The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 14, 2008 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Cox, Serena, Hileman and Mayor Wise (Comm. Gerrish was absent). (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson/Clerk, Scott Belt/Attorney, Guy Christensen/Engineer)* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting were tabled.

Accepted/agreed to were:

Financial Report Month of November 2007	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0
Listing(s) of bills (Current)	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0
Ordinance VG08-001 (Tax Abatement, GO Bonds, Series 1997 for FY2008)	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0

Concerning previous payment of bills to be ratified, Comm. Cox asked that the two (2) bills for the Christmas decorating contest, charged to the Beautification account be recoded. The Mayor told this had been done the previous year by the Village and confirmed that he had asked the committee to handle and judge. It was agreed to recode these two (2) expenses to the General Fund and to accept the ratified bill payments as amended (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0)

AGENDA

Comm. Hileman explained information received from David Hoover of NIMEC, the firm contracted to secure competitive electrical energy pricing for water/sewer pumping, noting that last year approx. 9% savings were realized by the Village. As tentatively, the bid dates will be in February, he requested and the Council agreed, for him to sign the new 1-year contract (motion Serena/second Cox; roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0).

Tom Perkins, resident, 511 N Elm St. was present to ask the Council why improvement to the alley behind his residence was denied. Comm. Serena responded that he had looked into this and had spoken with our engineer and at this time, his opinion is that it does not benefit the Village. He gave an estimate of approx. $6,000 to do this project. Mr. Perkins relayed his displeasure, told of other improved dead-end alleys in the Village and remarked that he is highly disgusted with this entire Village Board. Further comments heard were on other alley problems over the years and that as a building permit had been issued for the garage at this residence, access to it should also be approved. To this, Comm. Hileman informed that the Council itself does not issue building permits. After Comm. Cox asked for an alley program to be instituted, Comm. Serena responded that he feels this alley is unique, that he would consider starting a program and, if so, although not a guarantee, Mr. Perkins' alley would be the first to be looked in to.

Comm. Hileman

Reminded that S Jackson St. road work needing to be done can be paid from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund but not from TIF as the area does not lay within its boundaries. At present there is approx. $109,000 in the MFT Fund with a payout yet to be made to 'D' Construction. He suggests that Comm. Serena look to streets in the TIF District for repair so that MFT Funds can be reserved for the S Jackson St. project. He also said that with current slow construction, early bidding may allow for good pricing; Comm. Serena noted that the last project came in under budget.

Reported there was a leak in the Village Hall roof; C&C Roofing has inspected and is to get back with a report and pricing. After Comm. Cox questioned a possible warranty with this work, Engineer Guy Christensen agreed to look into it.

Concerning the grease build up at the sewer plant, believed to be from problems at Brownie Products, it was reported that repairs/corrections are being done by Brownie at this time.

Comm. Serena

Spoke of recent flooding problems throughout the Village and that he had spent time with the workers to learn what they must do at the water treatment plant. He expressed concern that

some residents are directing output from their sump pumps into the sewer system. Conversation followed on smoke testing that was done many years ago without enforcement/correction and on televising of the sanitary sewer system done later. Further the Council talked over current ordinances, the ability and procedure to correct and enforce and what other towns have done to alleviate this type problem. It was commented too that the storm system is also in very poor condition. Comm. Serena requested further information and discussion be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Comm. Cox

Beautification Committee update: told the gazebo foundation was poured today with a concrete contractor donating the labor and Coal City Redi-Mix charging a significant per yard cost decrease.

Comm. Cox told he was under the impression Gardner Days funds were being transferred to the Beautification Committee, but after last week's special meeting, he spoke with Comm. Hileman and learned this was not his interpretation. He told that for the May 3 & 4 festival, these monies are needed for expenses, then asked for consideration that proceeds from the festival be redirected to the Beautification account for use to benefit the community. Conversation followed on Gardner Days losses the past few years. Comm. Hileman reported that these monies have always been put back into the community and sited some donations. It was told the original intent of the fund was for a park/ball fields to be built in the area of the sewer plant which was later amended to make these funds available to benefit other areas of the community.
Comm. Hileman spoke further that he felt that this committee was formed to assist with the clean up of properties in the Village. He noted that Attorney Belt had explained that monies from this committee must be funneled back through the Village for approval of all expenditures. It was brought up that there is a Village Improvement Fund committee which technically still exists and how this committee functiones; other than festival monies, no monies were spent unless this committee made recommendation to the Council. After Comm. Cox asked if this could be made into one fund, the Mayor said this could be checked into. Attorney Belt commented that there is talk of a committee and ordinances prior to his involvement with the Village and restated his opinion that this committee is a recommending body only. Public comments were made that there are feelings that people who donate wish to see these monies used for the community and not sitting in the bank. Comm. Hileman again stated that the Gardner Days Fund will seed the money for the festival but these seed monies must go back into the Gardner Days Fund; however, any proceeds can then be transferred to the Beautification account.

Update was provided on the sale of memorial bricks. Comm. Cox also told the committee is looking into purchasing, labeling and selling wine and asked if remaining sesquicentennial memorabilia could be placed for sale in area stores . According to the clerk an inventory had been taken at one time but this would need to be updated and will do so. Comm. Cox reported that the festival has been named "Gardner Kicks on 66" and a logo is being created.

As properly noticed, at 8:23 p.m., Council Members entered into executive session for the purpose to discuss employment, compensation and performance of specific employees, allowed pursuant to Section 2(c)(a) of The Open Meetings Act (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 3, nays 1 [Comm. Cox]). At 8:54 p.m., regular session was reconvened (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0).

It was accepted that Steve Baker be given a $0.25/hour salary increase for receiving his first sewer license and an additional $0.10/hour salary increase for receiving his pesticide spraying license and that Jim Paquette be given a salary increase of $0.10/hour for also receiving his pesticide spraying license (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 3, nays 1 [Comm. Cox]).

Public comment was then heard from resident Ron Spaulding, 106 S Peck St. concerning problems that have occurred at this location with the recent heavy rains. He told that this was not common prior to the new home built at 203 E. Wilmington St. He asked and the Village agreed to look into this problem.

It was also asked if the Revolving Loan Fund still existed and if funds are available. Comm. Hileman responded that there is approx. $60,000 in this Fund but that there is criteria to be met for eligibility. He asked that he be informed if there is any business interested.

Lastly, there was comment concerning minutes of Council Meetings being tabled, to which Comm. Hileman responded that we have been running behind and are attempting to resolve. There was also

a comment about the need for review of executive session minutes every six (6) months; Attorney Belt agreed this is to be done and gave a brief explanation of the procedure. Comm. Cox commented then that this should be scheduled.

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. Cox, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner