

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, February 02, 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, Mark VandeVere, and Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: Trustee Kristin von Maur and Attorney DeFrancesco.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda with addition under Finance and Personnel: Honor Credit Union CD #331 renewal. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 19, 2026.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 19, 2026, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Berrien Springs Public Schools State of the District Address is being held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
2. *Central County Senior Center* February 2026 newsletter received.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to pay the bills in the amount of \$61,839.99. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Invoice from County of Berrien Community Development for Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond Water and Sewer Interest due in the amount of \$6,222.22.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Christopher Perez to approve Invoice from County of Berrien Community Development for Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 31 Bond Water and Sewer Interest due in the amount of \$6,222.22. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Honor Credit Union CD #331 Renewal

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve discussing the Honor Credit Union CD #331 renewal. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve renewing the Honor Credit Union CD #331 into a 3-month CD at 3.76% APY. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

*Council received minutes from the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

*Council received minutes from the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

New Wolf's Prairie Playground.

***Moved** by President Sheila Snyder seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the updated playground option, a cost of \$838,567.24, with the council agreeing to pay \$600,000.00 with options that the Advisory Park Committee work to fundraise the rest of the balance, make necessary cuts to fit within the budget or come back to the table to request additional amounts. Roll call vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Mark VandeVere/Aye; Christopher Perez/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Aye. Motion carried.

New Wolf's Prairie Playground Equipment.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve purchasing the equipment for the new playground at a cost of \$464,828.00 with a downpayment of \$232,414.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*Council received minutes from the Fire Board Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Council received minutes from the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on December 18, 2025.

*Council received the December 2025 Medic 1 Operations Summary.

*Clerk Rachael Kuzda gave a synopsis of the Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 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 Police Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. was cancelled.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Chris Perez

*Synopsis of the Advisory Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

*The next Advisory Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve the launch of a centralized volunteer sign-up form on the village website.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the launch of a centralized volunteer sign-up form on the village website. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the use of the remaining balance of \$5,080.20 from previous fundraising efforts and accrued interest related to the former Wolf's Prairie Playground at Grove Park to support the construction of the new Wolf's Prairie Playground.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the use of the remaining balance of \$5,080.20 from previous fundraising efforts and accrued interest related to the former Wolf's Prairie Playground at Grove Park to support the construction of the new Wolf's Prairie Playground. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Bruce Stover commented on the new playground.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Christopher Perez to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President