

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, February 16, 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, Kristin von Maur, Mark VandeVere, and Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: Trustee Christopher Perez and Attorney DeFrancesco.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 02, 2026.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 02, 2026, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission for accounting authority to change the methodology for allocating between Indiana and Michigan retail jurisdictions the costs of current generation resources. To be held Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders by video/teleconferencing.
2. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Comcast Corporation has been directed to show cause why it should not be found in violation of 2013 PA 174, the MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, MCL 460.721 et. Seq. To be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge James M. Varchetti by video/teleconferencing.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATION

Alicia Hayden from Villwocks Outdoor Living gave a presentation to the Village Council on what Villwocks proposes for the downtown flowerbeds. They also made some recommendations of other ideas for the council to consider: including the street trees downtown, landscaping around Village Hall, and irrigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Mark VandeVere to pay the bills in the amount of \$90,167.80. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Final Balancing Change Order for the North Mechanic Street Project in the net increase amount of \$12,593.86.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Final Balancing Change Order for the North Mechanic Street Project in the net increase amount of \$12,593.86. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Pajay's Application for Payment No. 6 (final) for the North Mechanic Street Project as recommended by Wightman & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$83,152.65.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve Pajay's Application for Payment No. 6 (final) for the North Mechanic Street Project as recommended by Wightman & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$83,152.65. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$350,000.00 Principal and \$30,093.57 Interest for a total amount due of \$380,093.57.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$350,000.00 Principal and \$30,093.57 Interest for a total amount due of \$380,093.57. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve renewing Honor Credit Union CD #330, which matures on February 18, 2026, for 12 months at 3.70% APY.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve renewing Honor Credit Union CD #330, which matures on February 18, 2026, for 12 months at 3.70% APY. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Travel & Education Request from Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde to attend the MRWA Spring Conference from March 17, 2026, to March 20, 2026, in the amount of \$1,455.00.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve Travel & Education Request from Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde to attend the MRWA Spring Conference from March 17, 2026, to March 20, 2026, in the amount of \$1,455.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve Blankenship's quote to refill 28 downtown flowerpots for \$55.00 per flowerpot, a total cost of \$1,600.00. Blankenship will need to coordinate colors to match what Villwock's is doing in the downtown beds.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Blankenship's quote to refill 28 downtown flowerpots for \$55.00 per flowerpot, a total cost of \$1,600.00. Blankenship will need to coordinate colors to match what Villwock's is doing in the downtown beds. 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, February 11, 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, March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*Chair Mark VandeVere gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve \$7,000.00 to Bendzinski & Co. to perform a rate study for the Water & Sewer Departments, and development of those long-term strategic rate plans.

*Moved by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve \$7,000.00 to Bendzinski & Co. to perform a rate study for the Water & Sewer Departments, and development of those long-term strategic rate plans. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

*Informational: A not-to-exceed amount of \$10,500.00 to Miles Truck Services was already approved and funded as an emergency expense for plow truck turbo repairs.

Approve \$9,803.41 to Goodyear Commercial Tire to replace the original tires on our 2009 loader due to issues while snow removal this year.

*Moved by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve \$9,803.41 to Goodyear Commercial Tire to replace the original tires on our 2009 loader due to issues while snow removal this year. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Schedule a two-hour Council Workshop to meet with Wightman and Bedzinski regarding the Rosehill Project and the Rate Study.

*Moved by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve scheduling a two-hour Council Workshop to meet with Wightman and Bendzinski regarding the Rosehill Project and the Rate Study. 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, February 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve Chorba Asphalt Paving estimate of \$8,550.00 to pave the two new bathroom building parking lots/speed bumps.

*Moved by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve Chorba Asphalt Paving estimate of \$8,550.00 to pave the two new bathroom building parking lots/speed bumps. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

*PWW Advisory Group presentations being held on March 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Corewell Health St. Joseph in the Upton Center & March 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Niles City Hall.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Council received the minutes of the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Authority Meeting held on February 09, 2026.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

*The next Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*A date and time for the next Historic District Study Committee Meeting coming soon.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve to sell back the slats from the old Wolf's Prairie Playground as a fundraiser.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve to sell back the slats from the old Wolf's Prairie Playground as a fundraiser. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to modify the Pickle Festival location and Fourth of July parade route.

*Postponed for more information and possibly a Special Council Meeting.

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

*The next Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Chris Perez

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Mack Blair addressed the council regarding Shamrock Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President