VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
January 23, 2023

Monday, January 23, 2023, 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 was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of January 9, 2023, were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Pass: Smith. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve payment of the bills as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Hileman pointed out that the bill for Wilmington Overhead Door in the amount of $2,127.50 should read "garage door opener," not "garage door".

Public Comments – Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding the South Jackson streetlights. Mayor Serena informed him that we have no update, we are waiting for ComEd to schedule. Several street signs that were missing or faded have been replaced. He requested an update on the former Royal Blue building, and Mayor Serena reported that the issue has been referred to the Village Attorney. He also remarked that there should be better lighting on the I-55 exit.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

The Red Carpet festival has been extended to Bloomington-Normal and will again be two days to allow visitors extra time to make the trip. On Saturday, the Lions will be serving food and downtown there will be the car show with Elvis impersonator and the craft show. A few things are in the planning stage for Sunday. The craft show can be two days. Comm. Hill suggested getting porta-johns and have them in the parking lot.

Comm. Hill made motion to allow the Red Carpet events to use the Village properties for the two days, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

In addition, the girl from Creative Gemz has suggested to hold the All-Town Garage Sales during the Red Carpet festival. Dwight does it and they do very well. We cannot do the All-Town Clean Up that Monday because it is a recycle day.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – We got our first samples from the sewer plant and they came back good. At some point in the past the Village spent some money for flower pots uptown and some businesses planted and maintained them. At the next meeting he suggested approving reimbursement to those who are planting the flower planters an amount up to what the Village spends on Red Carpet, as long as they submit receipts.

Comm. Smith – Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Basketball backboard in the parking lot needs to be replaced. Safety issues: Barricades need to be repaired or replaced. Pop-up mowing signs are needed. The safety gas monitor was last updated in 2012 and needs to be replaced. There are several salt spreaders, can they be used or scrapped?

Comm. Wolf – Asked about the Kraus contract and can we get something different? Mayor Serena commented that Kraus is not exclusive and we can get someone else, the problem is that no one will come into a small community. A discussion was held about other providers or options.

Casey McCollom – The planning meeting for the railroad is set for February 28 with a back up of March 15. Some train crossing signs have been knocked down on the Village right of way.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – The Route 66 guitar came through the Village January 16 and then was installed at the Joliet Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on January 20. Tim Hill is working on one of the trucks; the Village will get parts. The water heater at the shop needs to be replaced; Hileman said it works but the reset button needs to be pushed.

Hill mentioned that he was told there is moisture inside the bottom of the water tower. McCollom said it might be condensation.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk