

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, January 06, 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, Kristin von Maur, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco. Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, *The Herald Palladium*, and numerous audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson 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 16, 2024.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 16, 2024, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Central County Senior Center* January 2025 newsletter received.
2. Comcast Programming Advisory regarding changes to Xfinity TV services was received.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATION

Arthur Havlicek, President and CEO of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, presented information to the Council on the possibility of forming a Central Berrien CGA (Central Growth Alliance). The main goal of a CGA is to establish a healthy growth cycle. The CGA is tailored to the needs of the communities they serve. An economic development director would be hired to carry out the CGA's economic development strategy. This person would be employed and supported by the Regional Chamber. Several communities investing together to start the CGA is ideal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to pay the bills in the amount of \$202,355.47. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

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

*The 2025 Fire Board Meeting dates are the following Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.: January 14 (a Tuesday), March 26, May 28, July 23, September 24, and November 19.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

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

*Trustee Jack Davis gave a synopsis.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

*The 2025 Police Board Meeting dates are the following Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.: January 30, April 24, July 31, and October 30.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda will check in with the consultants.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*Nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The annual Michigan Department of Treasury Pension Report (as per Public Act 202 of 2017; and 530 of 2016); and the Health Care (OPEB) Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, was received by the council as prepared by Accounting Clerk Cami Bacon.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President