VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
October 23, 2023

Monday, October 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 Rob Wolf, Brad Kingma, Erik Smith, Tim Hill, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of October 9, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes with the correction, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Hill, 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 Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Sharon Pickles addressed the Board with concerns about the Barra house and Gentry running a business in a residential zone, which is allowed under our ordinance. Mayor Serena said that we could provide a copy of the ordinance to her.

Yasmin Jinnah (Royal Blue / Track Liquors) appeared with Dave Wright to address the Board regarding the permits for her building. Structural work was started today, which is Dave Wright's biggest concern. She has hired a contractor. Dave will come in tomorrow to review the permit. She would also like to convert the upstairs to an apartment; we would need to look into the ordinance regarding allowing an apartment on the second floor. Mayor Serena stressed that the Village must see progress on the project.

Resident Dan Jerbi addressed the Board regarding cleaning the railroad ditch. Casey will get Union Pacific numbers for the Village Hall to give to Jerbi. A discussion was held regarding flood plains and railroad ditch cleaning. Mayor Serena has talked to IDOT about the Rt. 53 ditches and they can them in the winter as long as weather permits.

A discussion was also held in regard to amounts paid for the Grundy County Sheriff contract, in addition to property taxes.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to approve Ordinance No. 2023-04, "An Ordinance Amending the Village of Gardner Code of Ordinances As It Pertains to Water and Sewer Service Red Tag Fees." A fee of $10 will be charged each time the Village generates a red tag notice for delinquent customers. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Grundy County Animal Control contract in the amount of $1,327 for the year December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hill made motion, second by Smith, to donate $200 to the GSW Athletic Boosters for the 2023 Orange and Black Night from the gaming funds. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hill made motion, second by Kingma, to donate $150 from the gaming funds, for the Gardner Grade School Parent Teacher Group for the annual Halloween Parade. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Annual Gardner Tree Lighting on Sunday, November 26, at 6:00 p.m., second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Gardner Lions will serve hot chocolate as in the past and Santa will be at Curley's. Don Phillips will bring his sound system. The Jensen family will host the Festival of Trees at the Old National Bank and proceeds will be donated back to the community in the form of scholarship opportunities. A portion of the parking lot will be barricaded off for attendees.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – The Village has purchased a new service truck in the amount of $54,165, with 75% from the TIF fund. The remainder will be charged to water, sewer and general funds at $4,513.75 to each fund. Comm. Hill and Smith had each researched other suppliers and could not come up with a better deal. The current vehicle can be put out to bid, as well as the old lawn mower and GMC top kick and a special meeting can be held to open sealed bids.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday with a sign designer for Village signs. Dawn Mack will furnish information on Route 66 grants to the Clerk.

A discussion was held regarding the Lion fountain. The Gardner Lions will contact Lions International about a new fountain; the new ones are ADA compliant. The old one can be repaired and displayed at the park at Washington and Jackson, near the Lions pavilion with a plaque.

Comm. Smith – Has received some ideas for Village welcome signs and will meet with a sign designer on Wednesday.

Comm. Kingma – Remarked that there is $104,000 in the garbage fund and asked if it can only be used for garbage use. Comm. Hill informed him that the Village levies for garbage so it can be used for other related things like a recycle event or shredding event, or electronics or tires.

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena –The well water reservoir has been cleaned but it could not be siphoned from the pipe in the center. The walls were washed down and pushed to the middle and pumped out the best that we could. The pipes should be replaced at some point in the future. There was a problem with the check valve and Rachke came out the same day. It would be around $4,300 for the replacement. The parts for the salt auger came in today and can be worked on later in the week when rain is expected. Road salt supply was discussed.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk