VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
May 8, 2023

Monday, May 8, 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, Tim Hill, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Comm. Dick Hileman and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of April 24, 2023, were presented. Comm. Hill made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf. Pass: Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

Public Comments

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding the streetlights on South Jackson. Clerk Malinowski gave an update from ComEd. Work is expected to be completed in late June, although it has been requested to be moved up. In response to his question on the old Royal Blue building, Mayor Serena commented that the structural engineer's report has been completed and the owner has been given direction on what is needed in order to proceed. Regarding the ditches, Mayor Serena has contacted one of the state guys and they agreed they are going to mow at least a corner down by Carbon Hill Road. He expects to meet with someone else to dredge out the rest of it, but there are proper channels to follow.

Resident Justin Schultz asked the Board if they are going to address the issue he brought up at the last meeting to ask if anything is going to be done. Mayor Serena consulted the Village Attorney and was advised that the Board does not have the authority to remove anybody, that would be law enforcement. The attorney commented that it is not likely that something would be done and cited a case in Will County where a guy actually had felonies on his record and he was not removed from the board.

Resident Dawn Mack asked about the Lion fountain. The maintenance employees reported that it needs repair work but they do not feel confident enough to do the job. We would like to have it repaired and maybe could work with the Lions organization to have it done. Jeremy has made a dog waterer and also a fountain so Dawn can water the flowers more easily. She then asked about the welcome signs. They have talked about it but have not moved forward at this time. They would need to be redone with treated lumber.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

There were no agenda items for this meeting.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith – Commented on the Red Carpet event over the weekend, that everything went really well.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Has not received a response from the railroad and is waiting to hear from them. Not all the crossings were repainted, but Mayor Serena explained that they only did the ones that were mandated.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Had a list of people to thank for their help in organizing for Red Carpet: Tom and Todd Perkins for painting the badges on the streets; Tom and Karen Perkins for work leading up to Red Carpet; Melvin and Dawn Mack also helped; Dan and Kathy Alexander, who put on the car show – he was told they had over 60 cars – and Hugo, the Elvis tribute singer; Sam Gimple and Burt Neitzer, who put on the tractor show – they had over 25 tractors; Jesse from Creative Gemz ran the craft show and garage sales; Laurie from CiCi and Lala's kept an eye on the Route 66 photo op area; Jackie Serena for the red carpet; Carl and Jeremy, the maintenance employees, handled preparations like getting picnic tables out and painted, garbage cans, etc.; Pat at the Archives all weekend; Mike and Matt Pasternak provided electrical assistance for the donut guy; Mark and Paula Pourchot for their donation of the Route 66 bench which has been installed in front of the Diner Car; Dean Rankovich supplied the stanchions for the red carpet area.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hill, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk

Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:15 p.m., Mayor Mike Serena called to order the second Village Board Meeting in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Roll Call – Commissioners Erik Smith, Tim Hill, Rob Wolf, Mayor Serena (Brad Kingma had not yet been sworn in).

Mayor Serena made the appointments of the newly elected officers as follows:

1. Commissioner – Finance – Tim Hill
2. Commissioner – Public Health & Safety – Brad Kingma
3. Commissioner – Streets & Public Improvements – Erik Smith
4. Commissioner – Public Property (Water/Sewer) – Rob Wolf
5. Village Clerk – Pat Malinowski
6. Attorney – Mahoney, Silverman & Cross
7. Engineer – Chamlin & Associates
8. Treasurer – Brandon Muzzarelli
9. Inspectors –
   Zoning, Building, Electrical – Dave Wright
   Plumbing – Jeff Bexson

Comm. Wolf moved to approve the appointments, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Judge Scott Belt was introduced and administered the Oath of Office to the Commissioners first, followed by the Mayor. Judge Belt commented that after 23 years of serving as Village Attorney it was an honor to be back and an honor to swear in the Mayor and Village Board.

There were no Public Comments for this meeting.

Agenda

Comm. Smith made motion to add Comm. Hill to bank signature card authorization and remove the previous Finance Commissioner, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hill made motion to move forward with the Gardner domain, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports/New Business

Nothing to report

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Kingma, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk