

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2024. 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*, *The Herald Palladium*, and Bruce Stover.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk 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 October 07, 2024.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 07, 2024, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Invitation from FEMA to an upcoming Open House to discuss newly updated flood maps on Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Benton Harbor Public Library.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Barry Gravitt

*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the Quarterly Investment Report, July – September 2024.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$87,109.42.

Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the annual Holiday Compensation for employees based on \$20.00 per year worked to be paid the payroll before Thanksgiving (November 14, 2024).

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the annual Holiday Compensation for employees based on \$20.00 per year worked to be paid the payroll before Thanksgiving (November 14, 2024). Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve request from Dave Kunde to substitute 3 (24 hours) of his vacation days for 3 days he was sick.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve request from Dave Kunde to substitute 3 (24 hours) of his vacation days for 3 days he was sick. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Need to approve Construction Board of Appeals' members for a new term, from October 14, 2024, to October 13, 2026.

*Moved by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve Construction Board of Appeals' members, Kristin von Maur, Sheila Snyder, and Greg Fenner, for a new term, from October 14, 2024, to October 13, 2026. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. 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, October 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve allowing a donation box for Christmas Care in the Village Hall Lobby from November 01, 2024, through December 13, 2024, and allow office staff to accept family request forms.

*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder approve allowing a donation box for Christmas Care in the Village Hall Lobby from November 01, 2024, through December 13, 2024, and allow office staff to accept family request forms. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve First Baptist Church's request to close off Madison Street between Cass and Kimmel from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 31, 2024, for their annual Trunk-or-Treat event.

*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve First Baptist Church's request to close off Madison Street between Cass and Kimmel from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 31, 2024, for their annual Trunk-or-Treat event. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Memorial Park as a landmark Status property on the upcoming new Historic District map.

*Discussion held.

Resolution "Village Of Berrien Springs Amended Resolution To Authorize The Historic District Study Committee To Include In Its Study Those Areas As Identified In The Attached Map".

*Moved by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve resolution "Village Of Berrien Springs Amended Resolution To Authorize The Historic District Study Committee To Include In Its Study Those Areas As Identified In The Attached Map". Roll call vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Mark VandeVere/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve expenditures for tree acquisition and planting, not to exceed the budgeted allocation for street trees with the fiscal year 2024-2025. This includes the quote from Ginger Valley, subject to minor modifications.

*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve expenditures for tree acquisition and planting, not to exceed the max budgeted allocation for street trees in the fiscal year 2024-2025. This includes the quote from Ginger Valley, subject to minor modifications. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Move forward with a new ordinance regulating the use of shipping containers within the Village of Berrien Springs.

*Discussion held.

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

*The final Fire Board Meeting for 2024 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

*The Village was awarded the MDOT TED-Category B for North Mechanic Street for \$192,500. This is a 50% match grant that will only pay for the road improvements estimated at \$385,000.

Trustee Mark VandeVere stepped away from the Council Table at this time.

Approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to replace lighting at the Water Tower parking lot installing 2 LED flood lights on existing poles for \$1,400.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to replace lighting at the Water Tower parking lot installing 2 LED flood lights on existing poles for \$1,400.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to remove existing wall packs on the water department building and replace the center light with a new LED wall pack for \$740.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to remove existing wall packs on the water department building and replace the center light with a new LED wall pack for \$740.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to install a light pole at Rotary Park with a new LED area light for \$3,600.00.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve quote from Beaudoin Electrical Construction to install a light pole at Rotary Park with a new LED area light for \$3,600.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve renewal of ESRI subscription for \$1,650.00 to be split between water, sewer, streets and ordinance.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve renewal of ESRI subscription for \$1,650.00 to be split between water, sewer, streets and ordinance. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Mark VandeVere returned to the Council Table at this time.

Approve tree trimming list from Watson's Tree Service for work in town for \$15,150.00.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve tree trimming list from Watson's Tree Service for work in town for \$15,150.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Watson's Tree Service quote for trimming at the Grove for \$5,475.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Watson's Tree Service quote for trimming at the Grove for \$5,475.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Peerless Midwest estimate for Well #7 overhaul for \$35,630.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Peerless Midwest estimate for Well #7 overhaul for \$35,630.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the 5-year contract from Bio Tech Agronomics, Inc. The agreement will begin 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2029. The contract starts at \$.0880 per gallon and increases to \$.0998 per gallon at the end of the contract. There are minimal increases on required sampling and what seems to be a standard fuel cost adjustment.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the 5-year contract from Bio Tech Agronomics, Inc. The agreement will begin 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2029. The contract starts at \$.0880 per gallon and increases to \$.0998 per gallon at the end of the contract. There are minimal increases on required sampling and what seems to be a standard fuel cost adjustment. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Part-time help at Shamrock Park.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve Patty Henson to work as part-time help at Shamrock Park with limited hours as needed at \$13.00 an hour.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Council received the October 14, 2024, Minutes from the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Meeting.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The final Police Committee Meeting for 2024 is scheduled for Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Chair Sheila Snyder reporting the Committee and Consultants are continuing to work on establishing the Historic District.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder

*Council received the minutes from the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve the Shamrock Spruce-Up event for November 03, 2024, starting at noon.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Shamrock Spruce-Up event for November 03, 2024, starting at noon. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*Council Trustee Lonna Johnson stated that she spoke with Gretchen Brown, and she will be catching stray cats in preparation of the upcoming winter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0.
Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President