

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.
Absent: Kristin von Maur.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, and Gretchen Brown.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder 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 on December 04, 2023.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 04, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Audience Comments:

Gretchen Brown gave the council a year-end update on the TNR program for stray cats. She would like the Council to consider purchasing two more cat traps.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the purchase of two cat traps, same type as previously purchased, and one fork. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. (immediately after the Public Properties & Ordinance Committee Meeting).

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$32,406.23. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Village of Berrien Springs 2022-2023 Audit by Plante Moran. The Village received a ‘clean’ audit opinion and did not have any deficiencies to report.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the Village of Berrien Springs 2022-2023 Audit by Plante Moran. The Village received a ‘clean’ audit opinion and did not have any deficiencies to report. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Invoice #5497 for \$20,000.00 contingent on School Board action.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Invoice #5497 for \$20,000.00 contingent on School Board action. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve employee Katherine Strycker to full time as of January 01, 2024, at \$14.00 per hour.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve employee Katherine Strycker to full time as of January 01, 2024, at \$14.00 per hour. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve reappointing Joint Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member President Barry Gravitt, who’s current term expires December 31, 2023, to a new 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve reappointing Joint Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member President Barry Gravitt, who’s current term expires December 31, 2023, to a new 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0; Abstain: 1 (Barry Gravitt). Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

*Council received the minutes from the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

*Council received the minutes from the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, immediately after the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting.

Approve Villwocks Outdoor Living Invoice #000069 for street tree planting in the amount of \$10,654.56.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Villwocks Outdoor Living Invoice #000069 for street tree planting in the amount of \$10,654.56. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*The Public Utilities Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. was cancelled.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

*Council received the Revenue/Expense Report for September, October, and November 2023.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda gave a synopsis of the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis.

*Representative Jack Davis gave an update on the Recreation Authority.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*Nothing new to report

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Nothing new to report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*The Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. was cancelled.

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

*Chair Sheila Snyder thanked Gretchen Brown for the update and the committee will schedule a meeting soon.

ONGOING BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Village Hall will be closed due to the holidays on: Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26; Monday, January 01, and Tuesday, January 02. Happy Holidays!
2. The January Regular Council Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month due to the holidays. That is January 08, 2024, and January 22, 2024.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 2:02 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President