

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, November 03, 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, Clerk Rachael Kuzda, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Jack Davis to approve the agenda with addition under New Business: Approve to expend \$250.00 to Francesca Streelman for professional headshots and group photos of Village Council members and staff for use in official Village communications, including the website, calendar, and other publications. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 20, 2025.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Christopher Perez to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 20, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Central County Senior Center November 2025 newsletter received.
2. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission for approval to implement a power supply cost recovery plan for the twelve months ending December 31, 2026. To be held Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Lesley C. Fairrow by video/teleconferencing.
3. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission 2026-2027 Energy Waste Reduction Plan and the associated surcharges. To be held Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders by video/teleconferencing.
4. Thank you received from the Berrien Springs Middle School Student Senate for supporting and participating in the Trick-or-Treat event.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Eroll Prentice addressed the Council regarding the parks and the [previously approved] park committee. He was informed the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee is working on the parks and details are still forthcoming on the Parks Committee. He asked about the C-2 district ordinance and was informed that it was passed at the last council meeting. He asked about the Historic District and was informed the report is available on the Village Website.

*Jason Ramthahal asked about getting a copy of the recently passed C-2 district ordinance. He was informed he could get a copy by reaching out to the Village Clerk.

*Brad Mills with Adventist Frontier Missions addressed the council on wanting clarification and more details on the denial of their appeal to registering their property [at 107 E. Ferry] as abandoned or vacant. It was addressed that the water is turned off and it appears vacant which triggers the requirements of the ordinance to register.

*It was asked how do you determine 180 days. It was stated that if water is not hooked up, it counts.

*Cavelle Regis addressed the council regarding Advent Frontier Missions and what allows them to fit into this category? It was stated that if it meets one of the criteria of the ordinance and appears vacant, it must be registered. Ms. Regis stated that they are making improvements and doing work on the building. President Sheila Snyder stated that registration is the next step, the fee for registration was waived and if they have additional questions, they can talk to Zoning Administrator Ryan Keough. Ms. Regis stated that Ryan was disrespectful when she spoke with him.

*Heidi Steinhagen-Snowden addressed that council that she brought in paperwork and was told we couldn't accept it and was directed to the township. She came back with the paperwork, and it was accepted by the Village Clerk. She stated the letter she received was from the Village and signed by Ryan and Jim and wants to know where to take this kind of paperwork.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$67,745.91.
Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

FIRE –Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis and Trustee Lonna Johnson are the Village Representatives.

*The last Fire Board Meeting of 2025 is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Council received minutes from the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on September 25, 2025, and the September 2025 Medic 1 Operations Summary.

*Council received a copy of the Medic 1 Power Point presentation from the October 30th Regular Board Meeting summarizing the progress the Medic 1 team has made over the past 2-3 years.

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 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 last Police Committee Meeting of 2025 scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. was cancelled.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Update: Clerk Rachael Kuzda clarified that the Historic District

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*An Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Placed Based Code Zoning Map amendment: parcel 11-15-0011-0007-04-5 to be included as O4, Neighborhood General.

*Moved by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Placed Based Code Zoning Map amendment: parcel 11-15-0011-0007-04-5 to be included as O4, Neighborhood General. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to expend \$250.00 to Francesca Streelman for professional headshots and group photos of Village Council members and staff for use in official Village communications, including the website, calendar, and other publications.

*Moved by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve expending \$250.00 to Francesca Streelman for professional headshots and group photos of Village Council members and staff for use in official Village communications, including the website, calendar, and other publications. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve a Fall Spruce-Up event the weekend of November 15 – 16, 2025, with flexibility to adjust based on weather conditions and volunteer availability.

*Moved by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve a Fall Spruce-Up event the weekend of November 15 – 16, 2025, with flexibility to adjust based on weather conditions and volunteer availability. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Dan Bacchiocchi addressed the council regarding the park committee and that 20 years ago they helped with some of the design and construction, and he volunteers again.

*Errol Prentice addressed the council regarding the ordinance about abandoned and vacant properties. He stated it would be better to rewrite it and good communication would be better for clarity. It was addressed that the ordinance was carefully thought through and we could revisit the title of the ordinance.

*Cavelle Regis addressed the Council to say that Ryan Keough was not helpful or cooperative. They asked if the process and handling of their appeal could be reviewed by the attorney and if it is valid. Attorney Frank DeFrancesco stated he could do that if the Village wants him to.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0.
Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President