VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
November 27, 2023

Monday, November 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, Brad Kingma, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Comm. Tim Hill and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

The Treasurer's Report for the month of October was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board about the status of the sidewalk grant. Casey McCollom reported that it would be late December/early January before any decision is made, however, all of the applicable paperwork has been submitted. Regarding repairs to Carbon Hill Road, Mayor Serena stated that P T Ferro is not interested in fixing the road. Deterioration began before one year from the time of construction so it should be guaranteed. We will get someone else and they will pay.

Resident Dan Jerbi arrived late, but Mayor Serena allowed him to address the Board regarding railroad ditch cleaning. Mr. Jerbi has talked to a representative from the railroad on four occasions. He has not received a definitive answer on when they might be done, but will continue to follow up.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Kingma made motion, second by Smith, to pay Village employees for eight hours provided they work four hours on Friday, December 22 and Friday, December 29. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. This is in line with past practice. In the event that maintenance might have to work due to snow or a water main break, we will make it up to them at some point.

Comm. Wolf moved to approve the meeting schedules for both the Village Council and Planning & Zoning Board for calendar year 2024, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion to award Christmas Decorating Contest winners, $100 for first place, $75 for second place, $50 for third place, to be paid from Gaming Fund, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Judging will take place on December 22.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Kingma, to table a decision on a procedure to dispose of surplus vehicles/equipment until the next Board meeting. Minimum bids will also need to be determined. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith made motion to move forward with welcome signs for the Village, second by Wolf. The preferred designs were chosen. A budget of $2,500 per sign had been discussed and approved at a previous meeting for a total of $5,000 but could fluctuate; it could be $3,000 for one sign and $2,000 for the other. It was decided to have the sign guy at a January meeting to make a presentation. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Smith – Nothing further.

Comm. Kingma – Verified that T & J has renewed their contract for three years at $600 per month. Inquired whether our inspectors are certified? Requested copies of the ordinance related to the Gentry business be available for the next meeting, as he feels that they are in violation of the ordinance.

Comm. Wolf – Regarding T & J, he confirmed their price of $600 per month and asked where it is charged, as he noticed it is only shown in the water fund in the Treasurer's Report.

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena –The tree lighting ceremony was held last night with about 80 people in attendance. He expressed a thank you to the Lions Club for providing hot chocolate, Don Phillips for being emcee, Dibble for providing the lift, Rick and Kim Marks for providing the banquet room for Santa after the ceremony, and Jackie Serena and his family for helping to decorate, as well as Regina and Paul Chase, and Tim Wagner. Reverend Jan Chandler, pastor of Church of Hope, received the special ornament this year. Dawn Mack and Kris Gerrish decorated the flower pots downtown very nicely. The Festival of Trees at the bank was well attended.

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: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk