VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
February 27, 2023

Monday, February 27, 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 Erik Smith, Rob Wolf, Dick Hileman, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Tim Hill was absent. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of February 13, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

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

Public Comments

Eric Heddins requested an update regarding the property at 205 West Parker that he is interested in purchasing. Mayor Serena reported that he has discussed with the P & Z Chairman after their meeting on February 7 and the building inspector, and the recommendation was that Mr. Heddins apply for a conditional use permit. We also requested an opinion from the Village Attorney and he agreed that he would need to go through the process. Mr. Heddins indicated that he has the closing scheduled for March 10.

Mr. Heddins argued that he should not have to pay the $3,000 because the ordinance states that it is for an application for a subdivision, planned unit development or annexation, which he is not doing. Comm. Hileman informed him that we pay the attorney, newspaper announcements and any other fees, and then he would get a refund for the remainder once it is approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the reimbursement for the purchase of flowers, with receipts, for the planters in the downtown area, not to exceed $600, to be paid from the gambling fund, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve permission to solicit for Dad's Day on Saturday, June 17, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Casey's and the American Legion are holding a combined Easter Egg Hunt this year. Comm. Hileman moved to approve a donation of $100 to the Easter Egg Hunt from the gaming fund, second by Smith. The Village will purchase candy not to exceed $100 and then bring it to them. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed..

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Marketti (MFF Group LLC) has submitted an application for the Industrial TIF on a building erected by the Mazon Creek. He states that has roughly $1.8 million in it and will hire ten employees which will equal out to six full time employees. They will be working on equipment and trucks and probably farming. He has talked to Nic at Jacobs. When it comes to farm's machinery and parts, there is no sales tax. There are several things we could do. We could give them back a rebate on the real estate taxes; if they worked on trucks other than farmer's, there would be sales tax on parts that they put on those vehicles. They want a response by the end of March. There are only seven more years on the TIF agreement. Any agreement would only be on the Village's portion of the payment and would have nothing to do with the high school or grade school. Nic says they would be assessed at around $600,000 and taxed at 8%, the Village's portion would be around $4,000-5,000. Previously, we did the BP and Rub Ford for sales and real estate taxes. On Rub Ford, we were giving him around $3,000 per year. This item will be put on the next meeting's agenda.

Comm. Smith – Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Wolf – Requested an update on Kraus. The franchise contract is not exclusive. He did mention improvements he would like to do, like new cyber optics. There is a new call center in Atlanta on weekends. They helped kids who were on the lunch assistance program during Covid. There have been some improvements, everyone goes through AT&T.

Casey McCollom – The planning meeting for the railroad is set for tomorrow, February 28, at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Serena asked him for a procedure on what needs to be done to post yield signs.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Regarding the South Jackson streetlights, ComEd might need to add a pole. He contacted IDOT about the ditch. That person was under the impression that they did the whole thing, but they only did about half. For the retention area, Serena asked if we have a dry summer, could the Village mow it and cut down saplings without taking ownership or responsibility of that. We do have their permission to do that. The lights on I-55 are not updated and probably wouldn't be updated until they need to do some sort of reconfiguration. They can fix burned out lights. Tim Hill fixed one of the trucks, but there is an issue on the auger of one of the salt spreaders.

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. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk