

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 05, 2023.

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* and several audience members.

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, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 21, 2023.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 21, 2023, 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 its 2024 and 2025 Energy Waste Reduction Plan and related relief. To be held Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Jonathan Thoits by video/teleconferencing.

All Council Members received a copy of the Village of Berrien Springs' Rules of Procedure. Attorney Frank DeFrancesco encouraged everyone to read through them. They were last reviewed and updated in 2016 and the council might wish to see if anything needs updating or changing.

Audience Comments:

Rochelle Reppart of 421 W. Ferry addressed the council regarding lawn citations. She would like the council to consider owners of rental properties to get some kind of notice, text, or e-mail etc., to let them know a citation was posted. President Barry Gravitt thanked her for her comment.

Mark Anderson addressed the council to raise awareness about what the World Health Organization is currently doing. The council thanked him for his time and comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to pay the bills in the amount of \$93,169.57. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Notice of Payment Due from USDA RD for Water Bond #91-08 in the amount of \$33,938.75 and Sewer Bond #92-06 in the amount of \$24,240.00 for a total due of \$58,178.75. (2012 Infrastructure Projects.)

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the Notice of Payment Due from USDA RD for Water Bond #91-08 in the amount of \$33,938.75 and Sewer Bond #92-06 in the amount of \$24,240.00 for a total due of \$58,178.75. (2012 Infrastructure Projects.) Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the quote for printing the Village of Berrien Springs calendar. Last year we did option 2, which was the same price as this year, \$1,714.00.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve option #2 for printing the Village of Berrien Springs 2024 Calendar in the amount of \$1,714.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Resolution to Adopt The Annual Exemption Option As Set Forth In 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act”.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the annual “Resolution to Adopt The Annual Exemption Option As Set Forth In 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act”. Roll call vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Resolution for Designation Of Street Administrator” as required by MDOT.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the annual “Resolution for Designation Of Street Administrator” as required by MDOT. Roll call vote: Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Performance Resolution For Municipalities” as required by MDOT.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the annual “Performance Resolution For Municipalities” as required by MDOT. Roll call vote: Kristin von Maur/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve the F&V Operations – Agreement For Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the F&V Operations – Agreement For Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Consider increasing current part-time employees’ hourly wages.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve increasing current part-time employees’ wages to \$13.00 per hour and Lori Wesaw’s wage to \$13.50 per hour. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the quote received for Cyber Liability Policy through MML with an annual premium of \$2,184.00.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the quote received for Cyber Liability Policy through MML with an annual premium of \$2,184.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the proposed 2024 Calendar Dates for Activities from the Community Coordinator.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the proposed 2024 Calendar Dates for Activities from the Community Coordinator. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Village Ordinance GIS Proposal from Wightman in an amount not to exceed \$11,200.00. Dave Kunde will secure devices (iPad, case, strap, etc.) that the Ordinance Officer will use, and fee provided by Wightman will be adjusted accordingly.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Village Ordinance GIS Proposal from Wightman in an amount not to exceed \$11,200.00. Dave Kunde will secure devices (iPad, case, strap, etc.) that the Ordinance Officer will use, and fee provided by Wightman will be adjusted accordingly. 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, September 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Lonna Johnson

*The Public Utilities Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. was cancelled.

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 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 Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the July 2023 Revenue/Expense Report.

Increase electric surcharge from .13 cents to .15 cents per kilowatt starting immediately.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve increasing Shamrock Park Electric Surcharge from .13 cents to .15 cents per kilowatt starting immediately. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Increase general rates, effective November 1, 2023.

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve increasing rental rates per the Shamrock Park Rates Proposal Schedule, effective November 01, 2023. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Nothing new to report.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda gave a synopsis of the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

*Clean audit for MEDIC 1 Fiscal Year February 29, 2022 - February 28, 2023.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*Fall sports starting, rocket football etc.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The final Police Board Meeting for 2023 is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Will be working on the report.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

*Chair Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve Homecoming Decorating Contest per memo from the Community Coordinator. Spreading Shamrock Pride!!

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Homecoming Decorating Contest and purchasing 1st - 3rd place ribbons for \$100.00 per memo from the Community Coordinator. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*Everything is going well and under control.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

611 North Mechanic Offer – Berrien Springs Public Schools.

*Council received an update on the property at 611 North Mechanic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Park Basketball court.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve putting a basketball court in Memorial Park for a not to exceed cost of \$6,000.00 for the whole project. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Jason Ramtahal of 113 E. Madison inquired about trees and which types are acceptable.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Lonna Johnson to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Barry Gravitt
Village President