VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2022

Monday, December 12, 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 Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, Dick Hileman, and Mayor Mike Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to hold approval of the payment of the bills as printed until funds are moved as part of the agenda, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Public Comments – Resident Rick Marketti requested a status on streetlights on South Jackson. ComEd has been contacted and has not responded. If we do not receive a response by tomorrow, we will send a certified letter, as this has been going on too long. The replacement stop sign on Peck has been installed. Several street signs are faded and need to be replaced.

Regarding the donation of the empty lot next to the old Royal Blue, that is something we can do, we will check with our attorney to see what needs to be done. If Mr. Marketti wants to move forward, we can do that.

He further requested an update on work being done at the Royal Blue. Work has been stopped until an engineering inspection is submitted. We have attempted to contact the owners but they do not answer or return calls. We will contact our attorney to start legal action.

The ditch around town needs to be maintained. That is an IDOT issue and they need to get involved.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Wolf, to approve Ordinance 2022-07 for the Levy and Assessment of taxes for the 2023 fiscal year. It must be filed by the fourth Tuesday in December and is the same as last year. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman reported that we had previously appropriated $90,000 of ARPA funds into the sewer to clean the ponds and $90,000 into water to put new pipes in. To date we have spent roughly $33,101.87. That leave a total left of $154,831.02. Comm. Hileman made motion to move the $154,831.02 to the sewer plant to help pay the $200,000 plus due to clean the ponds, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. The raw water reservoir needs to be cleaned this year.

Comm. Hileman moved to pay the remaining approximately $50,000 due to Stewart Spreading from the TIF funds, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to pay Rachke $15,991.53 from ARPA funds, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Wolf, to approve the Planning & Zoning Board recommendation to the Solar Farm Phase 2 access road modification from Carbon Hill Road

to a location on Route 129, contingent on IDOT approval since that is on the state's right of way. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Patrick Dalseth of SunVest was present to explain that Phase 1 has been sold to a different developer and the original planned access road would run through that development. The Board commented to Mr. Dalseth that promises that were made for maintenance and plantings for Phase 1 were not met and they were not pleased. Phase 2 construction debris must be cleaned up, grass needs to be mowed, shrubs need to be planted and Mr. Dalseth was asked to not let us down, as the Village would contact him.

Eric Fosnaugh, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Board, addressed the Board requesting an increase in compensation for P & Z from $25 to $50 per meeting attended. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Hill to table the decision. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. The Village Board will take the request under advisement and research, and provide a response at the January 9 meeting. He added that the Village Clerk does not get paid if there is no meeting.

Comm. Hileman moved to approve the 2023 meeting schedules for the Village Board and P & Z, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Hill, to approve Christmas bonuses to full time employees of $70 and $50 for part time. There is $261 in the scrap fund and, after bonuses, there will be $1 left. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Nothing further to report

Comm. Smith – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Wished everyone a safe and happy holidays

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 Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk