VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
April 11, 2022

Monday, April 11, 2022, 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, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were also present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of March 28, 2022 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. 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 Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of March was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Steve Fritz addressed the Board regarding the sidewalk at the south side of the Lutheran Church. They have received a bid of $2,100 to repair the sidewalk and asked whether the Village would pay half. The Village would be agreeable to pay for material (concrete) and asked for an estimate of yardage, to be on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

Resident Ken Bozue addressed the Board regarding the rezoning amendment and provided a clarification of the legal description of the property.

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding train horns. It is the opinion of many that having gates would negate the necessity of train horns. However, there was a problem with the gates this afternoon, where some were raised when others were stuck down, that would disprove that reasoning.

Resident Keith Serena addressed the Board regarding the mess and noise at J & R Auto and also garbage at the Liberty Street apartments. People who are not residents are driving up and throwing furniture and other items in the dumpster or leaving it there beside it. There are also drivers speeding down the streets surrounding the park while children are in the area.

Agenda –

Attorney Wellner reported on the Planning & Zoning public hearing regarding the Bozue property. The P & Z Board made a recommendation to approve the request with a condition to provide an engineering report showing a plan of drainage to avoid flooding neighboring properties. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Smith, to approve the Planning & Zoning Board recommendation to amend the zoning map for the Bozue property. With the same motion, Ordinance No. 2022-01, an Ordinance Granting a Map Amendment to Property Commonly Known as a Part of 411 W. Main St., Gardner, IL, also Known as Vacant Land West of 410 W. Jefferson St., Gardner, IL (PIN 12-04-377-023), was approved. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Kori Speed, representing the Gardner Area Band Boosters requested a donation for the upcoming band trip to Mount Rushmore. The cost is $677 per student and the boosters are attempting to raise $8,000 in order to lower the cost to $477 for each of the 40 band members who are going for sure. Any funds over that amount will be distributed to the students to put toward their meals which are their responsibility. Comm. Hileman made motion to donate $677 from the gambling fund, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Smith, to increase water rates 5% for one year effective May 1, on the bill to be paid June 20. Rates have not been increased for several years, but now chemicals, salt, postage, and fuel prices are going up, electric and gas bills are out of sight. Recent improvements have been paid largely out of TIF, but those funds cannot be spent on everything. Engineer McCollom reported that many municipalities are passing assessments for maintenance and

emergency repairs that can eat up funds quickly. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith. Nays: Wolf, Mayor Serena. Motion passed. Notification will be on the May 20th bill.

Attorney Wellner provided a summary of the new state statute regarding fees for video gaming terminals. Comm. Hileman moved to increase the fees to $50 per terminal, with the business owner paying $25 and the terminal operator (machine owner) $25, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Nothing further to report

Comm. Hileman – He has talked to Stewart Spreading and they will begin testing and sampling at the ponds within three weeks. They will take care of EPA permits but that could take up to 180 days. Rachke has "camera-ed" 30-40 feet of cold water pipes and have found 50% corrosion; 20% on the softened water lines.

Comm. Smith – Asked McCollom the status of street/asphalt, IDOT has approved. The culvert at the railroad tracks and Main Street needs to be cleaned out.

Comm. Hill – Listed several properties needing to be cleaned up. Rankovich needs to be cleaned up. Requested a status on the Royal Blue property; they have been contacted and been given one week to fence off the excavation.

Comm. Wolf – Requested a status on Maintenance resumes, we have received one so far.

Casey McCollom – Nothing further

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena – The Village is down one employee in Maintenance, an ad has been placed via Shaw Media. The Easter Egg hunt is Saturday, April 16.

At 8:18 p.m. Comm. Hill made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 8:42 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Smith, with agreement by the entire board. Motion passed.

With a motion by Comm. Hileman and second by Smith, the Employment Handbook will be changed to the previous policy of earning sick days effective May 1. Employees must work four weeks to earn one sick day. Hours to be considered include regular hours, vacation, excused personal days, bereavement leave. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

New time clocks will be ordered to replace the current ones which are difficult to reprogram when there is a power outage or time changes. A job order will be issued for maintenance tasks. Commissioners should call the office to document the job order. There was a discussion to possibly train Lynn to do the water/sewer documentation.

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. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk