation. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

*President Barry Gravitt set an Ad Hoc committee regarding the feral and stray cats consisting of Zach Fedoruk, Sheila Snyder, and Mark Vandevere.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve the use of Shamrock Park for the “Ducks to the Rescue” Fundraiser put on by Dr. Holly Shaffer from Two by Two Animal Hospital on Sunday, July 30, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. per the memo from the Community Coordinator.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the use of Shamrock Park for the “Ducks to the Rescue” Fundraiser put on by Dr. Holly Shaffer from Two by Two Animal Hospital on Sunday, July 30, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. per the memo from the Community Coordinator. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

*The Village Hall will be closed Friday, April 07, 2023, in honor of Good Friday.

Audience Comments:

Sandy Swartz addressed the council regarding the feral/stray cats and to please investigate all avenues. President Barry Gravitt stated we have a good start.

Zach Gordon of 416 S. Cass inquired about the old theater building. President Barry Gravitt stated the council is trying to work on old and abandoned buildings.

Sheri Kesterke of 304 Fisher Court addressed the council to thank Sandy Swartz for all her hard work. She also stated her concern of any cats being left in cages for extended periods of time. Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel stated that the cages will be checked often and will not be left overnight.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President