The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 14, 2009, in the Village Hall Council Chambers. All Commissioners present: Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, Gary Cox, Bill Gerrish. (Also present: Atty. Scott Belt, Eng. Guy Christensen). All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes

August 24, 2009 (regular meeting) — motion Hileman/second Serena
roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Gerrish)

August 31, 2009 (special meeting) — motion Hileman/second Cox
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Financial Report — motion Hileman/second Gerrish
Month of August 2009 — roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Payment of bills — motion Hileman/second Serena
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Agenda

Refuse, yard waste, recycle pick-up bids: Comm. Hileman summarized the bid openings for this new contract held this date. Because of the various pricing elements, Atty. Belt suggested that a spreadsheet be prepared for better comparison; all agreed he should have this readied for action to be taken at the next meeting (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Pat Malinowski, President of Gardner Lions Club spoke on ideas and plans the beautification committee is looking into and gave a sketch of plans being considered for the gazebo/downtown parking lot area. Ideas for this area include planters at the front of the parking lot, fencing, removal of railroad ties and planting of trees. Comm. Hileman stressed the need to be certain of property boundary lines and that permission would be needed.

Contractor registration: Comm. HIleman updated on discussions from the special meeting of August 31. There was then a review of and comments made on the draft application form. Conversation next moved to concerns for the need and purpose for this registration. Comm. Hileman named other towns giving rebates for new homes built, indicated he does not care who does the work, only that it is done right and feels this is a terrible time to put this into effect. Local contractor Benny Grant is against this ordinance saying that, with the number of subcontractors needed for new home construction, more costs will be passed on to the homeowner to cover fees and that, in fact, many contractors and subs do not register in those towns with this requirement. Comm. Gerrish inserted that in checking, some towns feel lucky if 70% register.

Comm. Serena, speaking in favor of this issue, said the ordinance could be amended to be less restrictive to not require registration for minor jobs and fees could be lowered, and noted that those not registering would face a penalty. Electrical Inspector Mike Pasternak, also in favor, stated if someone is hired to do these type jobs, they should be registered and that this is to protect the homeowner. With this said, Benny Grant stated he feels this is the reason we have inspectors who are to make sure jobs are done right and that it takes too much time to even secure a building permit. Comm. Gerrish felt that more consistency with our inspectors is needed and that one instance has caused this issue (a job stopped by the Building Inspector because of an unregistered contractor). With Inspector Dean Rankovich's name being brought up to him a number of times, he feels the Mayor should speak with him on the concerns. Comm. Cox commented that he felt this was put in place looking toward the future with development in the Village, similar to the creation of the Industrial TIF, and that he believed, from the special meeting, this was to be tabled until codification.

Mayor Wise stated that executive session, as listed on the agenda, will be tabled to near the end of this meeting. Comm. Cox then announced he would withdraw his request for this session.

Atty. Belt

On codification, told that two (2) sets of the code books were ordered and received. He has taken one (1) set and will return that to the Village upon completion of his review. Told he has spoken with Inspector Rankovich and needs to meet with him to clarify some topics. He hopes to get this done this week with intent to further report at the next meeting.

Relayed that effective January 1, 2010, numerous changes are made to the Freedom of Information Act; will keep everyone updated.

Comm. Hileman

For their review, gave all members a copy of an unsigned letter he had received concerning abandoned vehicles and enforcement.

On the prior subject of contractor registration, motioned that this ordinance (G97-154) be revoked; second was made by Comm. Gerrish. Roll vote: ayes 3 (Hileman, Gerrish, Wise), nays 2 (Serena, Cox). Atty. Belt announced this requires an ordinance which he will prepare.

Comm. Gerrish

Wilmington Street Watermain Improvements Project: Gave an update on the restoration of this project area, adding that he feels this is a job well-done.

Pertaining to the fence to surround the Ida Lane generator, displayed a brochure illustrating the type of fence he believes should be installed and explained some of the specifications. He told this fence is from Marchio Fence Company and would be installed by them. Council agreed to this project with maximum cost of $6,100.00 (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Comm. Serena

South Jackson Street Improvement Project: Reported that Nicor should be here this week to move gas lines and that 'D' Construction is ready to begin as soon as this is finished. He feels that this project should then be completed in three (3) to four (4) weeks.

Concerning previous discussions on sump pumps being directed into the sanitary sewer system, told his feelings remain that this needs to be looked into. He believes Village employees may need to set up inspections to verify these sump pumps are not going into the sanitary sewer. Comm. Serena will continue to look into procedures for this.

Comm. Cox

Mentioned at the previous meeting, Comm. Cox noted that the sidewalk work at the gazebo area is installed and asked if the Village, versus the Lions Club beautification committee, would absorb the cost. Council agreed to pay for this project (motion Hileman/second Cox; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Told he spoke with Atty. Belt on the next steps to be taken on abandoned vehicles after pictures were taken and letters sent to those in violation and that an additional list has been compiled thanks to help from Steve Baker. Courtesy letters were brought up and it was recalled that this had already been done with a letter to all residents. Atty. Belt proposed that next would be legal notice and it is now a matter of finalizing the procedure and documents; he will re-look at this information and provide same to the Clerk. It was noted that a hearing officer is to be appointed and that according to our contract, Grundy County Sheriff's Police will serve legal notices.

In order to coordinate with the annual Halloween party, asked the day and time for trick or treating in the Village. Mayor Wise told in recent years, the hours have been from 4 to 6 p.m. He asked this placed on the next agenda for Council approval.

With last meeting's approval of up to $500 donation to be used for food and drink items for the Halloween party, Comm. Cox asked how this will work. Comm. Hileman recalled he made this motion and the purpose was to do something for the children. Also, as it was unclear at that time where the party would be held, he mentioned the donation to be to the Lions Club or Fire Department, both to provide receipts for any costs. Comm. Cox asked to clarify that there has never been a charge for this party, only a request for donations if people wished to do so.

Gave a letter to all members from the Grundy County Health Department concerning hood exhaust systems which, he said, should be given to the building inspector for enforcement; this subject had been talked over at the last Fire District meeting. Comm. Hileman told that as the Village did not adopt the Life Safety Ordinance, the Fire Department does not have any jurisdiction in the Village limits and that he understands any restaurant in the Village is to have someone clean the hood on a regular basis and a sticker is then placed on the equipment. Comm. Cox pointed out that this letter refers to new installations.

Village Clerk

On behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau, requested permission for the possible use of this meeting room for testing for their hiring pool for three (3) Wednesdays in late November. Re-contact will be made prior to any firm commitment. Council agreed to this use.

Mayor Wise

Brought up a request by Ken Gremar of Jefferson Street, and his agreement, for a catch basin to be installed near Mr. Gremar's home. As this has not been done as yet and his feeling that our maintenance employees can do this job, it was agreed Steve Baker should call Eng. Guy Christensen when he is going to dig so that he can be present at that time.

Resident Barbara Baker told she is here about action the Village has against Mr. & Mrs. Jinnah of Track Liquor (Depot St.). Told that in June she and her husband (Terry) did the work to satisfy this action but she has not been able to get an answer on whether the Village is satisfied as she has found there remains a court date for this. Comm. Hileman told the owners were to finish this repair work by a certain date and to then contact Atty. Bates. Mrs. Baker said she had called Atty. Bates; Building Inspector Dean Rankovich was to inspect to see that the work was done correctly. She updated that the work was done on June 4 and has photos to verify. Comm. Hileman then agreed to speak with the Building Inspector and Atty. Bates; Atty Belt was given these photographs to pass on to Atty. Bates.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner