The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 26, 2009, in the Village Hall Council Chambers. All Commissioners were 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

September 28, 2009	motion Hileman/second Gerrish roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
September 30, 2009 (Special Bd. Mtg.)	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Financial Report Month of September 2009	motion Gerrish/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Payment of bills	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Ratify bill payment (Stott Contracting/PE#3)	motion Hileman/second Gerrish roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

In addition to the bills presented for payment and at Comm. Hileman's request, Council accepted payment to Stott Contracting, for $5,827.88 as the 4th and final payment for the 2009 Wilmington Street Watermain Improvement Project (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Also at his request, and as shown on the agenda, Council accepted payment to 'D' Construction, for $255,430.89 as the initial payment for the So. Jackson Street Improvements 2009 Project (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0). Responding to Comm. Cox's concerns with items not yet complete, Eng. Guy Christensen explained that this is a progress payment for work that has been completed. Comm. Hileman reminded of his previous intent for funding of this project and told that $200,000 will be paid from the TIF Fund, with the remainder ($55,430.89) paid from the General Fund.

Agenda

Mayor Wise made nomination of two (2) persons, Tim Daniels and Todd Perkins, to fill the vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Board. Council consented (motion Wise/second Hileman; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Atty. Belt

Pertaining to codification, told a signed copy of the building code was submitted to American Legal Publishing, feels we have now provided them with everything they've requested and we will next receive a final draft of our code. He reminded that a public hearing will be required before the Planning & Zoning Board, with their recommendation then to come before the Council for action.

Informed he met with the Planning & Zoning Board to discuss procedures and feels this clarified a number of concerns. Requested the Clerk to supply all documents related to the upcoming public hearing to the new members.

Asked that Mayor Wise sign the new garbage contract with Heartland Disposal after this meeting.

On the abandoned vehicle ordinance procedure, told Comm. Cox that proper notification first needs to be sent to those in violation. For those who do not comply, appropriate information (name, address, copy of notification, photographs, etc.) needs to be given to the Grundy County Sheriff's Dept. for action.

Told again of changes made to the Freedom of Information Act, to be effective January 1, 2010; said he is currently looking over these changes and will report his findings to the Council.

Comm. Hileman

Gave all members a copy of last year's Tax Levy Ordinance and asked that they look this over and, by November 4, submit to him any changes they feel should be considered as he wants this on the agenda for the November 9 meeting for acceptance. He added that it is his intention to not raise the levy for next year.

Told the Village's red pick-up truck is very old and he would like to donate this vehicle to the GAVC or, if they are not interested, to junk it. Council agreed (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Reported he has continued to look over Village finances, reminding last year he tried to find a way to give residents some relief in these poor economic times. He then presented a proposal to waive water and sewer charges to all customers for the billing usage period of October 21, 2009 to November 20, 2009 (bills that are mailed December 1 and due by December 20). This would give water and sewer at no charge to all customers for that month period; residents would still be responsible for payment of their garbage charge. There was discussion also concerning those with prior balances and late fees with Comm. Hileman responding that these would remain. Council accepted this proposal (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0)

In conjunction with this, Comm. Hileman next motioned that the Water Fund and Sewer Fund be reimbursed from the General Fund to cover these expenses; second was made by Comm. Serena. roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Told he is looking at CD's that are coming due in November.

Comm. Gerrish

No report

Comm. Serena

Began by extending his thanks to Comm. Hileman for the work he has put in to come up with a solution to help residents during this difficult period.

South Jackson Street Improvement Project: Reported that curb and gutters are in with some work yet to be completed. Brought up future placement of flashing lights atop the stop signs in this area.

On the salt storage building project at the Sewer Plant, reported that the area was paved today by 'D' Construction, the bricks have been delivered and more work will be done as weather permits.

Concerning sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer system, stated he would like to return to this subject at a later date as he continues to feel this matter needs to be addressed.

Comm. Cox

Reported that the annual Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Gardner Grade School.

Again on the fire at 108 N. Railroad St., gave all members a copy of the letter from Chief Wilkey. Some discussion followed on the need for a building permit. Building Inspector Rankovich reminded of discussion on this with Rich Piccolo of B&F Technical Code Svs. who explained at the September 30 Special Meeting that if the property was released by the Fire Department, Village inspectors have no authority to enter without owner permission. Rich had added that once a building permit is taken out, proper inspections would take place. It was also pointed out that this letter states there was no structural damage.

Mayor Wise

Accepted information on street light outages at the following locations: Grundy at Main, Main at Center and Washington at Cedar, which will be reported to ComEd. Another light outage in the Depot St. parking lot will be reported to the maintenance department as these are Village-owned .

Under public comment, Mr. Dieter Holsinger (113 S. Railroad St.) voiced concern and provided pictures (given to the Clerk and Attorney) of the vacant house at 111 S. Railroad St. (owned by John Coleman). He told he had previously reported this to Comm. Cox but thus far, there has been no improvement. Council was reminded of the difficulty to serve this property owner as a post office box, not a street address, in Odell is the only Village information on file.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made a7:40 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Gerrish, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner