

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Special Council Meeting held on Monday, July 28, 2025.

President Sheila Snyder called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Sheila Snyder, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Kristin von Maur, Mark VandeVere, and Clerk Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: Trustee Christopher Perez.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde, and Streets Administrator Dave Engler.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The main reason this Special Council Meeting was called is in order to discuss Grove Park/Wolf's Prairie Playground and make any necessary decisions on next steps.

President Sheila Snyder and a few Public Properties and Ordinance (PPO) Committee Members took individual walkthroughs of Wolf's Prairie Playground.

President Snyder highlighted discussions she has had with Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde and Streets Administrator Dave Engler. Overall, the structure is weak. We could potentially save the sandbox and courthouse, but it is using the fence, which is also in need of repairs that are beyond the scope of work our Public Works Department is capable of. What is the benefit of keeping just the sandbox?

PPO Committee Chair Kristin von Maur summarized her walkthrough. The playground is clearly passed its ideal life span. There are small parts that could be salvageable but is it cost wise? It is impossible to fix the problems without spending more than it is worth. The fence is rotted.

Discussion was held on the fence and the name plates. Can we take them off without damaging them? We will figure out the logistics of that, we will not just dispose of them.

President Snyder stated that if we were on track for replacing the playground as originally planned, the playground would have been demolished in the fall. Doing it now would be a little earlier, but it needs to be taken down now.

PPO Committee Member Jack Davis summarized his walkthrough. He agrees it has to come down. The assessment of the playground done by Playgrounds by Leathers last year listed many areas that needed repairs. It was pointed out that we did fix all the D & F grade issues.

The structure is so interconnected that when you fix one thing, more strain is put on another part, and it is breaking more quickly than we can see. Our Public Works Department would have to be out there multiple times a day to keep up with the maintenance.

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve putting out to bid the demolition of Wolf's Prairie Playground. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Adjourned:**

\***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Village Clerk

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Sheila Snyder  
Village President