

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, October 05, 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, Mark VandeVere, and Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda. Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era*, Lisa Kuntz and Dave Francis from the Berrien County Conservation District, Dan Fette Berrien County Community Development, Teri Freehling Berrien County Commissioner, and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 21, 2026.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Christopher Perez to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 21, 2026, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Central County Senior Center* October 2026 newsletter received.
2. Received notice from Berrien Township regarding a Berrien Township Construction Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., concerning Homes of America's request regarding demolition orders.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS

Berrien County Conservation District.

Lisa Kuntz, District Manager of the Berrien County Conservation District, provided Council with an update on the Conservation District and its services. She noted the district's 20th anniversary and its mission to protect the County's natural resources, including land, water, and soil. Dave Francis, a Conservation District Board Member, was also in attendance. Ms. Kuntz encouraged the Village to reach out to the district regarding available programs and resources, including MAEAP assistance, well-water screenings, free wildlife disease test kits, and conservation equipment rentals. She also discussed the district's future vision, including a five-year water quality study, federal grant funding, and Millage & Master Plan Survey.

Greater Berrien Transportation Authority.

Decide to remain within the jurisdictional boundaries of or withdraw from the Greater Berrien Transportation Authority.

Dan Fette provided an update on the Greater Berrien Transportation Authority (GBTA) and the Village's option to remain in or withdraw from the Authority. He stated that withdrawing would result in transportation service ending January 1 and noted that 26.2% of Village residents relied on Berrien Bus in 2025. GBTA is seeking approximately \$6.8 million in funding through 2029. He noted that additional municipal support may be necessary after 2029, potentially through a county-wide millage or direct contributions from participating municipalities, like other transportation systems. GBTA anticipates seeking support from other organizations with a significant interest in public transportation,

such as healthcare providers etc. Mr. Fette noted that no action is required to remain in the Authority; a vote is only necessary if the Village wishes to withdraw.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$97,057.52. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve paying Treasurer Barbara Clem for the collection of the 2026 Village Property Taxes.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve paying Treasurer Barbara Clem for the collection of the 2026 Village Property Taxes in the amount of \$13,843.31. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

United Federal Credit Union CD #18612 matures on October 08, 2026: this month's specials are 7 months at 4.00% APY or 21 months at 4.00% APY.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve rolling United Federal Credit Union CD #18612, that matures on October 08, 2026, into a 7-month CD at 4.00% APY. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

*Synopsis of the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 5:45 p.m.

*The next Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve to purchase trees within the allocated Tree Replacement Budgets in the General Fund (101) and the Local Streets Fund (203).

***Moved** by Christopher Perez seconded by Mark VandeVere to approve to purchase trees within the allocated Tree Replacement Budgets in the General Fund (101) and the Local Streets Fund (203). Ayes, 6; Nays, 1 (Zach Fedoruk). Motion carried.

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

*Council received the Fire Board Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair: Mark VandeVere

*The next Public Utilities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE – Chair: Jack Davis

*The next Shamrock Park Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD – Lonna Johnson

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

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

*Council received a copy of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Community Emergency Service.

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

HISTORIC DISTRICT:

*Interviews with Historic District Commission applicants need to be scheduled.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair: President Sheila Snyder

*The next Community Engagement Coordinator Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. is cancelled.

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

*The next Ad Hoc Feral/Stray Cats Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

ADVISORY PARK COMMITTEE: Chair: Christopher Perez

*Chair Christopher Perez reported that he will have a proposal for the next Council Meeting regarding the Wolf's Prairie Playground donation board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

*Reminder: We will have a table at the Villwocks Fall Family Festival representing the Village of Berrien Springs on Thursday, October 22, from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Construction Board of Appeals' members for a new term, from October 14, 2026, to October 13, 2028.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve Construction Board of Appeals' members for a new term, from October 14, 2026, to October 13, 2028. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

***Moved** by Mark VandeVere seconded by Kristin von Maur to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Village Clerk

Sheila Snyder
Village President