The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 8, 2006 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with all members present: Comms. Hibler, Rankovich, Hileman, Marketti and Mayor Wise.; (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson, Clerk; Guy Christensen, Engineer; Scott Belt, Attorney).* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the April 24 Regular Board Meeting were tabled with motion by Comm. Rankovich and second by Comm. Hileman; upon roll, all agreed.

Payment of all current bills as presented was unanimously accepted with motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Hibler.

First recognized was Tawnya Mack, chairperson for this year's Gardner Days, to update on progress with the festival. She first told that Friday evening is being added and will include a Dj, food vendors, beer tent and some children's activities. All events will be concentrated in the Depot/Division Street area which she asked to be closed to vehicle traffic: Division Street and Depot Street from Jefferson to Center. She agreed to Comm. Rankovich's suggestion that Depot Street, because of business traffic, not be closed until mid-afternoon on Friday. She also told that, at this time, activities on Saturday will not begin until around 11:00 a.m. She then invited all board members to the next meeting, Monday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Next on the agenda was Nancy Ammer, Director of Grundy Economic Development Council, to speak with the Council about the interest and growth being generated along the I55 corridor and GEDC's feeling that this should be looked at for industrial and commercial development. She reminded that Comm. Marketti is Gardner's representative and attends their meetings. Most conversation that followed was on the map included with the draft of the comprehensive plan, specifically on the area earmarked for residential development, known as the Vigna farm. She expressed GEDC's concern that the Village may lose opportunities for commercial and industrial growth by agreeing to residential development in this area and further stated that residential and commercial do not mix well together. Comm. Rankovich pointed to areas in Morris where, in fact, there are very nice residential developments with commercial developments located nearby.

Nancy went on to say that the I55 corridor can be a golden opportunity for growth in Gardner and that basically, houses can go anywhere. In closing, she asked the Council to please choose one quadrant to set aside for commercial/industrial growth and to not mix this with residential development.

Attorney Belt began by noting the 1995 ordinance that dissolved the Planning Commission, with responsibilities then transferred to the Village Board. This new ordinance will basically transfer these responsibilities to the Zoning Board of Appeals, now to be called the Village of Gardner Planning and Zoning Board. It does, however, not create any responsibilities or authorities. This will scheduled for a public hearing before the Zoning Board at their next meeting on June 6.

Concerning problems with traffic in the alleyway behind the post office, Attorney Belt presented a draft ordinance with an attached exhibit for Board consideration. As Council Members agreed that their only concern was with vehicles entering the alley from the drive at the side of the post office, this ordinance will be redone to simply reflect no left turn from this drive onto this alley.

After looking over a draft ordinance and franchise agreement provided to the Village by Kraus Cable and agreeing that all issues were not addressed, Attorney Belt will speak with Mr. Kraus and he and Comm. Rankovich will work on this agreement.

Comm. Hibler brought up changes he feels could be made to the plant and weed ordinance and asked for Council input. Changes agreed to for ordinance preparation are a maximum six inch height, abatement of the nuisance within five days of notification, lien action to be instituted if weed cutting charges remain unpaid for ten days and the addition of collection for attorney fees incurred.

Bid opening for the 2006 Water Tower Exterior Coating project took place at 2:00 p.m. on this date. Engineer Guy Christensen gave details on the bids, then recommended acceptance of the low bid from Maguire Iron on Alternate #3 and, although not the low bidder, recommended Maguire Iron also for Alternate #4 to repair the tower ladder so that the project is completed by the same team. Contingent upon this contractor meeting all requirements, it was moved by Comm. Hileman and seconded by Comm. Hibler to accept Guy's recommendations. All were in agreement upon roll.

Guy also reported that he spoke with the representative from Mug-a-Bug today who said that spraying of the railroad ditch will not be done until near the end of June. Comm. Hibler asked Guy to make sure that it gets done prior to Gardner Days.

The final topic was general conversation on the recapture agreement for the sewer line installation at the Jackson South Subdivision.

Lastly, at the request of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Mayor Wise, along with the Council, proclaimed May 25, 26 and 27 as Poppy Days in the Village of Gardner and asked all to remember those who have sacrificed their lives in all wars.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 p.m. by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Rankovich; all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner