VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 27, 2021

Monday, September 27, 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 Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioners Dick Hileman and Erik Smith were 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 September 13, 2021 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Pass: Hill. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

Public Comments

Resident Sharon Pickles addressed the Board regarding silencing train whistles since Braceville and Dwight have done so, and many people in town would like to have them silenced. Mayor Serena commented that this has been brought up at meetings previously and we did not take any action. It can be done, however, the safety factor is an issue. Comm. Wolf would like this to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Resident Mike Barber commented that they seem to be longer recently. Sharon also brought up houses in poor condition and would like to have a report at future meetings on what is being done. Mayor Serena mentioned that one of the properties has gone to legal proceedings.

Mike Barber commented on vehicles that have not been moved. The property behind his house on East Street needs to be mowed as he has seen raccoons and skunks there; Mayor Serena commented that he thought that might be zoned Agriculture, but it would be looked into.

Agenda –

A discussion was held regarding the Roof-mounted solar panels. Comm. Hill made motion, second by Wolf, to amend Section 15.15.545(A) of the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code Related to Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems to read “Solar panels shall not be permitted on the legal front side of any building.” Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the Ordinance Approving and Adopting an Extension to the Redevelopment Plan, Projects, Redevelopment Project Area, and Tax Increment Financing for Gardner TIF District I, second by Hill. This is for the second extension to the TIF I. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

On August 30, Maintenance employees were called back to work and worked through the night until the next morning, and they were paid overtime only until midnight of August 30. Comm. Hill made motion, second by Wolf, to amend the Employment Policy as follows: “In cases of emergency, and subject to the approval of a majority of the Village Board, where an employee’s current workday extends past midnight to the next day, or the employee is called back to work to deal with the emergency and overtime hours extend into the next day, employee will be paid at the rate of time and one-half for hours that exceed the normal eight hours.” This is effective retroactive to August 15, 2021. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Hill, to set Trick or Treat hours for Sunday, October 31, to be 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with an inclement date of Monday, November 1. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion to set the All-Town Clean-Up date for Monday, November 15, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. This will be on cable and noted on water bills.

Unfinished Business – No Unfinished Business was presented

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Commented on the property at Main and Jackson, where the owner has put gravel in the front yard to park cars. Sharon Pickles asked what was happening at the Royal Blue and was advised that they are doing renovations.

Casey McCollom – Water tower has been demolished, the hole will be filled tomorrow. Pressure is at 60-61#, but Dan is out of town this week. He can help with the train whistles, if the Village decides to move forward with silencing them. Signs would be the responsibility of the Village.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Last year we had signs made up to provide to residents if they choose not to participate in Trick or Treat. For the All-Town Clean-Up, we need to notify residents that they can put out extra garbage, but no appliances or TVs. Mike Barber mentioned that he works for Best Buy and they will accept TVs and computer monitors, but at a charge of around $30 for up to 50", and they can arrange to pick up large TVs, but at a higher cost.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hill, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk