VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2021 - REVISED

Monday, August 23, 2021, 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 Tim Hill, Dick Hileman, Erik Smith, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Rob Wolf was absent. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was not present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of August 9, 2021 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, and 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 as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of July was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports as printed, second by Hill. Hileman made the comment that the Treasurer's Report is a month behind, the TIF account shows around $1 million, however, payments to the schools were almost $300,000. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Sharon Pickles addressed the Board requesting an update on clean-up of properties in the Village. Mayor Serena reported that one case has gone to legal which is a process; residents have been contacted to move vehicles and Grundy Sheriff's office tagged with 24-hour stickers which is their rules; one was towed and another was moved from the public right-of-way to the person's property; there were others where the residents were notified and the vehicles were moved which complies with our ordinance as long as they are moved within a certain timeframe. The Village is documenting and taking pictures. Others have been notified and are being watched.

Resident Anthony Stein-Rojas, of 302 N. Pine, addressed the Board regarding the Roof-Mounted Solar Panels ordinance, specifically section 15.15.545A, having to do with solar panels on the street side of a structure. He stated that Morris's ordinance does not have that limitation. With this restriction, south-facing houses would not be able to install solar panels. He requested that the Board reconsider that section of the ordinance. Mayor Serena requested Clerk Malinowski to obtain a copy of the Morris ordinance for the Board's review.

Agenda –

The Board discussed a draft of an Ordinance Authorizing, with Limitations, the Operation of Golf Carts on Village Streets. Mayor Serena mentioned that one of the items the Sheriff's department was concerned with was towing or pulling anything behind the vehicle. "Section h" has been added to our draft copy to address this issue. The County has not yet responded regarding Main Street, which is County-owned. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Hill, to table approval and further discussion of the ordinance to a future meeting. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Fiscal 2021 Audit Report was distributed to the Board at the last meeting for review. In the past IMRF and Social Security were reported in one account and it was recommended that they should be reported separately. It was corrected in the tax levy a couple of years ago, but has now been corrected in our system. We also need to keep a better inventory on purchases and what we dispose of, and record serial numbers if available. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Smith, to approve the audit. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Some special needs children reside on East Street and Wilmington Street and a request has been made for traffic signs in the area. Comm. Smith will review different designs that may be purchased. Comm. Hileman made motion to purchase signs that might be needed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Several properties have been mowed by Village personnel and owners will be billed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Asked Casey if he was going to talk about the 4" cast iron pipes and had no further comments.

Comm. Smith – He was going to report on the signs, but that has been covered. He also brought up that a "dead end" sign should be posted on East Street. Casey mentioned that the three diamonds in red should be erected behind the guardrail to indicate the dead end, and a dead sign should be posted at the nearest crossroad.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report, other than following up on abandoned cars, he has been going around with Mayor Serena to contact residents.

Comm. Wolf – Absent

Casey McCollom – Trial run on the water tower. The first weak spot was on Dwight & Odell. Cast should have been killed. Hileman suggested that he pull the prints from Nipco, the line runs east/west. Stott did Wilmington/Peck and Dwight/Peck two years ago. The new tower will run for awhile before demolition of the old tower. The new tower is programed and ready to start on August 24 at 8:00 a.m., increasing 2 pounds per week. Hileman said that if we do any more water lines in town, we need to run new lines to the fire hydrants

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Signs have been posted regarding increasing water pressure, also on cable. A note will be placed on the water bills about water pressure and to contact the Village Hall regarding water issues.

At 7:55 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 8:30 p.m. Comm. Hill made motion to reconvene, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to compensate Village employees at the rate of $25 per month, retroactive to January 2021, paid annually at the end of each year, for personal cell phone use for work-related calls, second by Hill. The rate is subject to increase by the Village Board. If an employee resigns, payment will be made at $25 per full month of employment from January 1. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding a website for the Village for information purposes. Mayor Serena pointed out that there should be no comment section. Comm. Hill will look into various programs available.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk