

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, November 06, 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 Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda with addition under New Business: Proclamation: Family Court Awareness Month. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 16, 2023.**

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 16, 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 to implement a power supply cost recovery plan for the 12 months ending December 31, 2024. To be held Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge James M. Varchetti by video/teleconferencing.
2. *Central County Senior Center* November 2023 newsletter received.

**Audience Comments:** None.

### RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

Mike Shembarger, Berrien Springs Public Schools representative on the Recreation Authority, gave the council a brief synopsis of what is currently going on with the Recreation Board and the Recreation Authority. As of October 30, 2023, the Recreation Authority is replacing the traditional Recreation Board. The Recreation Authority runs much like a municipality does regarding FOIAs, posting requirements, etc. The Authority is working on getting organized but is officially up and running.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

**\*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

#### Pay the bills.

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark Vandevere to pay the bills in the amount of \$92,708.88. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### Newly Elected Officials Trainings through Michigan Municipal League.

**\*Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve paying for Newly Elected Officials Training through Michigan Municipal League for any Council Member who chooses to do so in the amount of \$95.00 per participant for a virtual workshop, or \$125.00 per participant for an in-person workshop. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### Appoint new members to the Village of Berrien Springs Zoning Board of Appeals.

**\*Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals members as presented: Chair Jason Ramtahal; Committee Members: Kristin von Maur, Christopher Perry, Ariel Solis, and Andrew von Maur. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### Set a Public Hearing for the Variance Application for 412 West Ferry.

**\*Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to set a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on November 27, 2023, regarding the Variance Application for 412 West Ferry. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE** – Kristin von Maur, Chair

\*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 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, for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, has been changed from 5:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** – Chair Lonna Johnson

\*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE** – Chair Jack Davis

\*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 08, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD** – Lonna Johnson

\*Council received the Berrien Springs Community Library Board Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2023; May 25, 2023; June 22, 2023; and September 07, 2023.

**MEDIC 1** – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

\*Clerk Rachael Kuzda gave a synopsis of the Medic 1 Board Meeting held on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

**POLICE COMMITTEE** – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

\*Synopsis of the final Police Board Meeting for 2023 held on Thursday, October 26, 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, November 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

\*Nothing new to report.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approve allowing a donation box for Christmas Care in the Village Hall Lobby from November – December 2023 and allow office staff to accept family request forms.**

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve allowing a donation box for Christmas Care in the Village Hall Lobby from November – December 2023 and allow office staff to accept family request forms. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**\$1,000.00 Grant from the Berrien Springs Area Endowment for decorating the Christmas Tree.**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve the \$1,000.00 Grant from the Berrien Springs Area Endowment for decorating the Christmas Tree. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Proclamation: Family Court Awareness Month.**

\*Tabled until next meeting.

\***REMINDER:** The Village Hall will be closed Friday, November 10, 2023, in honor of Veterans Day.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Jason Ramtahal addressed the council to ask if we have an ordinance for drones. We do not have an ordinance regarding drones that the council is aware of. Do we have an ordinance regarding panhandling? Attorney DeFrancesco will look into the ordinances. It was suggested to report to the appropriate people [Zoning Administrator etc.] if someone is obstructing the sidewalk or streets. Appreciation was expressed for the basketball court at Memorial Park.

Multiple comments of thanks to the Public Works Department and staff doing leaves.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Village Clerk

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President