

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, June 16, 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, Christopher Perez, Kristin von Maur, Mark VandeVere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, Jason Ramtahal, and Errol Prentice.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the agenda with additions under Public Properties and Ordinance: 1. Approve Resolution to Mobile Food Service Permit Application Fees and 2. 115 E. Pitt Street. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 19, 2025.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 19, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on May 27, 2025.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on May 27, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on May 27, 2025.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on May 19, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Central County Senior Center* June 2025 newsletter received.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Jason Ramtahal asked about how long the construction on M-139 will be. A brief discussion was held.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

***President** Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$254,352.51. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Draft 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Amended Budget.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year Amended Budget. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Draft Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the Draft Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the invoice from Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for the Village's Renewal Insurance Premium for \$42,454.00.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the invoice from Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for the Village's Renewal Insurance Premium in the amount of \$42,454.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2026.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2026. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to close the Village Hall annually in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This closure will not constitute a paid holiday for employees, and staff will have the option to either work, use a Vacation Day or Comp Time, or be off without pay.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Christopher Perez to approve closing the Village Hall annually in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This closure will not constitute a paid holiday for employees, and staff will have the option to either work, use a Vacation Day or Comp Time, or be off without pay. Discussion held.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to table approving closing the Village Hall annually in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This closure will not constitute a paid holiday for employees, and staff will have the option to either work, use a Vacation Day or Comp Time, or be off without pay. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to renew Mark VandeVere's term on the Board of Ethics Committee until 06/30/2028.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve renewing Mark VandeVere's term on the Board of Ethics Committee until 06/30/2028. 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, June 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve Resolution Pertaining to Mobile Food Service Permit Application Fees.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Christopher Perez to approve Resolution Pertaining to Mobile Food Service Permit Application Fees. Roll Call Vote: Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Christopher Perez/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Nay; Mark VandeVere/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Aye. Motion carried.

115 E. Pitt Street.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve exercising our First Right of Refusal for the property of 115 East Pitt Street. Discussion held.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve exercising our First Right of Refusal for the property of 115 East Pitt Street, contingent on if we are required to return the demolition costs, we received from Berrien County. 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, July 23, 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, June 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Council received the May 2025 Revenue/Expense Report.

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve the purchase of a small truck not to exceed \$30,000.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the purchase of a small truck for Shamrock Park not to exceed \$30,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Council received a copy of the April 2025 Medic 1 Operations Summary.

*Council received a copy of the March 27, 2025, and the April 24, 2025, Medic 1 meeting minutes.

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Trustee Jack Davis gave a synopsis.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

*The next Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder informed the Council that the report has been sent to our Attorney, Frank DeFrancesco, for review.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Engagement Coordinator Meeting held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: FERAL/STRAY CATS: Chair: Lonna Johnson

*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Invoice #5537 for the 2024 contribution (Municipal Financial Support) in the amount of \$30,000.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Invoice #5537 for the 2024 contribution (Municipal Financial Support) in the amount of \$30,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

1. Reminder: The Village Hall will be closed on Friday, July 04, 2025, in honor of Independence Day.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Jason Ramtahal addressed the council regarding food trucks. Discussion held.

*Errol Prentice addressed the council regarding food trucks, the approved purchase of the truck for Shamrock Park, and 115 East Pitt. Discussion held.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President