

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Business Owner Forum held on Monday, August, 25 2025 following the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 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, Community Engagement Coordinator Jennifer Marren, Central Berrien CGA Director Bob Jones, and Zoning Administrator Ryan Keough.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Bruce Stover, and numerous audience members.

This Business Owner Forum was called to provide information and clarification about what the ordinance requires for commercial and industrial properties, offer an opportunity for business owners to share needs, concerns, or questions, and announce the timeline for when repairs and improvements will be expected if a property is found to be in violation.

Many audiences members spoke of various issues and suggestions.

Points of discussion included:

- What needs a permit and what doesn't.
- Waiving building permit fees.
- Color palettes and criteria for fixing up buildings, facades, etc. This will go to the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee.
- Brief discussion on the upcoming Historic District.
- Maintenance of trees and sidewalks. Sidewalks is a top priority for the Public Utilities Committee.
- Access to the river and options.
- Brief discussion on MDOT & M-139 to improve certain areas, i.e. no left turn at the stop light and signs coming into town on the bypass.
- Brief discussion on parks and playgrounds.
- Bike Trail and Pedestrian bridge.
- The draft timeline for businesses.
- Developing a Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President