VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
April 24, 2023

Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Tim Hill called to order the regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Roll call – Commissioners Erik Smith, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Pro Tem Tim Hill. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were also present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of April 10, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Wolf, Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

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

Public Comments

Resident Dan Jerbi addressed the Board regarding cleaning of the drainage ditch on Rt. 53. He complimented whoever was doing the work.

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding the streetlights on South Jackson. Clerk Malinowski provided an update from ComEd. In response to his question on the old Royal Blue building, the engineer is still writing his evaluation. He thinks it might be Blake cleaning the ditch.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Water rates automatically increase 5% annually unless the Board waives the increase. Comm. Wolf made motion to waive the water increase for this year, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, and Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith moved to grant permission to the Danner-Madsen American Legion Auxiliary to distribute poppies during the Red Carpet event, near the jail. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith made motion approve purchase of tools for maintenance employees to repair sidewalks not to exceed $2,000 (compactor, finishing tools, forms, etc.), second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays – None. Motion passed. List of sidewalks to be done will be determined at a later date.

Resident Justin Schultz addressed the Board regarding possible misuse of the Village's sales tax exemption for personal reasons by former employee Brad Kingma, who has been elected as a commissioner. Attorney Wellner responded to the comments. It would be inappropriate for the Village Board to take any action, as they do not have any authority to take any action to oust an elected official. Wellner commented that Mr. Schultz is publicly accusing someone of committing a crime and cautioned him to be very careful in how he phrased it, and asked if it was a political concern or a concern that it happened and wanted it remedied. Schultz responded that he wants the Board to know and the public to be aware of this happening.

Comm. Smith made motion, second by Wolf, to approve Ordinance No. 2023-01, An Ordinance Approving a Land Donation Agreement and Approving the Acceptance of a Land Donation from Marketti, Inc., 140 Depot Street. The donors will transfer a quitclaim deed to

the Village, title is clear, taxes will be paid up to closing by the donor, and then the Village will apply for tax exemption. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Nothing further

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith – Would like to extend a thank you to Tom and Todd Perkins for all of the work they have done for Route 66 in town. He stopped at Tom's shop and was impressed that he gets about 3,000 visitors a year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hill – Commented on the Diner Car steps. They will be rebuilt in wood, not concrete. Mayor Serena has some volunteer carpenters to provide labor and the Village will supply materials. Work will be finished before Red Carpet. Fascia will be addressed soon afterward. John Weiss still has some paint.

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing further

Mayor Serena – Absent

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. Wolf, Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk