The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 25, 2007 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with all members present: Comms. Cox, Serena, Hileman, Gerrish and Mayor Wise. (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson/Clerk, John Bates/Attorney,)* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the June 11, 2007 meeting were tabled.

Accepted were:

Listing of Bills (current) motion Hileman/second Gerrish
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

AGENDA

Resident Jeff Wright was present to ask Mayor Wise the reason for his removal from the Gardner Planning & Zoning Board. With the Mayor's responding that his term was up, Jeff stated when appointed, he was never told of a term and requested to now know what those terms are. Atty. Bates told he had looked into this and it appears that when the Zoning Board was first established, initial terms were staggered but when reappointments were made, those were for terms of five (5) years. Mayor Wise told that this will now be looked into by the Village's attorney and this will be resolved prior to any new appointments.

Comm. Hileman

Concerning the proposed Industrial TIF District, gave an update on the status of the property owner agreements and additional letters that were sent; he added that the intent is to have this completed by the end of the month. Told that at the Joint Review Board meeting held earlier this date, resident Joe Bexson was unanimously appointed by that Board as the public member and that nine (9) of the attending ten (10) taxing districts present voted in favor of the new TIF District, with Maine Township voting against. Also updated on talks with both the grade school and high school on intergovernmental agreements. Told too of meeting with the Fire District who have concerns with the changing of Council Members, thus would like a safety net clause which is being worked on by both their attorney (Frank Cortina) and Village Atty. Belt. Lastly reminded of the July 12 public hearing for the proposed Gardner Industrial TIF.

Told he spoke with the Department of Revenue about some businesses who do not have Illinois Business Tax numbers; Council agreed that he look into this further after he reminded that these businesses may make sales but do not pay sales tax.

Told that residents have talked with him about problems throughout Village with junk cars, campers, farm wagons, etc. and, with his feeling that, as in the past, action on this would be Comm. Cox' responsibility. Comm. Cox replied he did not feel he had been elected as a code enforcement officer; Atty. Bates agreed that this was not a function of his position. Comm. Hileman said then that he would be willing to handle this if Comm. Cox would not. Atty. Bates reminded that vehicles can only be towed from public right-of-way, not from private property.

Comm. Gerrish

Told he is still gathering information and working on a resolution on water service connection to the former Gardner Chronicle building.

Comm. Serena

Spoke with Brent Newman of Grundy County Housing Authority about a dropoff area at the Gardner Commons senior housing. Mr. Newman said he would talk with his financial person to see if monies are available to do this in conjunction with the Village's upcoming street maintenance project. Responding to an audience question, told that this area would not be for parking but for loading/unloading only.

Comm. Cox

Gave a brief report on the newly elected official conference he recently attended, provided other Members with copies of publications/flyers he had received, recommending all look over the info.

Also told of advanced education seminars he would like to attend (6 sessions - cost: $995.00). After Comm. Hileman asked the purpose of this, he answered that he would learn more about government operations, hopefully to be helpful to the Village. Atty. Bates proposed that the annual IML conference pertains more to municipal government.

Engineer Christensen

Gave an update on repairs and costs for the watertower. Comm. Gerrish and Guy will look further at this information and report back.

Told we are still awaiting information from IDOT on the 2007 MFT street maintenance project.

On the watermain replacement project on Washington Street, told that residents need to cut the grasses growing in the area this work was done and that the contractor will return in the fall to reseed needed areas.

As properly noticed, at 7:35 p.m. Council Members entered into executive session to discuss employment, compensation, performance of specific employees (allowed pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act) (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0). At 9:15 p.m. regular session was reconvened (motion Hileman/second Cox; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Council Members agreed that the Clerk will place an ad seeking part-time clerical help (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

It was also agreed to waive current employee medical insurance contributions (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. was made by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, with unanimous roll vote.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner