

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, May 18, 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.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Berrien Springs Oronoko Township Police Chief Marc Hopkins, and a few audience members.

The Pledge of Allegiance was previously stated at the beginning of the Public Hearing directly before this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda the agenda with amending Community Engagement Coordinator Committee #1 to “Approve a \$10,000 allocation to the MEDC Public Spaces Community Places program from the remaining balance of the council approved \$600,000.00 new playground budget, which currently has \$135,172.00 remaining, contingent on legal counsel”. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 04, 2026.

***Moved** by Christopher Perez seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 04, 2026, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Berrien Springs Oronoko Township Police Chief Marc Hopkins introduced himself to the council and gave a summary of what is happening at the police department.

2026 MILLAGE APPROVAL

A Public Hearing was held before this Regular Council Meeting, Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:45 p.m. to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate. The rate is proposed to remain at 10.1296 mills for General Operation and remain at 3.4539 mills for Streets.

The Village of Berrien Springs has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

Approve the Resolution to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate. The rate is proposed to remain at 10.1296 mills for General Operation and remain at 3.4539 mills for Streets for 2026.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Resolution to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate. The rate is proposed to remain at 10.1296 mills for General Operation and remain at 3.4539 mills for Streets for 2026. Roll call vote: Mark VandeVere/Aye; Christopher Perez/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Aye. Absent: Trustee Kirstin von Maur. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Christopher Perez to pay the bills in the amount of \$401,733.58. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Community Engagement Coordinator’s request to attend the SWMI Regional Chamber networking event “Wine & Nine” on Friday, May 29, 2026.

*It was the consensus of the council that attendance and networking at this event is part of the Community Engagement Coordinator’s responsibilities.

Approve closing the Village Hall at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2026, to allow all office staff the opportunity to attend the Wolf’s Prairie Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve closing the Village Hall at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2026, to allow all office staff the opportunity to attend the Wolf’s Prairie Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. 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, May 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the bid by Busch Construction to build new pavilion at Grove Park for a total cost of \$41,622.00.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the bid by Busch Construction to build new pavilion at Grove Park for a total cost of \$41,622.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve removal of spring riding equipment and picnic tables due to safety and deterioration at Memorial Park.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve removal of spring riding equipment and picnic tables due to safety and deterioration at Memorial Park. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 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, May 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the quote from Etna in the amount of \$11,676.99 for 30 2-port MXUs and 12 pit MXUs.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the quote from Etna in the amount of \$11,676.99 for 30 2-port MXUs and 12 pit MXUs. 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, May 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve the purchase of a 3-Point Post Hole Digger and 9-inch Compact Auger from Tractor Supply Co. in the amount of \$709.98.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the purchase of a 3-Point Post Hole Digger and 9-inch Compact Auger from Tractor Supply Co. in the amount of \$709.98. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

RECREATION AUTHORITY – Jack Davis

*Jack Davis gave an update on the Recreation Authority.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Sheila Snyder is the Village Representative

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

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Next steps will include appointing members to the Historic District Commission.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Joint Community Engagement Coordinator and Advisory Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Approve a \$10,000 allocation to the MEDC Public Spaces Community Places program from the remaining balance of the council approved \$600,000.00 new playground budget, which currently has \$135,172.00 remaining, contingent on legal counsel.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve a \$10,000 allocation to the MEDC Public Spaces Community Places program from the remaining balance of the council approved \$600,000.00 new playground budget, which currently has \$135,172.00 remaining, contingent on legal counsel. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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

*The next Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 02, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Christopher Perez

*Council received the minutes from the Advisory Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

*The next Advisory Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

*The Village Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Christopher Perez seconded by Mark VandeVere to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0.
Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President