

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, November 18, 2024.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk (arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Kristin von Maur, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, Deputy Clerk Michelle Smith, 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 Kristin von Maur 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 November 04, 2024.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 04, 2024, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Received notice from Comcast regarding price changes to Xfinity.

**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, November 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Pay the bills.**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere to pay the bills in the amount of \$113,894.95. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Council Trustee Zach Fedoruk arrived at this time.

#### **Approve COLA raises beginning January 01, 2025.**

**\*Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve 3% COLA raises beginning January 01, 2025. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve United Federal Credit Union as the location of the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 01, 2025. (The annual amounts were previously approved by the council with the June 01, 2024, Health Insurance Package.)**

**\*Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve United Federal Credit Union as the location of the deposits of the annual Employee Health Savings Accounts, January 01, 2025. (The annual amounts were previously approved by the council with the June 01, 2024, Health Insurance Package.) Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve upgrading the website host account with WP Engine to support three live sites for an additional \$290.00 per year, for a total of \$590.00 per year.**

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zack Fedoruk to approve upgrading the website host account with WP Engine to support three live sites for an additional \$290.00 per year, for a total of \$590.00 per year. 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, November 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**Approve the purchase of 28 new flowerpots for \$751.24 plus shipping.**

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve the purchase of 28 new flowerpots for \$751.24 plus shipping. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**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, November 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**Approve purchasing a John Deere 35P-Tier Compact Excavator, using ARPA funds. Price with a 5 year/2500-hour comprehensive warranty is \$63,270.00 and buckets add an additional \$2,352.00, for a total cost of \$65,622.00.**

\***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve purchasing a John Deere 35P-Tier Compact Excavator, using ARPA funds. Price with a 5 year/2500-hour comprehensive warranty is \$63,270.00 and buckets add an additional \$2,352.00, for a total cost of \$65,622.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve CT Electrical quote to replace variable frequency drive on the blower for SBR #1 with a Yaskawa unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$4,995.00.**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve CT Electrical quote to replace variable frequency drive on the blower for SBR #1 with a Yaskawa unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$4,995.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the purchase of 12 bulbs and 12 quartz sleeves for the UV disinfection unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from UV Superstore in the amount of \$3,342.00.**

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the purchase of 12 bulbs and 12 quartz sleeves for the UV disinfection unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from UV Superstore in the amount of \$3,342.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE** – Chair: Jack Davis

\*The Shamrock Park Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. was cancelled.

\*A Special Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 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, October 24, 2024.

**RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis**

\*Council received the November 11, 2024, Minutes from the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Meeting.

**POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative**

\*Nothing new to report.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: Sheila Snyder**

\*Chair Sheila Snyder reported that the consultants have taken the necessary photos and are continuing research.

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

\*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

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

\*Chair Sheila Snyder reported that 11 kittens were trapped and found homes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

\*Council will need to find a new member for the Joint Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

\*An ad will need to be placed for the open Council Trustee position that will be vacant on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

\*The Village Hall will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, 2024, in honor of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.**

The Council presented Village President Barry Gravitt with a plaque in honor of his retirement after 15 years of service as a Council Trustee and recently Village President.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Sheila Snyder to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0.  
Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Village Clerk

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President