

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, February 17, 2025. President Sheila Snyder called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, and Jennifer Marren.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere 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 February 03, 2025.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 03, 2025, 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 of an amended Renewable Energy Plan for 2025 to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008, as amended by Public Act 235 of 2023. To be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Katherine E. Talbot by video/teleconferencing.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Special Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Friday, February 07, 2025, at 2:15 p.m.

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to pay the bills in the amount of \$107,482.92. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$345,000.00 Principal and \$33,543.57 Interest for a total amount due of \$378,543.57.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$345,000.00 Principal and \$33,543.57 Interest for a total amount due of \$378,543.57. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve hiring Jennifer Marren for the Community Engagement Coordinator position, starting at \$20.00 an hour with a review at 90 days, pending passing a pre-employment physical with drug screening.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve hiring Jennifer Marren for the Community Engagement Coordinator position, starting at \$20.00 an hour with a review at 90 days, pending passing a pre-employment physical with drug screening. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve using Miedema's Ranger Bid to auction unneeded items

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve using Miedema's Ranger Bid to auction unneeded items per the list presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Sick Leave Policy per the new Michigan Earned Sick Time Act.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to adopt the new Michigan Earned Sick Time Act to be effective on February 21, 2025, unless the state postpones the date's effectiveness. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Blankenship's (formally Sally's Greenhouse) quote of \$55.00 per flowerpot (28 flowerpots = \$1,540.00) to refill downtown flowerpots again this year.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Blankenship's (formally Sally's Greenhouse) quote of \$55.00 per flowerpot (28 flowerpots = \$1,540.00) to refill downtown flowerpots again this year. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Ashia Proia to build the Pickle Festival website to be paid for with Pickle Festival funds.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve quote from Ashia Proia to build the Pickle Festival website to be paid for with Pickle Festival funds. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0; Abstained, 1 (Sheila Snyder). Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

***Chair** Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve RFP for downtown landscape maintenance.

***Moved** by Christopher Perez seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the RFP for downtown landscape maintenance. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the request from Brad Wurzel, Berrien Center Bible Church, to host the Berrien.Life 5K once again on July 27, 2025. The route remains the same as the last couple of years.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the request from Brad Wurzel, Berrien Center Bible Church, to host the Berrien.Life 5K once again on July 27, 2025. The route remains the same as the last couple of years. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

***The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

***Chair** Mark VandeVere gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve Dave Kunde and Dave Engler to go around the trailer manufacturing area near Elkhart for a day or two to search for a trailer large enough to effectively move equipment around town. They believe they can find known brand names that would meet their requirements for less than \$10,000.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Dave Kunde and Dave Engler to go around the trailer manufacturing area near Elkhart for a day or two to search for a trailer large enough to effectively move equipment around town. They believe they can find known brand names that would meet their requirements for less than \$10,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve certified resolution for MDOT Contract Number 25-5083, following the guidelines in the provided document.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve certified resolution for MDOT Contract Number 25-5083, following the guidelines in the provided document. Roll call vote: Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Christopher Perez/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Mark VandeVere/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Aye. Motion carried.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve the quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction for electric to the new storage barn for \$2,160.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction for electric to the new storage barn in the amount of \$2,160.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda will reach out for a list of the upcoming Library Board Meetings.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025.

*Discussion held on Medic 1 subsidy increase to \$10.00 per capita this year.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve a \$11.00 per capita subsidy increase. Roll call vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Nay; Kristin von Maur/Nay; Mark VandeVere/Aye; Christopher Perez/Nay; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Nay. Motion failed.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Trustee Jack Davis gave a synopsis.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

*Council received the Police Committee Meeting minutes from January 30, 2025.

*The next Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Nothing new to report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: FERAL/STRAY CATS: Chair: Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson reported that she would like to start setting up meetings for the Feral/Stray Cats Committee in the spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Bruce Stover addressed the Council to add additional information on Medic 1 and future funding needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President