

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, January 19, 2026. 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, and Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: Trustee Mark VandeVere and Attorney DeFrancesco.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to approve the agenda with addition under New Business: Approve to purchase the MI Chamber MiBiz360 Talent & HR Bundle annual membership for \$399.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 15, 2025.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 15, 2025, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Central County Senior Center* January 2026 newsletter received.
2. Notice of In-person Local Pipeline Response Training opportunities.
3. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission for approval of a gas cost recovery plan and authorization of gas cost recovery factors for the 12-month period April 2026-March 2027. To be held Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Katherine E. Talbot by video/teleconferencing.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Joshua Greulich addressed the Council that he is a small independent business owner looking for vacant buildings to rent. He was encouraged to reach out to our Community Engagement Coordinator.

*Terri O'Dell addressed the Council regarding concerns about Shamrock Park.

*Nancy Martin addressed the Council regarding concerns about Shamrock Park.

*Mac Blaire staying at Shamrock Park for work addressed the council regarding concerns about Shamrock Park.

*Jim O'Dell addressed the Council regarding concerns about Shamrock Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$196,460.25 for the Listing of Bills dated January 05, 2026 & pay the bills in the amount of \$162,619.41 for the Listing of Bills dated January 19, 2026. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve \$0.50 per hour wage increase for Stan Banish, effective January 05, 2026, who has successfully completed the Waterworks System Operator D-3 S-2 Certification.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve \$0.50 per hour wage increase for Stan Banish, effective January 05, 2026, who has successfully completed the Waterworks System Operator D-3 S-2 Certification. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Congratulations and great job! The committee appreciates Stan's dedication to completing trainings.

Approve the Proposal for Digital Council Packets.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Proposal for Digital Council Packets. Ayes, 5; Nays, 1 (Lonna Johnson). Motion carried.

Approve the mandated minimum wage increases for part-time employees.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the mandated minimum wage increases for part-time employees. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Removal of uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$26,319.19.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Christopher Perez to approve removal of uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$26,319.19 with documentation of the list of the accounts being discharged and the email from Plante Moran. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the updated Capital Improvement Plan to be in compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the updated Capital Improvement Plan to be in compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the 2026-2027 Tax Agreement with Berrien County Board of Commissioners.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Agreement with Berrien County Board of Commissioners. Ayes, 6; 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, January 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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

*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*Trustee Zach Fedoruk gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve quote from Peerless Midwest in the amount of \$30,000.00 for cleaning of well 5 in the current fiscal budget.

***Moved** by Christopher Perez seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve quote from Peerless Midwest in the amount of \$30,000.00 for cleaning of well 5 in the current fiscal budget. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve new website support in the cost of \$1,560.00 from Ashia Proia, Independent Contractor.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve new website support in the cost of \$1,560.00 from Ashia Proia, Independent Contractor. Ayes, 5; Nays, 0; Abstained, 1 (President Sheila Snyder). Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*Council received minutes from Library Board Meeting held on November 20, 2025.

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Council received minutes from the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on November 20, 2025.

*Council received the October & November 2025 Medic 1 Operations Summary.

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026, 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, January 29, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Council received the minutes of the Community Engagement Coordinator Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve the Shamrock Dash 5k Run.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Shamrock Dash 5k Run. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the request to allow staff to proceed with the application process and to launch the fundraising campaign immediately upon final selection of the playground design and site.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve proceeding with Public Spaces/Community Places – Matching Grant Application. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Volunteer Program “Community Roots”.

*Council requested more information regarding this program before voting.

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

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Chris Perez

*Chair Chris Perez gave a synopsis of the Advisory Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 07, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

*The next Advisory Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rural Readiness Communities training opportunities.

*President Sheila Snyder reported that council members have been sent information about optional training opportunities related to Rural Readiness Communities.

Approve to purchase the MI Chamber MiBiz360 Talent & HR Bundle annual membership for \$399.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve to purchase the MI Chamber MiBiz360 Talent & HR Bundle annual membership for \$399.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

*The Village Hall will be closed to the public Monday, January 26, 2026, through Thursday, January 29, 2026, (all day) for staff training.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Jason Ramtahal addressed the Council regarding the new playground.

*Errol Prentice addressed the Council regarding the new playground.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President