

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, July 20, 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.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Village Attorney Sara Sencia, and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson 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 July 06, 2026.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 06, 2026, as presented. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Congratulations on the recent ribbon cutting celebration for the Wolf's Prairie Playground letter received from State Senator Jonathan Lindsey.
2. Letter received regarding Pickle Festival, Playground, and a boat launch.
3. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation requests Michigan Public Service Commission for a gas cost recovery reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2026. To be held Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders by video/teleconferencing.
4. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval to commence a renewable energy cost reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2025. To be held Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders by video/teleconferencing.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

*Dale Hartman addressed the Council regarding a code enforcement notice. During the public comment, the resident used profane language and was asked by the Village President to refrain from doing so. He continued to use profane language and exited the meeting before the conclusion of his public comment period.

Village Attorney Sara Senica attended the Council Meeting and introduced herself to the council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to pay the bills in the amount of \$123,550.40. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2027.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Village of Berrien Springs Important Dates for 2027. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve payment of the Great Lakes Recreation Co. LLC Invoice #4902 in the amount of \$373,739.24 for the remaining balance of the Wolf's Prairie Playground. The MEDC's Public Spaces Community Places grant match program will reimburse the Village for the crowdfunding amount and matching grant funds after the program concludes on July 19th, leaving approximately \$40,595.10 that ongoing fundraising efforts are continuing to work towards covering.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve payment of the Great Lakes Recreation Co. LLC Invoice #4902 in the amount of \$373,739.24 for the remaining balance of the Wolf's Prairie Playground. The MEDC's Public Spaces Community Places grant match program will reimburse the Village for the crowdfunding amount and matching grant funds after the program concludes on July 19th, leaving approximately \$40,595.10 that ongoing fundraising efforts are continuing to work towards covering. 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, July 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion on E-bike ordinance.

*Discussion held.

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

*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 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, July 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the cost to replace 2 VFD's with labor and startup at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from CT Electric in the amount of \$9,100.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedourk seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve the cost to replace 2 VFD's with labor and startup at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from CT Electric in the amount of \$9,100.00. 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, July 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Approve the quote from Shembarger Asphalt for striping the fish cleaning station parking lot in the amount of \$940.00.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedourk to approve the quote from Shembarger Asphalt for striping the fish cleaning station parking lot in the amount of \$940.00. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to pay Kenneth Smith Inc \$1,119.80 for 2-inch septic slag for south end drainage.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve to pay Kenneth Smith Inc \$1,119.80 for 2-inch septic slag for south end drainage. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

*The next Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*The next Regular Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 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

*Nothing new to report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*Chair President Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Community Engagement Coordinator Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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

*The next Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Christopher Perez

*Nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve A Resolution Correcting Scrivener's Error in Solid Waste Collection Rates.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve A Resolution Correcting Scrivener's Error in Solid Waste Collection Rates. Roll call vote: Lonna Johnson/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Mark VandeVere/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; President Sheila Snyder/Aye. Absent: Trustee Christopher Perez. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Ayes, 6; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President