The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2010 in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Commissioners present: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, Bill Gerrish. Also present: Guy Christensen, Eng. All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes motion Hileman/second Gerrish
August 9, 2010 roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Bill Payment
Ratify payment of August 10 motion Hileman/second Cox
roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Wise)

Current bill payment motion Hileman/second Serena
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Additional payment to Rub Ford (truck repair) motion Hileman/second Gerrish
roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Wise)

Agenda

Speaking on behalf of Cathy Pettavino (Vino's Bar & Grill), Comm. Hileman relayed her feelings that the Village and residents have been good to her and her business and that she would like to be involved with events held in the Village. She asked if the Council would consider calling for a meeting for businesses and organizations to come together so that all can work together. From the audience, Mary Anderson of the Gardner Angels said she understood Vino's had concerns with the parking lot closure during their recent "Touch a Truck" and teen dance/ movie nights and they had in fact gone to all businesses to ask for donations and help. She added that the Gardner Angels would like to have another movie night during the Labor Day Holiday weekend. Comm. Hileman stated that Cathy made no mention of this, only that she would like to see everyone to work together. He also supports this request from the Gardner Angels but feels it should be requested and placed on the agenda for approval at an earlier date.

Council members agreed that Executive Session be moved to near the end of this meeting.

Unfinished Business None

Attorney Belt Not Present

Comm. Hileman

Reported that work has started in preparation for the street car move to the jail area and that the work with organizing this project by Comm. Serena and Dean Rankovich is much appreciated. Comm. Serena commented also he feels this project is going very well. Responding to Comm. Cox regarding any Village liability issues with the use of Village equipment on this project, Comm. Hileman said this had been brought up some weeks ago when help was needed by our maintenance people with a difficult watermain break and at that time, spoke with our insurance carrier who told that volunteers are in fact covered. Comm. Serena added this was the same during the setup of the salt storage shed with volunteer help.

Reported on the maturing of CDs and that he is currently looking into interest rates which are not good at this time.

Comm. Gerrish No Report

Comm. Serena No Report

Comm. Cox

Informed that the new infant seats for the park swings (as approved at the last meeting) have been ordered.

Showed pictures and specifications for three (3) pieces of playground equipment he would like purchased (a climber and slide for the Spencer St. park and a seesaw for the Gardner St. park). With additional costs for digging/gravel (Fatlan Trucking, $4,950), concrete forms ($150) and concrete ($300), the total cost for this project should be $14,280.

Concerning this, Comm. Hileman enumerated some financial concerns, mentioning slow revenue payments from the State, low interest rates on investments, Intergovernmental Agreement with Rub Ford, maintenance of Main Street, sewer plant electrical repairs. Told that, if needed, monies can be borrowed from the TIF Fund, however, these would need to be reimbursed within twelve (12) months. Because of this, his feeling is that these monies should not be spent at this time.

Comm. Cox (continued)

Responding to this, Comm. Cox said that since removing a slide over three (3) years ago, no monies have been spent on the parks and that people have been asking about improvements. He then motioned to purchase this equipment; motion died for lack of second. More conversation followed on recent incidents of damages and graffiti in the parks, the possibility of breaking this purchase down over a longer period of time, saving money by utilizing Village and volunteer workers to do some of the work and the need for gravel in other areas in both parks. It was then suggested, and Council members agreed, to table this matter until the next meeting for more discussion and firm pricing (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Requested the closing of Depot Street, west of the firehouse (between Division and Center Streets) for a movie showing on Saturday, September 4, from 7:30 p.m. until the end of the movie. Request had Council approval with the stipulation that in the future these events be placed on the agenda with enough time allowance for discussion and approval (motion Cox/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Had conversation with Zoning Officer Dean Rankovich on signs that were recently put up. Dean reported that Big Fella's (Depot St.) does have a building permit but, as he was not aware the sign was to be lighted, he will need to look into this. Told the sign erected at the American Legion (Industry Ave.) was done by volunteers and apologized that he had waived the permit fee if this was not correct. Comm. Hileman proposed this be placed on the next agenda to waive the permit/fee for this sign. Lastly, Dean said he was not aware of the sign placed atop the Gardner Restaurant (Main St.) sign and will also look into this.

Eng. Guy Christensen No Report

Mayor Wise

Concerning the Village emergency siren (behind the maintenance garage), reported that the Village will keep it; Comm. Cox added that he has spoken with Mr. DeYoung (Exelon) and is awaiting his return call on this being given to the Village.

Public Comment

Resident Gary Morris (Odell St.) spoke to ask if there was an ordinance to ban the mowing of grass clippings into streets, and if not, would the Council consider enacting one as this is occurring more in his neighborhood and throughout the Village. He felt there are other municipalities with this type regulation. Council agreed to explore this issue.

As properly noticed, at 8:00 p.m., Council Members agreed to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion on employment, compensation, performance of specific employees, authorized pursuant to Section (2)(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0). At 8:35 p.m., regular session was reconvened (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays0).

It was then agreed to advertise in area newspapers for a water/sewer plant operator, a maintenance employee and a part-time Village Clerk (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:39 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Gerrish, all present in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner