

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, January 20, 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, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: Trustee Kristin von Maur.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, and Chris Perez.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 06, 2025.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 06, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval of its election to make alternative compliance payments pursuant MCL 460.1091 and thereby initiate an Energy Waste Reduction plan to be prepared by the MPSC selected EWR Administrator. To be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Katherine E. Talbot by video/teleconferencing.
2. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval of a gas cost recovery plan and authorization of gas cost recovery factors for the 12-month period April 2025-March 2026. To be held Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge James M. Varchetti by video/teleconferencing.
3. Notice received regarding Tactical Pipeline Response Training opportunities.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received a copy of the 2nd Quarter Report of Investments; October – December 2024.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$103,397.41.

Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Invoice from County of Berrien Community Development for Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond Water and Sewer Interest due in the amount of \$6,354.35.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Invoice from County of Berrien Community Development for Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond Water and Sewer Interest due in the amount of \$6,354.35. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve pre-qualified scheduling of interviews with the selected Community Engagement Coordinator applicants.

*Moved by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve pre-qualified scheduling of interviews with the selected Community Engagement Coordinator applicants. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve reimbursement to Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel for using his car due to the Village car being inoperable in the amount of \$300.00. Going forward, mileage only will be reimbursed per the standard mileage rate, and a log must be kept, or the Ranger will be made available for code enforcement.

*Moved by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve reimbursement to Code Enforcement Officer Shane Daniel for using his car due to the Village car being inoperable in the amount of \$300.00. Going forward, mileage only will be reimbursed per the standard mileage rate, and a log must be kept, or the Ranger will be made available for code enforcement. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Community Engagement Coordinator job description addition of “Some weekends and/or night hours may be required” under the Compensation and Benefits section.

*Moved by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Community Engagement Coordinator job description addition of “Some weekends and/or night hours may be required” under the Compensation and Benefits section. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

*Committee Member President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve researching options available to purchase new downtown holiday décor.

*Moved by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve researching options available to purchase new downtown holiday décor. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*Council received the minutes from the Fire Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 14, 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, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

*Council received a copy of the November and December 2024 revenue/expense reports.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Council received the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Meeting Minutes from December 09, 2024.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

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

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Council received an update from the Consultants on the progress of the Historic District Study Report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*Trustee Lonna Johnson reported she had received a few phone calls regarding stray cats and Gretchen Brown was able to catch some of these cats.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Bruce Stover addressed the Council regarding a recent accident involving a Medic 1 ambulance and school buses.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark VandeVere to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0.
Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President