VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2019

Monday, September 9 2019, at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Mike Serena called to order the regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Roll call – Commissioners Erik Smith, Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, Dick Hileman and Mayor Mike Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was absent and Attorney Scott Belt was also present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of August 26, 2019 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Pass: Hill. Nays: None. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the payment of the bills, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the Board but was not on the agenda; it will be an agenda item for approval at the next meeting.

Public Comments –

Resident Dawn Mack addressed the Board regarding the Welcome sign at entrance to the Village near the Interstate. The sign is in poor condition, with peeling paint, and the area surrounding it hasn't been mowed. Dawn volunteered to help refurbish the sign. The sign does not belong to the Village and is on the state right-of-way. The area around the jail looks great, but there are other places that need to be cleaned up, specifically J & R's on Rt 53 and the lot across from the fire department. She had planted the flowers at the Lion's Park and someone has cut the flowers and thrown them on the ground.

Resident Mike Pokornicki addressed the Board regarding a stray cat which has been abandoned and has had kittens. Animal Control does not pick up cats.

Resident Dan Bell addressed the Board in regard to IDOT not mowing "wall-to-wall" at the Interstate entrance to the Village. In addition, there are several properties where grass needs to be mowed. There is a half-a-million-dollar home being built across the street from an unoccupied house that needs to be mowed with weeds that are over five feet tall. The Pfeifer house on Odell has sat empty for twenty years. A contractor on Jackson has vehicles parked on the Village right-of-way; there is a truck and a wrecker sitting in the front yard on Pine Street.

Agenda –

Attorney Belt explained the proposed ordinance to amend the Village Code to impose a Municipal Retailers Occupational Tax on the gross sales of adult-use cannabis pursuant to the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. The Illinois Department of Revenue has imposed a deadline of September 30 for them to have a certified copy in their possession in order to begin to collect taxes on January 1. Adoption of this ordinance does not mean that the Village is or is not in favor of the recreational use of marijuana, it would put us in a position to collect taxes if we did elect to allow retail sales in the municipality. If we do not meet the September 30 deadline, we would have to go a whole year. If the Village decides to not allow retail sales of marijuana, we could just repeal the tax ordinance. A zoning ordinance would be required prior to January 1 to allow or not allow establishment of the various types of cannabis businesses. Comm. Wolf made motion to have our attorney draw up the ordinance to approve an additional tax of 3% on the gross sales of recreational marijuana, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Ismet Bakii, owner of the Gardner Restaurant, addressed the Board regarding a liquor license for his establishment. Hileman explained that our current code and Illinois state statute requires that the owner or a manager reside within the Village limits. All available licenses have been issued,

however, more could be added with Board approval. He also explained that Casey's and the BP only sell packaged liquor, but when it is served on premises, that is a different class.

Resident James Riley addressed the Board to propose forming a committee to reinstate Gardner Days, shooting for an August 2021 date. If it would be an independent committee outside Village involvement, it would not be subject to Open Meeting Act. Hileman cautioned that the beer tent funds need to be watched closely and monies to be counted and balanced every two hours.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Nothing to report

Comm. Hileman – In addition to Dawn Mack's and Dan Bell's comments, he agrees that the town needs to be cleaned up and listed several properties: the "Goose club," boat shop, former flea market, Ohare, Don Reed, Jeff Lee. Rankovich stated that the Sorensen property will be sold within 30 days.

Comm. Smith – Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – He has talked to J & A Landscaping and he has said that he will get rid of the concrete blocks in the back and would like to stop the legal proceedings. It sounds like he would like to try to sell it, except that it is zoned residential. Hileman said that his attorney was sent a letter that he is not in compliance with the zoning and he either needs to get out of there or we will proceed to trial.

Casey McCollom – Absent

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – He will look up properties that have been mowed by the Village.

At 8:32 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(11) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed

At 9:04 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk