The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2009, in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Commissioners present were: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, and Bill Gerrish. (Also present: Atty. Scott Belt). All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were tabled.

Payment of current bills as presented was accepted (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0)

Agenda

No items

Unfinished Business

None

Atty. Belt

Told he has been getting information on bonds that are part of the Build America Program; he will look info this further and present his findings to the Council.

After Comm. Hileman asked about the Church of Hope variance and special use permit, told that ordinances including all items requested are prepared and ready for the Mayor's signature.

Comm. Hileman

Concerning his agenda item, began by mentioning: (1) agencies, organizations and churches who have been working to help people in need, (2) the Gardner Days Fund with a current balance of about $8000, (3) the last time recalled a major expenditure was years ago for repairs to the high school tennis court, approx. $7000, (4) Comm. Cox looking for less expensive backboard replacements for the park, (5) Sunday's Beautification Committee tree lighting ceremony at the gazebo, followed by the Girl Scouts/Brownies tree lighting at the jail area. With these things and costs in mind, he first asked the Council to look at the Gardner Days Fund to see if there would be some way to donate these monies to various ball teams/parks and to the Village parks.

Secondly, he suggested that, for the tree lighting ceremonies, from the Gardner Days Fund, $100 be given to the Girl Scouts/Brownies and $250 to the Beautification Committee. They could then use these monies at the events for cash drawings to help people in these desperate times. Comm. Cox. remarked that he understood there is an ordinance regarding a Gardner Days committee for approval of expenditures prior to spending. After discussion that this committee has not functioned for some years and Atty. Belt's comment that this committee would be a recommending body only and this would not preclude the Village from taking this type action, Comm. Hileman motioned that his suggestion be accepted. Second was made by Comm. Cox with all in agreement (roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Comm. Hileman extended his thanks to Comm. Serena for the work he and his crew of volunteers have done on the salt storage shed at the Sewer Plant.

Comm. Gerrish

No report

Comm. Serena

Reported work is nearly complete on So. Jackson St.; reminded that if there were to be any problems with this work, there is a one (1) year warranty on the project

Work continues on the salt storage shed with hopes to complete this weekend as salt delivery is on hold until this is done.

On the September 13, 2008 letter to Nielsen Grain Co., setting forth various repairs to be made within one (1) year, feels this should be revisited as the only repair he sees corrected is with the antenna. Comm. Hileman commented that the Village has been struggling to have repairs made for over ten (10) years with no success. Conversation followed on previous citation under the nuisance ordinance, letter from the owner stating repairs would be made and the owner's suggestion that the Village purchase the property. When asked, Comm. Cox said he feels as the Village talked with the owner and it has been over the stipulated year for repairs to be made, if the Council agrees, litigation should be restarted. After short conversation on proceeding under the demolition act, it was decided this be placed on the next agenda for additional discussion.

Comm. Cox

Reported he has done online research and found aluminum backboards for about $400 each and will get information to the Clerk for these to be ordered.

Conversed with Atty. Belt for clarification of some items contained in The Open Meetings Act.

Told of conversation with the Village Building Inspector who feels he is aware of homes discharging into the sanitary sewer on Jackson St. and asked if letters could be sent. It was stated the exact addresses were not pinpointed, but would be those south of Ida Lane, including those on Campus Rd. Atty. Belt feels if the Building Inspector has some independent knowledge, it would be a good idea to put people on notice that this is a violation and appropriate plans for disconnection should be made. More conversation focused on the content of letters, involvement of the Plumbing Inspector and violations also with downspouts. After Comm. Gerrish suggested speaking directly with the homeowners, Council agreed that he should do this and report back prior to letters being sent.

Mayor Wise

Told a note was received from the Church of Hope thanking the Village for its assistance.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made a7:32 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Gerrish, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner